

# Minutes of Meeting of Brora Community Council

Tuesday 18 November 2014 at 7:00pm

Venue: Brora Community Centre

## Present:

Kathleen Cunningham (Chair), Lee Bright, Margaret Mackintosh, Karen Mackay, Catherine Sutherland, Lorraine Davidson-Payne, Russell Rekhy, George MacBeath, Cllr Deirdre Mackay, 2 Members of Police Scotland, 3 Members of the Brora Community Events Group and 3 members of the public

## 1 Welcome

Chair Kathleen Cunningham welcomed everyone to the meeting.

In commemoration of 'The Great War' centenary, Clyne War Memorial badges have been handed out to each child in Brora Primary, Nursery and Playgroup. Kathleen thanked Robin Wilson for the excellent photograph taken with Brora Primary, BCC representatives & Friends Clyne War Memorial who had attended the School Assembly.

Remembrance Service had an excellent turn out and a thank you was issued to Graham Mackenzie, School Pipe Band, Uniformed Reps, Brora Primary School and Police Scotland.

The Great War Project was installed at the Brora Library and will be set up until Summer 2015.

The Culture Show was aired on BBC2 on Saturday 8 November in which the Clyne War Memorial was featured and is still available on Iplayer.

Chair was asked by BaDAG if the names of BCC should be listed on the BaDAG website, it was felt that this was not necessary as members names are listed on THC Website.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 at 4.15, Friends of Clyne War Memorial Association has arranged for a Community Wreath to be laid, this year, by Families who have Fathers named on our Memorial. They will lay this wreath in proud remembrance of all who are named on the Clyne War Memorial. Following this the Piper will lead everyone down to the Community Bonfire & Fireworks at the Harbour. After the Fireworks display, A Family evening in the Golf Club has been organised by The Events group

## 2 Apologies

Sandy Mackintosh

## 3 Police Report

There had not been many incidents since the last report but the following incidents had been logged: 1 case of vandalism to a vehicle, 2 reports of anti-social driving, speeding lorries on Victoria Road, 3 Fixed Penalty speeding fines were issued and alcohol was seized from youngsters.

Chair had received a concern about parking at the Chemist lane. Police Scotland has had no reports of illegal parking but will keep an eye on the situation. Cllr Mackay to speak to Community Services to see if road markings were adequate.

**4 BCC Community Award.** – Brora Community Events Group

Chair gave a short resume of events that the Group have raised funds for and organised for all ages of the Brora Community. She praised them for the work that they did to provide these events/outings and stated that the members of the public greatly appreciate the work that is done by the limited members of the group.

George presented the award to the Brora Community Events Group who were very appreciative of this recognition

**5 Highland Council Report**

Cllr Deirdre Mackay reported on the following:

**Highland Council Budget Consultation:** this can be accessed on-line and outlines the proposals for £64m which has to be found over next 4 years. Very important that people respond.

**CasPlan:** 12 week consultation is underway and can be access on-line. Seeks people's views on the main issues affecting the area and location of future development Consider what the plan should deliver in terms of employment, growing communities, connectivity and transport, environment and heritage. Very user friendly.

**Customer Services Review:** consultation proposals include key stakeholders: Cllrs, Communities, Service Point Users/Tenants, staff, Community Councils. Focus Group will be run in each community affected and will be independently facilitated. SP staff can invite people to participate. Topics: reasons for using the SP, what they value and options on alternative models eg community hubs, library provision, digital self-service, or appointment arrangements.

**District Partnership:** requested that Health and Social Care issues be included as standing item on CC agenda. (To follow up patient transport issues.) Friday 28<sup>th</sup>: presentations on HC and NHS Budgets followed by presentation on NUKA community experience. TTGs

**NHS Budget Pressures:** advised that one of the specific issues crippling NHS is 12 week target under Treatment Time Guarantee. National Standard which is legally binding. Changed from 18 weeks without consultation and means that NHS has to pay for private health care which is costing the Trust millions. TTG applies only to minor, routine procedures – not serious, life threatening conditions or emergencies. Message, as reflected in auditor General's Report is that Targets need to be reviewed.

