



## **Minutes of a Meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7.00pm via MS Teams**

**Present:** Jillian Bundy (Chairperson), Patricia Groves (Secretary), David Craig, Donald Omand, Karl Rosie (Councillor, Highland Council), Heather Thompson, Dafydd Jones (Area Planning Manager, Highland Council), Gillian Pearson (Principal Planner, Caithness and Sutherland).

**1. Apologies:** George MacDougall

**Chair's Remarks:** Jillian welcomed Dafydd Jones and Gillian Pearson to the meeting, who would be delivering a presentation on Planning.

**2. Presentation:**

Planning permission is required for most things, e.g. extending a flat, changing land use, wind turbines. There are three parts to the process – Development Plans, Development Management, Enforcement. Considerations taken into account can be national priorities, impact on neighbours, development plan of the Council, noise but not cost etc. Notices will be served if Planning permission is breached.

The input of the Community Council is very important as it will go to committee if there is an objection. Collated views of a community will be given consideration.

Questions and comments were put to the planning officers:

It is felt that the voices of the objectors are ignored as they are not deemed important.

The majority of the planning decisions are made at Council level except for wind turbines over 50 megawatts when a Section 36 is applied and it will go before the Energy Consents Unit.

In raising an objection, it is important to focus comments on material planning considerations, not to use emotive language e.g. noise, visual observations, or cost.

Accumulative impact on the wider area is a key consideration.

It is important to restate your concerns when appealing against a decision.

It appears that peoples' health and mental wellbeing do not seem to be considered.

The Limekiln extension is not regarded as a separate wind farm.

Dafydd Jones and Gillian Pearson left the meeting at 20.09.

- 3. Adoption of previous minutes:** The minutes were adopted by Heather Thompson and seconded by David Craig with the following changes. The name changed from Elaine to Amanda Bentham and the sentence, the public opinion is not known, omitted.

#### **Actions from the previous meeting:**

Jillian informed the committee that Jamie MacDonald has been cutting the War Memorial grass throughout lockdown, off his own back.

1. The steps have become overgrown on the hillside at Scrabster - Jamie will be asked to cut them back. It was suggested that the Hall Committees be contacted and asked what ground work is required to be carried out
2. No response from the Schools or Highlife Highland regarding the involvement of young people being part of the Community Council.
3. George will attend the Association of Community Councils.
4. David wrote and submitted objection to Cairnmore Wind Farm.
5. Jillian contacted June Love and David will attend the next Dounreay Stakeholders Meeting.
6. David has had prices back from Acorn in Inverness about the signage for either end of the village  
12no printed dibond signs @500mm x 250mm - £8.25 + vat each, 12no 3"x 3" posts @ 500mm long with pointed finish £4.25 + vat each, Printed PVC banner @1200mm x 600mm £25 + vat each, Printed dibond signs @1200mm x 600mm £30 + vat each, Delivery £20+Vat.  
The signs would be ordered and erected in the Spring. Respect Local Needs, Protect the Local Environment, Enjoy the North Coast 500.
7. David's neighbour Ian, thought the funding for the sign at the harbour came from wind farm funding or North Coast 500 and David will find out more from him. Perhaps the wind farm committees could also be approached for funding for the village signage.
8. Donald reaffirmed his interest in attending Land Access Forum Meetings.
9. Karl was thanked for arranging to have Dafydd Jones attend the meeting and answer questions put to him by the Committee  
Highland Council rejected the closure of the Limekiln core track. Section 11 stays at council level but Karl will check that it can't be appealed.

- 4. Correspondence:** There was an update on boundaries, Community Resilience is winding down and a request from Reay Hall Committee to fund the defibrillator battery renewal. £100 will be paid into the Hall Committee Bank Account.

Reay Beavers submitted a request for money during lockdown but as they had received a sizeable amount before, it was rejected.

The Feasibility Study for the foot bridge at the west end of the village gave a ball park amount of £175,000 and that would include 50 metres of footpath either side.

Jillian suggested the bridge could be made one way for vehicles and one way for pedestrians.

5. **Police Matters:** None
6. **Planning and Licensing:** No licensing matters but must be vigilant to planning applications made for Limekiln 2 and Drum Hollistan.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** The Accounts are ready to go to the Council. There is a balance of £4981.05.
8. **Village Officer:** See previous minute.
9. **Renewables Development:** See previous minute. Vigilance required about footpath and construction commencing.
10. **Dounreay Stakeholder's Group:** The next meeting 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020.
11. **Association of Community Councils' Update:** A Meeting should take place soon and George will attend.
12. **AOB:** An enquiry was made about allotments in the Scrabster area

The 20mile speed signs at the school don't seem to be functioning. Karl thought it was an IT issue but will email committee about it.

The cable for tracking vehicles driving through the village should be installed in November.

13. **Date of the next meeting:** 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 at 7.00pm via MS Teams.

Meeting closed at 20.46

#### **Actions:**

1. Jillian to contact Reay, Forss and Lieurary Halls regarding ground work to be carried out in the area.
2. Jillian to get Bank forms from George and give to Pat for signing.
3. David to follow up the Reay Harbour sign.
4. Karl to confirm that the Limekiln core path decision cannot be appealed.
5. Karl to get application form for Donald to attend the Land Access Forum
6. Karl to investigate one-way option for the bridge at the west end of the Village.
7. Karl to find out about availability of allotments at Scrabster.