



Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 24th August in Lieurary Hall.

Present

George Carson, Convener, Elected Member
George McDougall, Treasurer, Elected Member
Bill Brown, Elected Member, Ian Grant, Elected Member
Donald Omand, Co-opted Member, Councillor Struan Macki

Apologies

Jillian Bundy, Secretary, Elected Member

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2017 were approved by I. Grant and seconded by D. Omand.

Matters arising

J. Bundy confirmed by email that she had contacted the Developers of Clatequoy wind farm regarding Community Benefit. G. McDougall confirmed that he had sent letters of support to Lieurary Hall Committee and the Caithness Broch Project. An email had been received from Caithness Voluntary Group regarding registering the company as a charity who saw a potential advantage in registering. G. McDougall expressed disagreement with the advice and stated that the company had to register with OSCAR as by its nature a company being limited by guarantee had to be a charity. G Carson to get back to CVG.

Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted;
Annual reminder from THC regarding Community Council membership
Draft Action Note from Caithness Maternity and Gynaecology Group

Information from The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust Board regarding nominations for Community Elected Directors
Invitation to meeting to explore modernising Adult Health and Social Care services in Caithness from NHS Highland
Information regarding THC Quality Awards
Information regarding revised Stagecoach timetables due to closure of B876 at Killimster

Police Report
No report received.

Planning Report
No applications of note other than retrospective application to adjust erection of stage shed near Achvarasdal where J Bundy reported by email that she had been contacted by a number of residents concerned that the building had not been constructed according to the approved plans. Their concern was mainly around the Planning authority not ensuring that construction of developments is as per the approved plans, and then rubber stamping retrospective applications. J. Bundy had written to the Planning Department outlining the concerns.

Licensing matters
None.

Treasurers report
The annual THC grant had been received, £1282.59. The current bank balance is £5790.01.

Village Officer
G.Carson again raised the on-going issues with a garden in Glengolly. He also asked whether assistance could be given to purchase a seat for the play area at Glengolly. G. McDougall said that THC Area Committee had awarded £8000 to the Village Officer funds of the Association of Caithness Community Councils for the current year.

Renewables Developments
J Bundy advised by email that the Preliminary Enquiry for Limekiln Wind farm would be held in the Weigh Inn on 31st August. This will determine the scope of the evidence to be led, the form of hearing the evidence, and the general arrangements and timetable. The Developers have asked for a conjoined hearing with the application for Drumhollistan Wind farm. The Reporters have initially said no, but will hear discussion at the Preliminary Enquiry. The provisional date for the Public Enquiry is the week commencing 13th December.

Dounreay Stakeholders Group
G. McDougall intimated that he had been unable to attend the last meeting.

Association of Caithness Community Councils

G. McDougall intimated that there had not been a meeting since the last CWCC meeting.

AOB

B.Brown advised that the Riverside Walk in Thurso was not suitable for disabled access due to a landslip and uneven surface and that the path beyond Ellon Bridge needed work.

G. Carson advised of difficulty in getting respite care in Dunbar Hospital despite there apparently being beds and sufficient staff. Councillor Mackie advised that there was to be a public consultation on the location and number of beds for end of life care in Caithness and urged public participation in this

I.Grant expressed concern at the lack of availability of Wi-Fi. The spread funded under the City and Region Deal was limited to some towns. He also raised concern about talk of increasing the use of electric cars when the spread and number of charging points was so small. Finally he mentioned the collapse of Andersons who provide school transport. Councillor Mackie advised of the background and present position.

D.Omand advised that the Caithness Local Access Group was in danger of folding. It was agreed that he become the Community Council representative on the Group.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Thursday 19th October 2017 in Lieurary Hall.

Jillian Bundy
Secretary