**ETVs:** in light of recent incidents provided update on campaign to have adequate ETV cover on both East and West coasts. Vessels can and do lose power, accidents can and will happen with potentially serious consequences or communities and the environment. Vessels carry a range of dangerous substances. To follow up coastguard/signal issues in light of recent incident.

**Warning! Bright House** has opened a shop this week on the High Street in Inverness. The attachment contains a scan from a page of a Bright House catalogue which is attractive and appealing especially with Christmas looming. People can pay up purchases. The APR rates however are as high as **94.7%**

**Commission on Strengthening Local Democracy:** spoke on this at HC and need to focus devolution from Holyrood down to local communities – mindful of limited resources.

**6 Approve July Minutes** - Proposed by Lorraine Davidson-Payne and seconded by Lee Bright

## 7 Matters Arising

- Fountain Square planters - contact to be made with the maintenance contractor for a possible site meeting. (Chair)
- Trip Hazard at Cunninghams – number 1 priority with BEAR to be resolved by mid-November
- Community Centre Paintings – Brora Heritage Group has paintings in safe keeping and will be displayed in the new Old School Heritage centre once complete. It was agreed the newly decorated Brora Health Centre would be a good display point. (Sec)

## 8 Correspondence

The following items had been emailed to BCC prior to the meeting

- Our Highland and environment/role of third sector
- Awareness evening on substance abuse
- Planning permission appeal – Balnacoll. Rejected
- Stronger voice remote participation event
- MSP's seek your help on community empowerment law
- Community Council Newsletter
- Safe routes to school – Allan Bryce
- Highland Community networking day
- Gordonbush Windfarm – proposed extension, 20 turbines – Coming to January meeting – Public exhibition March 2015
- A9 pavement – Bear
- Rogart Community Council – Windfarm Steering Group. Letter circulated round BCC.
- Highland Council Budget Consultation – Phase 2 – Closes 17/12/14
- Courage and Confidence workshop
- CAS Plan open day – 2/12/14, 2.00pm – 4.00 pm, Brora Community Centre
- Community Services open meeting – 2/12/14, 6.30 pm - 8.30pm, Brora Primary School assembly hall
- Caithness & Sutherland Area Committee meeting – 12/01/15
- Ward Forum – Police Scotland and Fire Scotland – 26/11/14, 7.30pm, Golspie Community Centre
- VG-ES AGM, 21/11/14, Golspie Golf Club
- Weekly planning lists
- EON – Dalchork Windfarm exhibition
- Render, gutters and downpipes at the Braes Hotel – letter received from Sheila Tomelty, Principal Building Standards Surveyor, The Highland Council reporting that she had inspected the hotel and that the gutters and downpipes were not imminently dangerous. She did notice some render around faulty downpipes and gutters appears to be loose. She intends to write the owner to remove all loose render around the building and repair or board up the broken window. She will revisit to ensure that the work has been done satisfactorily.
- Community Centre Pictures. Letters held on record
- VGES AGM Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Nov Golspie Golf Club. Apologies from BCC (Sec)
- Coastal Erosion meeting called by BaDAG 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov Brora Golf Club 10.30 (Chair)
- Core Paths Consultation – Jan '15 Agenda (Sec)
- Development Plan Projects Discussion (Charrette) 12<sup>th</sup> Jan Brora School 6.30 (All)

## Micro Grants

- Brora Primary School – bingo machine for fund raising evenings - approved
- Brighter Brora – Christmas trees for the village – approved

- BaDAG – Travel Expenses for Prof Jim Hansom to attend a meeting Saturday 22 November at 10.30am at the Brora Golf Club re erosion survey carried out in the summertime – approved
- Rankin School of Dance – Christmas outfits for switch on display, half from Golspie CC and half from Brora CC – approved.
- ‘Sheena’s Christmas meal’ – Donation approved
- Veterans Day – Flag raising ceremony – Donation approved
- Clyne Heritage Society – independent report on sustainability of the Old School – as SSE are the owners of the building it was thought it best to contact SSE to confirm that there is no conflict of interest.

