

Ardross Community Council

Minutes of Management Meeting

12th June 2023

After AGM

Ardross Community Hall

Present: Peter Allen (Chair), John Edmondson (Secretary), Alison Gordon (Treasurer), James McTaggart and George Mackay

Cllr Maxine Smith

James McDougall

Meeting started at 8.25 pm.

1. There were apologies from Willie Beattie, Emma Chisholm and Sandra Cunliffe as well as Clare Bale
2. The May Minutes were approved.
3. There were no other matters arising, that were not to be dealt with further on in the meeting.
4. The Secretary had tried to share a consultation online, but people had not been able to access the documents. James McTaggart thought it was because you had to have an iCloud account. The Community Council need to come up with a method of sharing documents. It was decided that the **Secretary** and **James McTaggart** would try and come up with an effective solution, and come back with their suggestions.

There was a general feeling that the Highland Council were increasingly deciding things behind closed doors through the various groups political and otherwise. And when any matters gets to Chambers matters are already a done deal.

There had been very little correspondence. Any correspondence received had been forwarded to community councillors for information.

5. The Treasurer had previously presented the accounts during the AGM.
6. The new cattle grid had been installed in Strathrusdale, complete with amphibian ramps.

Cllr Maxine Smith took no further part at the meeting, but remained to hear the views of the Community on any planning matters.

7. There is a large wind farm being planned near Evanton in Swordale. We had not been consulted and neither had we been approached about community benefit. Community Councillors should note that Evanton received benefits from the Beinn Tharsuinn wind farm that was not on their ground.

The **Secretary** then gave a brief summary of the hurriedly arranged site visit with SSEN. In attendance were representatives of SSEN: the Project Manager, Community Liaison Officer, Planner, Engineer and the Land Agent. From Ardross was Iain McMynn, Alastair Harington and John Edmondson. The weather was not kind, but we were able to visit Boath, and Strathrusdale and discuss and show the various route options and to get over the importance of in particular Strathrusdale as it was a strath unaffected by large scale development and was also a food plain. The Secretary thought that it was all platitudes and that SSEN were just going to do what they wanted to do anyway, it was all lip service. They still maintained that they were investigating using the existing route.

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting.

Next Management Meeting **10th July 2023** at the Ardross Community Hall

