



Minutes of Caithness West Community Council 1st November 2021 at Reay Golf Club

Present: Jillian Bundy (Chair Person), Patricia Groves (Secretary), David Craig, George MacDougall, Matthew Reiss (Councillor Highland Council), Heather Thompson, Pentland Offshore Windfarm - Andrew Blythe, Rebecca Marshall

A presentation was given by Andrew Blythe and Rebecca Marshall on the proposed Pentland Floating Offshore Wind Farm. The project has been taken over by Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP). Initially one floating turbine 300m tall, will be tethered to the seabed 6 1/2km from Dounreay with a floating cable that is fixed near the shore. Another 9 turbines may be added in the future but it will be capped at 100MW. The life span is expected to be 25 years. An environmental impact assessment has yet to be completed, looking at fishing, birds, mammals etc. and also shipping. Concerns were expressed about the visual impact, tourism, hazards to shipping and radioactive particles at the outfall pipe. There will be meetings with Nature Scotland and SEPA. Consent to be submitted to Marine Scotland. A demonstration project substation 50m x 50m x 8m high will be built. There will be photo montages produced for the 2nd consultation event as visualisation is very important for the public to see. There will be no community benefit money for the demonstration project but they are open to ideas for long lasting, meaningful benefits for the community in the future. A copy of the timeline is to be sent to Jillian and will they keep us updated ahead of the planning application.

1. Apologies

Donald Omand

2. Adoption of Minutes

Proposed by David Craig, Seconded by Jillian Bundy

3. Correspondence

Nothing significant

4. Police Matters

There was no report from Craig Sutherland. It was thought that he might have been transferred. Pat to contact Judith Hill. David received information back from Police Scotland about the dangerous driving but was told that they were unable to progress it further. The second cut out policeman has been stolen. The culprit wasn't found after the first one was stolen. It is too expensive to replace them.

5. Planning and Licensing Updates

Limekiln planning for roads.

Glamping pods

6. Treasurer's Report

There is £5783.25 in the account

7. Village Officer

Jillian had spoken to James Macadie about taking on the Village Officer role, however he was unsure about taking it on formally at present. Liz Geddes will be contacted to see if a gift voucher can be used instead of payment. Jamie will do a short stretch of the verge between the Golf Course and the shop to see how long it would take his men to complete the whole path. Trees required to be cut back at the speed signs. The Highland Council to be asked to do it. It was suggested that the grass be cut at the football pitch. This could be done next Spring.

8. Renewables Developments

See presentation report.

9. Dounreay Stakeholder's Group

David circulated the minutes of the last meeting by email (22nd September).

Wednesday 3rd meeting rescheduled. Professor Ray Kemp has been brought in as a consultant.

10. Association of Community Councils' Update

There are no minutes available.

11. AOB

The CWCC extended their best wishes to Karl Rosie for a speedy recovery.

A stone from a logging lorry had smashed a windscreen (near the wooden houses). No one wanted to be held accountable but the lorry owner paid for a new windscreen. Log lorries are starting very early in the morning and finishing late at night. Jillian will email Fiona Milligan about it.

The data survey cable will now go ahead which will enable the "Smiley Face" signs to progress.

The Forss straight are to have "Slow Down" signs installed and CWCC will cover the upkeep.

The noticeboard for the village is waiting for Highland Council workers to install it.

A bid has been applied for, to replace the brown tourist signs at either end of Reay, from Forss Wind Farm. There has been no acknowledgement of the bid. Pat to contact Lillian Campbell to ascertain they have received it.

The Highland Council roads budget has been increased from 17million per annum to 27million per annum but it is thought that 195 -220 million is actually required to bring the roads back to a good standard. Many roads have been improved.

Community shop update – There was a good response to the paper copies and Facebook questionnaires with 99% of people wanting a shop in Reay. A meeting was held on the 26th October 2021 of the people who responded that they would like to help with the shop. The outcome was that Yvonne Hendry (Caithness Voluntary Group) would contact Highlands and Islands Enterprise,

about possible funding and business plan. Community Council members would visit Embo community shop, look at a location for the shop and governance.

12. Date of next meeting

Monday 10th January 2022, 7.30 via MS Teams

Actions

Pat to contact Judith Hill about the community policeman

Pat to contact Lillian Campbell about bid

Jillian to arrange gift voucher

Contact HC to cut back trees

Email Fiona Milligan about the log lorry timings

Renewal of sign at harbour - ongoing

Meeting closed at 9.45pm