## 9 **Gordonbush Wind farm Report.**

Russell gave the following report on the proposal by Rogart Windfarm Steering Group brought to the Gordonbush Windfarm Panel Meeting:

The Rogart Windfarm Steering Group submitted a 12 page document to the panel at their Business meeting in Brora on Tuesday 12 November. A Rogart panel member presented this to the Gordonbush Panel group in the main querying why Rogart is not benefiting to the same extent as the other communities in the Area of Benefit

A number of options put forward by the Rogart Steering Group were discussed including:

- Allocation of funds equally between 4 communities
- Allocation of funds equally between 4 communities with the option for some of the groups to take their share
- Rogart did not have enough constituted groups to access the funds and the possibility of a development trust would benefit Rogart

Russell further reported that the Gordonbush panel felt that the document was flawed and outdated. The panel also felt that any break-up of the funds would need a majority to take the proposal forward along with SSE to support the changes requested. The panel also felt that this is a working document and understand that some of the information is outdated since the report was prepared.

It was agreed to discuss the proposal further at the next panel meeting.

BCC Chair had received a copy of the Rogart Steering Group’s proposal & which had been already circulated round all BCC members.

Brora CC to submit a response to Rogart Community Council reminding Rogart Steering Group that both Windfarms allocation of benefit Funding are governed by legal documents; signed Memorandums of Understanding whereby Benefit is paid , to administration of Panels & Trustees into Single Joint funds benefiting An Area of Benefit. (Chair/Sec)

Kilbraur Trustees will give their response following their meeting. (Ronnie Sim)

**Gordonbush Sustainability Fund Ring-fenced Grant** – Balance of £70,000 remains ring-fenced for Brora projects and following discussion with SSE Fiona Morrison, should be ‘actioned’ at BCC Jan meeting Clarity regarding criteria, advertising & administration to be discussed with SSE (Chair/G/B Reps)

## 10 Treasurer's Report –

Balance on account as at 18/11/14 - £10,791.81 with ring fenced amount as follows

Riverside Walks Group	£1,102.82
Clyne New Year Community Celebrations	£2,123.47
Gordonbush Micro Grants	£931.03
Kilbraur Micro Grants	£3,269.25

Chair thanked the Treasurer for her report.

Donation of £200.00 was received for the Community Bonfire and Fireworks from the Royal Marine

## 11 Public Discussion

Signage at Johnstone Place - an email is to be issued to John MacKay, TEC Services.

Trees opposite Lynwood, Golf Road – landowners Marine will be approached (Cllr MacKay).

Ford Bridge – Riverside Walks Volunteers have cleared the approaches to the bridge.

SSE Bridgework at Gordonbush – hopefully the bridge will be finished by Christmas, weather permitting. There may be short delays due to resurfacing etc for a couple of days but hopefully these delays will be kept to a minimum.

- 12 Date of next meeting - Date of next meeting** - Lindsey Tennant (Manager) had invited BCC to visit Beachview Day Centre. It was agreed to hold the next BCC meeting there on **Tuesday 20th January 2015** at 6.30pm for 7.00pm. This will allow time to view round the Centre prior to the meeting. Chair will inform Brora Community centre & Canteen of booking change. (Chair)

SSE Gordonbush Project team will attend. This prior to future Public exhibitions for proposed extension of further 20 turbines at Gordonbush

NB Also on the Jan agenda will be BCC response to Proposed West Garty Windfarm Development. BCC members have been supplied with all details of this application 14/04486/S36 which has now gone to Scottish Government & The Highland Council Planning Dept (All)