

Chairperson

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Minutes of meeting held on 10th January 2013 in Aberfoyle Memorial Hall

- 1. Sederunt:** John Clow, Andre Goulancourt, Fiona McEwan, Jimmy Quinn, Geraint Short, Ralph Wolfe, Owen McKee (NP), Toto McLellan (Minute Secretary), Councillor Fergus Wood, Sandy Slater (Bike Trossachs).
- 2. Apologies:** Ros Dingwall.
- 3. Minutes:** Reviewed for later approval, after addition of correspondence list.
- 4. Bike Trossachs:** A presentation was given by Sandy Slater of Bike Trossachs, concerning his proposal for a skills training area for mountain biking and general cycling in Strathard. The most promising area considered is at Rabbit Hill and this will be put out to consultation within the local area. The community council, while broadly supportive of introducing a recreation area for local young people, considered that particular regard should be paid to the views of dog walkers, who have used this area for many years. Mr Slater provided maps and drawings illustrating the intention to fence a portion of the elevated ground, and it was thought that a separate access to the area for bikes would be beneficial to the proposal. Drops, slopes and jumps would be professionally built. Parking would be at Scottish Wool Centre. Some concerns were raised regarding child safety on the grounds that the site, which will have unrestricted access, is not visible from the main road or the village. However it was advised that the site will have no lighting, and thought unlikely that it would be used after dark. The cost is likely to be £40-60,000. A second site with higher difficulty level may be considered in the future in conjunction with Dounans Camp. Feedback forms for this proposal may be found in Aberfoyle Post Office and the community garage shop. It was noted that there is no SSSI in place at this location. Following query to Mr Slater as to whether an area of forestry land would be suitable for the project, it was advised that FCS discourage any promotion of forest paths for cycling with a view to minimising any potential duty of care. There was a discussion of possible funding sources such as SportScotland, now operating the Legacy 2014 Active Places Fund.
- 5. Ward Boundaries:** A revised proposal for new ward boundaries was discussed, which would ensure fairer allocation of community council places among the villages in Strathard, based on the Council's criteria of area and population. Even with a weighting towards the more rural areas, this suggested that numbers of community councillors should be changed to Aberfoyle 6, Kinlochard 3, Inversnaid and Stronachlachar 1 each, to allow fairer representation. The precise location of new ward boundaries would be more logical than the current ones, which had been found to have several anomalies, with some people allocated to settlements more distant from their houses. The proposed revisions were agreed unanimously, pending a vote from RD. It was also agreed to check the exact boundary between Strathard and Trossachs Ward with Stirling Council since the current map was unclear.
- 6. Matters Arising from previous minutes:**
 - Access Audit:** Indicative costings for the Disabled Friendly Aberfoyle project are still unavailable from Stirling Council. Areas at both the Delicatessen and Aberfoyle Medical Centre should however be improved this year.
 - Femto mobile phone trial Kinlochard:** The five premises selected to house necessary equipment, three business and two residential, have been provided with drawings and legal documentation for signature. Following this, Vodafone will commission required lines from BT, after which it is expected that the timescale for implementation will be measured in weeks rather than months. It was agreed that the Community Council would underwrite the £25 per annum charge for the two residential premises, and seek funding by a donations box or collection. It was noted that Kinlochard was one of only 12 areas selected from 700 applications, and is the only such village situated on the Scottish mainland.
 - Dukes Pass:** Complaints have been lodged following misinformation recently broadcast stating that the A821 had been closed due to snow. Requests have been made that future warnings should be more accurate and not suggest Aberfoyle and David Marshall Lodge were inaccessible. Response to the initial query about the possibility of snow gates has met with difficulty over the question of responsibility for opening and closure. The merits of reclassifying the Duke's Pass as a B road were discussed. A request has been received that the Duke's Pass should be gritted to Hill Cottage, and a direct request to Stirling Council would be advised. Queried whether school transport was an issue.

Flooding: A disappointing communication from Bob Jack to Bruce Crawford on the subject of Aberfoyle's flooding problem had been forwarded to the community council. It was agreed that a response should be drafted in the strongest terms, highlighting factual inaccuracies. Councillor Wood has insisted to Stirling Council that the flooding situation in Aberfoyle cannot continue, and that the entire catchment area of the River Forth as far as Stirling must be looked at, with particular emphasis on Aberfoyle due to the higher frequency of flooding experienced at that point. Following completion of the current Council study, Councillor Wood will press for a seminar to be held, hosted by Aberfoyle, which among others will include representatives from Stirling Council, SNH, FCS and SEPA. As regards flood prevention measures for specific premises, it was suggested that residents and shopkeepers might work together to produce costings for door shutters etc, following which Stirling Council could be approached for funding assistance. **RSPB forest plans re. Inversnaid:** The necessary responses to consultations been lodged, expressing local views. AG attended the 6-monthly FCS liaison meeting as detailed at 10.

