

STAFFIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of Staffin Community Council held in Staffin School on 31st October 2006

Present:

Les Downes (Chair), Sylvia Porter (Acting Secretary), Janet Lamont, Maoilios Caimbeul, Norma Young, Sheena MacLeod

Apologies:

Isobel MacDonald, Iain MacDonald, Angus MacLeod

Maoilios approved the previous minutes, which were seconded by Janet

Matters Arising:

1. Fire Brigade: The Permanent site is in the process of going ahead. It is now in the hands of the Highland Council Legal Department and should be finalised in the New Year. Les asked the Fire Brigade to keep Iain MacLeod updated, as it was his land that the fire station is to be built on.
2. Potholes: A855 potholes again. There has now been work orders issued for the pot holes
3. Village Officer: There is ongoing work, and Graham is going to repair the picnic benches in the area. We need to think of other work for him to do, as there is still money in the account.
4. Bins: It has become an expense replacing the bins at the Slip. The council are looking at alternate means of refuse collection in the area. They have placed new bins at the bottom of the Loch Langaig path
5. Drains: The council are working through the drain problems in priority order. They have moved the problem at Breckery up the priority list.
6. Near Misses at Lealt: The council agree that there is potential for a bad accident at this location, and are organising multi-lingual signs to be erected at either end of the Lealt Falls car park. There was a discussion as to why the arrows couldn't be repainted in the road.
7. Clachan Cemetery: The problems with animals in the cemetery have been raised again with John MacDonald. There is funding now available for the gates to be re-instated.
8. Memorial Bench Valtos: Highland Council foresee no problems with the sighting of the memorial bench, but point out that the maintenance will be the responsibility of the family.
9. Recycling facilities: Not yet spoken to C1400.
10. Vehicles in The Avenue: This has been passed to John MacDonald who will pass it to the relevant department, although he did point out that the problem of underage motorcyclists and the 4 x 4 ATV vehicles was a police matter
11. State of the Car Park at Cille na Bealach: This has been cleaned, no further action

Treasurers Report:

£1393-60 in the account, but this does include the Village Officer funding, and the Remembrance Day Wreaths have still to be paid for. The forms for the change of banking facilities have still to be sorted. It is a lot more complicated than first thought

Highland Council Business:

1. There is a community planning select committee meeting in Inverness on 1st November
2. Storr Forest: Notification from Jeff Robson from the Forestry Department that funding will not be available to thin the forest until 2007 to 2009.
3. Common Housing Register: The consultation document has been received. This has been taken for perusal to see if this effects us

4. Planning: a) 2 houses at Flodigarrry have been granted in outline only to Gavin Scott Moncreiff. There are 7 restrictions.
b) 2 houses at 12 Clachan
c) Alterations and extension to dwelling at 7 Brogaig
d) House at 28 Stenscholl (next to school playing field)
e) House and garage north of 1 Grealin

Other Business:

Fire Brigade: Statement of engagement within the community

Portree House School: minutes

Skye and Lochalsh CVO: AGM notification

Association of Scottish Community Councils: Membership renewal and AGM Notification

Scottish Parliament: Changes to the boundaries

Licensing Board: Dianne Rocks, Duntulm Hotel, new licence

Waterwatch: The roll of waterwatch and how to complain about the service.

Portree Hospital:

We have heard that there are possible changes to Portree Hospital. After all the alterations and work upgrading the hospital our biggest fear is that it will become a geriatric hospital. The plan is to remove GP provision from 6pm to midnight, which will leave the north end of the island without cover. The GP's are against this, but feel they are fighting the battle on their own without north end help. Portree CC are hoping to organise a meeting with the other CC's where feeling can be vented. Sheena will write to the NHS with a copy to Portree Hospital with our views and lack of consultation.

National Plan for Gaelic:

Maolios has had a look at the plan, and made notes regarding his thought for the questionnaire. There was a discussion over the questions and possible answers for the consultation, which Maolios will formulate to answers and send off. Our final thoughts were that it was a good vision but hope it isn't just the start, and in the 3-year review the consultation papers will be taken into consideration.

AOCB

Verges: there is no funding this year to do the township verges. Some have been done near the junctions onto the main roads.

Bus Timetables: The new winter service has come into effect. On Saturday the 8am bus no longer runs, and the first on is at 0907. This bus is too late to connect to the Inverness bus. The first Saturday even the 0907 bus didn't arrive. Les will write to Rapsons and inform them

NEXT MEETING 5TH DECEMBER 7-30PM AT SCHOOL

These Minutes are subject to approval