



Minutes of Caithness West Community Council
2.00pm Thursday 21st March 2024 in Lieurary Hall

- 1. Present:** Jillian Bundy (Chairperson), Natasha Clugston, David Craig, Patricia Groves (Secretary), Nicky Herd, Donald Omand

Apologies: Heather Thompson, Karl Rosie (Highland Councillor)

Adoption of Minutes

The Minutes were adopted by the committee.

Proposed: Nicky Herd

Seconded: Donald Omand

Actions from previous meeting

Karl's actions to be continued

- 2 Correspondence**

All correspondence had been forwarded on to the Committee.

- 3 Police Matters**

"Coffee with a Cop" initiative has provisionally been arranged for the 29th April 2024. Megan's line manager has to sanction it before we can go ahead with the advertising.

- 4 Planning and Licensing Updates**

The proposed Burger Van is no longer going ahead

Licensing – North Point Distillery has applied for a licence to serve alcohol until 10.00pm.

- 5 Treasurer's Report**

There is a balance of £3531.82 in the account.

£12.00 was paid out for hire of the Hall and £100.00 for a voucher for J McAdie

- 7. Village Officer**

The sign at Reay Harbour has been designed, checked by Vulcan and Dounreay and only needs to be finally checked over for typos etc. before it will be sent off to be produced. The money from the Village Officer fund will be used to pay for it. Planters could be bought from Westfield with the remaining balance and offered to the other village halls.

8. Renewables Development

Highland Councillors have unanimously recommended refusal of Armadale Windfarm. This will now be determined by Ministers, following a potential public enquiry.

A planning application for a battery storage unit at Glengolly has been submitted. It is near the Thurso River and not felt to be too intrusive. No one in Glengolly has objected to it. David will write a letter of support for the project.

There will be an enquiry into the Statutory Purchase of land from Scrabster to Strathy, to enable transportation of the wind turbines.

Jillian and Heather had a positive meeting about Limekiln. The turbines will arrive in two stages starting in May and later in July. Information about it will be posted on their WhatsApp page. The end of July beginning of August should see the erection of the first turbine but notification will be given.

Jillian will submit a letter stating our continued objection to Tormsdale Wind Farm.

Lisa Marchi did not email the Power Point information about Bettyhill Phase 2 Wind Farm connection. David will scan the handout from the meeting and it will be emailed to the committee members.

Nicky will write to David Shearer who is on the board allocating funds for SSE to see if any funding is available.

An invitation has been issued for West of Orkney Wind Farm on the 17th April 2024 at the Scottish Parliament

9. Dounreay Stakeholder's Group

The AGM and the Public Meeting was held on the 20th March 2024.

Positions on the Committee remain the same with:

Struan Mackie Chairperson

David Alexander Socio Economic Sub Group

Gillian Coghill Site Restoration

The next meeting of the Site Restoration will be 17th April 2024

At the Public Meeting - the NDA did not approve the Lifetime Plan in January.

A finish date of 2080/90 is possible.

De-commissioning is problematic. The Babcock bid was cheaper but did not include a care and maintenance plan. The Office of Nuclear Regulation has stated the plant is running down e.g. ventilation requires maintenance. The NDA have not approved the cost yet so it has not been published.

David will circulate the March report once he receives it.

10. Association of Community Councils' Update

Mackenzie Sutherland has changed position. Three new people have been appointed who are not Ward Managers but their jobs are unknown at the moment.

Nicky and Natasha attended the last meeting. Christian Nicolson spoke about the Step-Down beds now available and that patients would be required to carry out more procedures in their own home. The two year "Pause" to the Caithness Redesign was also discussed.

11. AOB

The vandalised radar speed sign is still at Nicky's house. Her partner will try to mend it and the Council will be asked to attach it back to the lamp post. The insurance with Zurich is due for renewal. The quote is £97.20 with an additional £56 to cover the radar speed signs.

The Community Action Plan meeting was held in Strathy Hall on the 10th March 2024. The Consultants from Frontline gave a Power Point presentation. This was followed by questions from representatives of the various Community Councils. It was emphasised that everyone should work together to ensure an equitable share of the funds not only from the Community Benefit Fund of the wind farms but also the other sources that are presently available. Once the amendments are implemented, the final version will be distributed to the four Community Councils, to be signed off by the Chair of each Community Council. The CAP will then be released to other stakeholders, e.g. Highland Council, wind farms. One or two representatives from each Community Council will be required to act as a sub group to direct a small group of paid, professional people hired to implement the requirements of the Community Councils.

A meeting was held with Maree Todd on the 15th March 2024 at her surgery in the Pentland Hotel to ask about the "pause" with the Health Hubs in Thurso and Wick and Caithness Redesign. She could not give us any reassurance that these would go ahead but said she would keep us informed of any updates.

Concern was expressed about the many pot holes in the village.

There was still no speed indicated on the speed signs at Forss. David will speak to Ian Gregory.

Highland Council have charged Dounreay £18,655 for the signs and rumble strips at Forss

Sandside Room rent is increasing to £8 an hour from the 1st April 2024.

12. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 29th May, 2024 at 2.00pm in Forss Hall

Actions

David to write in support of the Glengolly battery storage

David to scan Lisa Marchi's document

David to circulate DSRG report

David to contact Ian Gregory about Forss speed signs

Jillian to write objection to Tormsdale Wind Farm

Nicky to write to David Shearer

Nicky's partner to mend radar sign

Karl – to find out about Village Officer Funding

Meeting closed at 3.45pm

