

North Lochs Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 15th September 2021 @ 7.30pm, via Zoom

Present

Robbie Mackenzie – Chairperson
Donna Fairbairn – Secretary
Angus Morrison – Councillor
Iain Macaskill
Bruce Mackenzie

Apologies

Maggie Smith – Vice Chairperson
Annabel Mackay
Sarah Macdonald
Erica Clark – Community Learning and Development Worker

Agenda

1. Chairperson's Welcome & Appointment of Office Bearers

- Robbie Mackenzie (Chairperson) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Secretary

- Robbie invited nominations for the post of secretary.
- Iain nominated Donna Fairbairn and this motion was seconded by Robbie.

Treasurer

- It was reported that Sarah Mciver has stepped down from the committee.
- Robbie invited nominations for the now vacant post of Treasurer.
- Bruce nominated Iain Macaskill and the motion was seconded by Robbie.
- Donna will inform Belle Anne Scott of the office bearer changes.
- Angus will follow up with other departments and retrieve the email password from Belle Anne. In the meantime, he will forward any communication he receives to Donna to be added to the agenda.
- Donna will notify Sarah that Iain has filled the post of Treasurer and request she drop off the paperwork to Iain. Bank of Scotland will be contacted for any signatory changes.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

- The minutes of the meeting held on 30th June were approved by proposer Robbie and seconder Angus.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

Speeding/Dangerous Driving

- It was noted the speeding issue is ongoing. However, it is believed there has been an improvement over the past 2/3 weeks, possibly due to the unmarked car presence on the island. There has been some police presence in the village over the last week.
- If there are any issues, the police would still like to be notified.

School Playground Access

- Iain G Smith reported to Erica that it would not be appropriate for general access to the playground by any outside organization, and definitely not the pitch. Groups can submit a detailed request for access to the school grounds with dates, times and the measures they are taking to ensure their activities are Covid safe.
- The Committee requested that Donna contact Erica to ask Iain G Smith for more detail as to why this is the case when it is a community school. The request is to be made in general terms and not just Covid-related.

Paths for All

- The Scottish Landfill Communities Fund is a good funding option for a local pathway. If there are interested members in the group keen to look further into this, Erica is happy to work with them to progress the matter.
- It was reported that this topic had previously been of interest to Angus Macleod, Leurbost and Alison Driver, Grimshader. Angus would like to see a path through his own reseeded area where wildlife may be of interest to school groups. This was previously discussed by Angus and Duncan Norman Macleod at a meeting of the Community Council. A suitable area has been identified for a path between Loch Orasaigh and Roisgeil which will link the two lochs. Robbie will speak to Angus and Alison to gauge if they are still interested.
- Although the closing date for the current round is soon, the fund is dispersed twice yearly.

4. Update from Angus Morrison CnES

Development Post/Worker

- As no suitable applicants had been identified to-date, CnES through Adhartas had re-advertised on social media and specifically Facebook with a closing date of Friday 16th September. To-date there are five expressions of interest and the process will be explained to each applicant.
- Iain raised his disappointment at the advertising platform as he had conducted searches for the post and had been unable to locate anything. It was noted that there could be suitable candidates locally who will be completely unaware of the post. The coverage focus has been on graduate apprentices on the CnES database. Angus will locate the job advert so it can be brought to the attention of those who wish to apply locally.

Remembrance Day Service

- The following wreaths will be purchased through the Council: Councillor, Community Council, Sgoil nan Loch.
- Donna will ask the historical society committee if they wish to purchase their own wreath, or take Angus up on his offer for CnES to purchase it.

Crown Estate Fund

- As CnES were conducting a feasibility study as to how the year 1 and 2 monies were spent, distribution for year 3 has been delayed from July until possibly the end of September.
- Iain has approached some of the local groups and will follow this up. Groups such as the Crossbost Pier Users had not met in some time, but it was noted when a Development Worker is appointed this may help these groups and ease the burden of completing applications with limited time and resources.
- Donna will approach the historical society regarding making an application.

5. NLCA Business

- Iain noted that the 5K event had been cancelled due to an increase of Covid cases in the community. Due to other running club commitments, it was unlikely to be rescheduled for this year, which was disappointing given the high level of interest in the event.
- Lochs FC intend to hold their annual event in the hall at the end of November.
- Dependant on Covid cases, there may be a combined Halloween/bonfire event on 5th November.

6. AOB and Correspondence

Hydro Information Sessions

- It was noted that letters were sent to every household regarding the new cable and a consultation event was held last week for householders to make their representations known.

Sgoil nan Loch Covid Outbreak

- It was noted that parents felt they should have been informed of the school Covid links sooner. Although generic close-contact letters were sent from CnES, it was thought that the detailed letter sent directly from the school should have been sent sooner. Parents would have hoped to have been kept up-to-date more often on numbers and the number of days since the last positive case.
- Angus reported that on the evening the outbreak had come to light he had made a request for a press release prior to the NHS statement.
- Angus reported he would make the disappointment of the committee on how information came out known to the education department. It was also agreed that the community council should have been informed. He will try to produce a short summary from CnES for the next meeting explaining the council protocol.

Grimshader Layby

- Angus would send Tech Services over to look at the possibility of an extra layby in a busy area of the village.

Horse Rider Signs

- A request has been made for four signs throughout the village.
- Angus is looking into this as well as signage to give way to vehicles in a stretch of road in New Holdings.

Correspondence

Calmac – notification that pets no longer need to be booked on the ferry.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 27th October at 7.30pm.

Chairperson Signature: _____ Date: _____