

# Ardross Community Council

## Minutes of Management Meeting

8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

8.00pm

### Ardross Community Hall

Present: Peter Allen (Chair), John Edmondson (Secretary), Alison Gordon (Treasurer), Emma Chisholm, George Mackay and Elliott Blaauw.

James McDougall and Jane Smith

Meeting started at 8.00 pm.

1. There were apologies from David Bentley and the Ardross Primary Parent Council [APPC]. Clair Bale and Sandra Cunliffe also sent their apologies.
2. The December Management Meeting Minutes were approved.
3. Forestry Land Scotland had responded to our comments; it was thought that the response would need following up at regular intervals as to the work that might be required to manage the forests. **Elliott Blaauw** agreed to monitor progress; if any and keep the Community Council informed.

The Safer Routes to School department had still not responded to our request for the Report sent to Iain Moncrieff. The Secretary had asked Helen Ross to intervene. It was agreed that the Secretary should appeal to the Information Commissioner if this appeal did not reap any results. There were also grounds to make a complaint to the Highland Council about how the our request had been ignored.

As the APPC were not present we should leave any discussions of the Dalnavie Cross-Roads until the February meeting.

We had also still not heard back from the Access Officer. The **Secretary** to chase.

Elliott Blaauw had yet to receive any costing information for the tree project. But a lot depended on the final numbers required.

The OfGEM consultation on standing charges was still open and there was time to respond.

4. The Secretary outlined had written to Iain Moncrieff from the Roads Department following a spate of accidents just north of the cattle grid at Strathy. There had been some serious accidents with Police in attendance, ambulances including the air ambulance. This was on the new section where the overlaying had been done. We had written in 2022 and the Highland Council had confirmed that the road had passed the skid tests. Ian Moncrieff had replied stating that they would sit down and discuss

the accident record at this spot. He had also confirmed that he had given the go ahead for the repair and replacement of the crash barriers on the Stittenham bends. It was agreed that the **Secretary** should write to the neighbouring community councils about the accidents on the B9176 and see if we could get something done to improve the safety on the road.

A request for a defibrillator in Strathrusdale had been made. The Secretary explained that he had written back suggesting that one placed near or at Dublin would serve more people. Either at the Ardross Church [ARK] or maybe even the distillery who might already have one, although there might be access issues. Defibrillators required maintenance and a constant electricity supply, and the batteries required replacing every few years. There was a database with the position of all the defibrillators in the UK. Let's hope that something can be resolved.

The Treasurer had a whole bunch of stickers from Novar windfarm to be put on projects that have received funding through the community benefit.

Other email correspondence previously circulated was duly noted.

5. The Treasurer distributed her report the contents of which were noted.

The Treasurer sought agreement to apply to the Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm for half the electricity payments to the over 65's amounting to £6,500, the rest coming for the Novar 1 fund. This was agreed.

Since April 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 we had spent £88,277 on community based projects.

The Treasurer had not heard back from Santander and **Emma Chisholm** agreed to chase her contact up.

6. The perennial subject of fly tipping at Strath Rory was brought up again. The Secretary reminded everyone that the car park entrance to the quarry was not part of the Ardross Community Council area and was in fact Kilmuir and Easter Logie Community Council.
7. There were several large applications imminent but had not quite been finalised. The battery energy storage facility at Balnacraig and the hydrogen project on Beinn Tharsuinn.

SSEN had sent more detailed maps that had been circulated. They had tweaked the route, but not much more in Strathrusdale. It is important now to keep working with SSEN to produce photomontages, to try and get the best route for Ardross. The Secretary explained Kate Forbes MSP for the neighbouring constituency had been a lot more active than our MSPs in trying to call SSEN to account. At a meeting called by her OfGEM had reiterated that the need for the OHL had not been established and this was only agreed or otherwise after planning consent had been obtained. Which to all, if true, seemed a very strange way of going about things.

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting.

Next Meeting is a Management Meeting on the **12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 8.00pm** at the Ardross Community Hall

