

Minute of the Meeting of North Lochs Community Council

AGM

Wednesday 1st May 2024 at 7.30pm
North Lochs Community Centre, Leurbost

Present: Robbie Mackenzie (Chair), Angus Morrison (Councillor), Donna Fairbairn (Secretary), Iain Macaskill (Treasurer), Sarah Macdonald (Vice-Chair), Annabel Maclean, Bruce Mackenzie, Peter Mackenze, Anne Macleod, Christine Morrison, Kevin Mcandie

Apologies: Eilidh Macinnes, Isla Macarthur

1. The Chair welcomed all present to the AGM of the Community Council.
2. Chairperson's Report

Thank you to Community Councillors and the Committee for their continued work and input into local matters. We were delighted to welcome four new members at the recent Community Council elections and value the contributions they have made so far.

Achievements Over the Last Year:

- Overseeing recruitment to the one-year Crown Estate funded North Lochs Historical Society Heritage Apprentice post. The post was filled by two part-time workers who are based partly in North Lochs Community Centre, generating a rental income over the next 12 months to help the hall committee with running costs.
- The Community Council has continued to support local groups and has also helped facilitate meetings to recruit a community development worker who will divide their time between the North Lochs and Kinloch area.
- Awarding funds from the Muaitheabhal Community Wind Farm Trust Community Council Fund to local groups after assessing their applications. Groups who benefitted were North Lochs Community Association, North Lochs Historical Society, Lochs Youth Café, Lochs FC, the Silver Darlings and Sgoil nan Loch Parent Council. The generous annual sum of £5K was gratefully received and we thank Muaitheabhal Community Wind Farm Trust for their generosity.
- Taking on ownership and ensuring maintenance of all defibrillators in the North Lochs area.
- Facilitating meetings with regards to village maintenance and responding to maintenance issues raised in the area.
- Submitting scoping report feedback to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit regarding the RWE Renewables proposed Grimshader and Heastabhal Wind Farm Proposals.

Upcoming Plans Include:

- Ensuring open dialogue with community development to benefit groups in the North Lochs area.
- Ensuring the views of the community council and entire community of North Lochs are represented with regard to Grimshader and Heastabhal Wind Farm Proposals.
- To continue to act as a forum where local people and groups can raise any community issues and ensure their voices are heard by representatives of CnES.

3. Office Bearers

Chair – Robert Mackenzie (Proposed by Iain and seconded by Sarah)

Vice Chair – Sarah Macdonald (Proposed by Iain and seconded by Donna)

Secretary – Donna Fairbairn (Proposed by Annabel and seconded by Iain)

Treasurer – Iain Mackaskill (Proposed by Sarah and seconded by Annabel)

4. Treasurer's Report

£5768.59

5. Minute of Previous AGM

The minute of the AGM held on 8th March 2023 was approved by Sarah and seconded by Iain.

6. AOB

a) Community Development Worker

Suzanne Macaulay has been appointed by Ardhartas Trust and will meet with councillors and Calum Iain Maciver on 2nd May. One of her immediate remits will be to convene area forums and look at Crown Estate funding. Suzanne's post will also open up opportunity for other potential funding.

b) Crown Estate

£75K has been allocated for the Lochs area which is noted to be £25K less than last year's allocation. It was noted that application can also be made to the strategic fund element of Crown Estate but the criteria differs to the community element.

c) Warm Hub/Voucher Scheme

The one off £5K payment for the Creagan Café community warm hub and £4K hardship fund community voucher scheme will be processed shortly.

d) Coal Scheme

This opportunity will be coming through community councils. Robbie will forward info to Donna.

e) NLCA Business

It was noted the over 65s community dinner was a great success.

f) Defibrillators

Angus will forward Lucky2BHere contact details to Donna so she can order additional pads.

g) Leurbost Grazings Clerk

It was noted that Robbie Mackenzie is the new Clerk.

h) Grimshader and Heastabhal Wind Farm Development

- Robbie and Angus met with Calum Iain Maciver, CnES who highlighted the importance of awaiting the response from Scottish Government scoping before making any commitments.
- Along with any monetary offer, there should also be a community benefit offer.
- Robbie will be representing Lochs area on the renewables board.
- The committee needs to be ready to call a community meeting at short notice, if required.
- It was agreed the Grimshader Wind Farm name is misleading and may have resulted in a lower than expected turnout to the community consultation, if those in other villages did not realise the wind farm affects them.
- Angus and Robbie will get advice from Calum Iain about meeting with Community Land Scotland to look at community buyout options as one grazings.