

Pairc Community Council Meeting

Thursday 28th October 2021, 7.30pm – via MS Teams

Present: Karis Beattie (Secretary)
Louise Nicolson (Treasurer)
Lyndsay Montgomery (Vice Chair)
Anna Macleod
Angus McDowall
David Skene
Iain Nicolson

Apologies: Morris Black (Chair)
Norry Macleod
Doro Reider
Margaret Mackin
Councillor Grant Fulton
Councillor Paul Finnegan
Councillor John Mitchell

Attending: Fiona Stokes

1. Welcome & Apologies

Karis gave the apologies and chaired the meeting in Morris's absence. The meeting was held completely online due to a high level of covid cases locally.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Angus corrected the minutes in that he had sent on his apologies. The minutes from the 30th September 2021 were otherwise proposed as accurate by David and seconded by Karis.

3. Matters Arising

Ward funding – The councillors had responded that applications to ward funding should go through the councillors, not direct to the community councils.

MCWFT 2021/22 – The fund has been advertised on the Facebook page with a deadline to apply of 22nd November.

4. Sgoil na Pairc Statement

PCC is drafting a letter/statement to the community, to make everyone aware of the serious issues surrounding the school's viability. Karis to draft and circulate for agreement to the committee, the Parent Council, Pairc Trust and the Comhairle.

It was agreed that: The statement will be posted online, in the shop, on village noticeboards, and via the school office to all Pairc parents. Anna & Lyndsay will speak to Sgoil Nan Loch parent council about letting their parents know about the issue.

5. Taigh Ceilidh – Public Opinion

Iain reported on a document he had drafted on the future use of the building. He suggested it may not be time for a full consultation, but that the thoughts of the current committee should be made public. The current priorities for PCC are the School and Housing, development of the building is not a priority, but the ongoing running costs are a concerning responsibility in the meantime.

It was agreed that: The document summarises the position well. Option 2 will be amended to be less specific and ask for more ideas for the building's use from the community. Running costs should be outlined to highlight the responsibility of ownership. David offered to help Iain with any redrafting. Iain to contact CNES to see if they have a copy of the 'Conditions of Sale.'

6. Taigh Ceilidh - MCWFT application and compare utility costs

Louise outlined the annual running costs for the building and the group discussed payment methods to access the best deals.

It was agreed that: An application for £1000 will be made to the MCWFT small grants fund, to cover some of the expenditure made so far and ongoing costs moving forward.

7. PCC email and Facebook Admin access

Karis asked for volunteers to share access rights with.

It was agreed that: Iain will be added as a Facebook admin. Anna will be given access to the email account.

8. AOCB

The Playpark issue will be added to next month's agenda for an update. The group briefly discussed information received from Neil Oldridge (Community Assets Handyperson) on creating a Nature Playground and his view on ongoing maintenance such as grass cutting.

Ward boundary changes – South Lochs will move to the Lochs ward in May 2022. The group voiced concern about an under representation for the people of Pairc. There will be only 2 councillors for the Lochs ward and the population density is far greater in Kinloch and North Lochs. The issue will be added to next month's agenda for further discussion.

Timings of PCC Meetings – the councillors have been unable to be present for the last few months, due to a clash of meetings. Their input is greatly appreciated and a good relationship has been built with them during their term. The group attempted to find another suitable, routine date.

It was agreed that: The scheduling will remain as it is until the new term begins in May, as Pairc will have different councillors then.

Keys – Seonag Macleod has a spare set of keys for the Taigh Celidh and has offered to be an additional key holder.

It was agreed that: She will be a good key holder as she works nearby and can give access to the building easily.

Skips – Iain has put up the sign for opening times at the skip now. It also notifies people of the PCC Facebook page.

Remembrance Sunday – Iain will check what the arrangements are for laying a wreath on behalf of the community council.

Toum Road gritting – Karis has not had a good response from CNES, who will only put piles of salt at the side of the road, not send the gritter lorry up the hill. The road is treacherous for residents in freezing/wet weather and this has been an issue for many years. The road is priority 4 'To be gritted only in persistent icy conditions following completion of higher priority routes.'

It was agreed that: Karis to phone Calum Mackenzie at CNES to argue the case again.

Habost post box – Karis will email again with an alternative site suggestion.

10. Date of next meeting - Thursday 25th November at 7.30pm via MS Teams.