7. **Correspondence:**

Stirling Council: Councillors' surgeries.

Stirling Council: Order for speed limit changes, although other measures to slow traffic were not as extensive as had been requested,

Stirling Council: Improving Internet Connectivity workshop. Noted that the previous submission to Cllr. Earl had highlighted slow speed at Inversnaid / Stronachlachar.

Stirling Council: Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill update

Stirling Council: Local People Local Paths grant.

Stirling Council: Community News Sheet.

FCS: Consent to RSPB tree planting at Inversnaid, and a revised Environmental Statement which had been amended to address issues raised by the Community Council. Queries however remained and the decision was not welcomed. AN SDRP Contract plan had also been sent by FCS, covering the same matter.

FCS: Community Partnership Questionnaire

LLTTNP: Local Development Plan Update, including meeting on 29th January.

Rural Stirling: Newsletter

Trossachs Area Network: Broadband meeting. Duplication with Stirling Council initiative queried, with TAN also administered by SC.

Trossachs Search & Rescue Team: Defibrillators have been sourced which will be located at Inversnaid Hotel and Kinlochard Village Hall. Re procurement of defibrillators, there were plans to install one in Aberfoyle. It was agreed to contribute £50 to the appeal. Note: subsequently to the meeting it was agreed by a majority of community councillors to contribute £50 also to the Kinlochard defibrillator if required, since this still similarly needs funding. It was believed that TSART still hoped to have a base within Inversnaid School building.

Anne McGuire: Christmas newsletter.

Local residents: Multiple thank you letters received for Christmas parcels.

8. **Stirling Council Issues:**

Laraich: Shale or similar coming onto the road from higher ground is creating a flooding hazard, and work had been done, although to be reported again.

Trossachs Road Flooding: Continuing problem.

Leaf clearing: Leaf clearing and verges on Lochard Road are being attended to.

Potholes: Serious potholes are forming on the B829 half a mile beyond Kinlochard.

B829 icy patches due to run off: Reported by Cllr. Wood and community council, and to be addressed by Roads.

Councillor Wood requested that emails such as the above reports should be copied to him.

9. **Planning: New applications**

Formation of car park and coach spaces at Dukes Pass forest drive. No action required.

The Pass, Lighting and stoves: No action required.

Updates on existing:

Installation of tanks for new wastewater treatment works, Inversnaid: Approved.

Renewal of outline planning permission for 3 houses at Montrose Road: Approved.

Erection of National Park sign (Gartmore): Withdrawn.

Ard-mo-Chridhe, Duchray Road extension: Approved.

Forest Hills replacement windows: Approved.

10. **Reports: Finances:** Several bills to be paid: Information Commissioner, Kinlochard Village Hall and agreed gift as thanks for accounts inspection. Christmas Fund remains at same level after the dinner and parcel costs. Telephone fund unchanged,
Councillors: Now working towards setting the budget. **Owen McKee (NP):** 5 Lochs improvements starting later this month. Local Development Plan is under way. 2% reduction in budget for running costs is expected over the next 3 years. **Police:** Not present.
Trusts: Strathard Community Trust: Recent AGM combined with film show was very successful, and membership increased. **Kinlochard Village Hall:** A profit of £1000- 1200 was made from the recent ceilidh. Congratulations were expressed. **TACT:** New tenants have been carrying out improvements prior to opening. Aberfoyle Roofing will be renting the former bus garage.
Meetings attended: Loch Katrine / Arklet liaison meeting with FCS: AG attended. Substantial deer culling was reported. A Goat Management Policy is being produced. It was advised that that no goats have been culled by FCS at Loch Chon so far, although there had been culling at Stronachlachar and near Ledard. Felling at Glengyle has been postponed, felling at Stronachlachar will commence this month, with 4-5 trips by lorries per day, leaving the B829 and accessing the FCS road at Frenich. Military Road: The Garrison to Rob Roy car park stretch has been abandoned for the moment until additional funding can be sourced, after which time the intention is to proceed along the route which has been disputed by residents. A Ben Venue to Ben A'an path has also been postponed. Black Grouse: Numbers have fallen from 90 to 66. Another meeting will take place in the spring.
11. **AOCB:** None.

Next meeting 7.30 pm Thursday 7th February 2013 in Inversnaid Hotel