

**APPROVED Minutes of the AKCC Meeting held in Avoch Pavilion at 7.30 pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024.**

**Present:**

**Members:** Derek MacIver, Chair (DM), Fraser Brunton, Vice-Chair & Minutes (FB), Tim Phillips, Treasurer (TP), Rosie Brunton, Secretary (RB), Stuart Bruce (SB), Nicolaas du Preez (NdP)

**In Attendance:** Cllr Morven-May MacCallum (MMM), David Brims (DB), Steve Baker (SBak)

**Apologies:** Drew Mann (DMn), Alistair Adie (AA), Tony Machin (TM), Debbie du Preez (NdP), Jenni Carmichael (JC)

- | <b>1.</b> | <b>Welcome and apologies</b>  | <b>Action</b>                          |
|-----------|---|--|
|           | DM welcomed everyone. Apologies were as noted above. DM was sorry to learn that Tony Machin had withdrawn from AKCC. His support for the AKCC Website Project was appreciated and it was hoped that he would be able to participate again in the future.                    |  |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Minutes of the Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b>   |  |
|           | The draft minutes of the AKCC meeting, held on 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 were proposed by TP and seconded by DB as an accurate record.   |  |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>Matters Arising from the Minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024</b>  |  |
|           | FB said that as almost everyone had provided updates on their individual actions in advance of the meeting, the time required for Matters Arising was reduced. He circulated version 14 of 'Register of Matters Arising' and reported the following progress:               |  |
|           | <b>3.1 Item 3c(ii)/290424: Brae Steps.</b> DMn's attempts to obtain quotations had been unsuccessful. DB agreed to visit the steps and review the work required. If help were found through social media to undertake the work, AKCC could pay for materials.               | <b>DB to assess the work required</b>  |
|           | <b>3.2 Item 5(a)/050824:</b> TP had finalised the banking arrangements.   |  |
|           | <b>3.3 Item 5c(i)/05/0824:</b> DM/TP to discuss AKCC's concerns with the Black Isle Community Councils, about the process for transferring funds raised for Black Isle swimming pool to the Dingwall Puffin Pool.   | <b>DM/TP to discuss with BICC</b>      |
|           | <b>3.4 Item 5c(ii)/050824:</b> MMM advised that waste bins would be collected more frequently (2-3 times per week) to reduce the nuisance caused by seagulls in the area adjacent to Avoch harbour. It was agreed that the situation would be reviewed in summer 2025.      |  |
|           | <b>3.5 Item 9/050824:</b> SB said that he planned to restart work on the AKCC Asset Register and Maintenance records soon.  |  |
|           | <b>3.6 Item 5c(iii)/020924: Safety of the bridge linking the Pavilion area to Long Road</b> - DMn advised that the bridge might belong to Rosehaugh Estate. DM said he would approach Lizzie Campbell.  | <b>DM to approach LC</b>               |
|           | <b>3.7 Item 11/020924: Christmas Lights Testing</b> – NdP had provided detailed information indicating that although the person undertaking PAT testing of the Christmas lights required to be competent to do so, formal certification was not a legal requirement. During | <b>RB to undertake risk assessment</b> |

discussion it was agreed that RB, who had previous health and safety experience, would undertake a risk assessment and document the various issues. NdP was arranging for the lights to be tested by the Avoch Men's Shed prior to being put up on 1<sup>st</sup> December. SB said that he would arrange for the lights to be switched on.

**NdP  
arranging for  
testing**

**3.8 Item 10/071024: Sharing Shed** – Meeting with Black Isle Cares (BIC) had been delayed due to illness and was being rearranged.

**TP/FB to  
meet BIC**

**3.9 Item 5a/071024: THC Grant Funding** - TP confirmed that the annual grant funding had now been received from Highland Council. RB to add Kirsty Allen (KA) to circulation list for the AKCC minutes.

**RB to add KA  
to circulation  
list**

**3.10 Item 5c(iii)/071024: Railway Footpath** – MMM to discuss support for the required works with Highland Council's Access Committee. which was due to meet in November 2024.

**MMM to  
discuss with  
Committee**

#### **4. AKCC Action Plan Update**

FB highlighted the main workstreams summarised in v12 of the AKCC Action Plan. These were Reopening the Avoch Public Toilets, the Avoch Sharing Shed, Road Safety Concerns in Avoch, the proposed new AKCC Website and the Local Business Register.

#### **5. Recurring Community Council Matters**

**5a Finance Update** – TP said the current balance of funds was £3305. The annual grant had been received from Highland Council. Renewal of the Public Liability insurance was due. The bank was due to charge £4.25 per month for AKCC's community account. TP said he would discuss this with the bank and consider alternatives. He highlighted the Open Gardens Scheme as a potential source of income. It was agreed to discuss this further in the spring.

**TP to  
investigate  
reducing the  
bank account  
charges**

#### **5b Planning and Related Issues**

FB said that no relevant planning applications had been highlighted by RB since the last meeting. He referred to concerns raised by Maureen Sinclair (Henrietta Street) about the proposal to build a house above Henrietta Street on Cemetery Brae. Revised plans posted on the Planning Dept's website recently did not appear to address concerns raised by residents about the application, including those about the stability of the steep slope. SB agreed to provide contact details for Highland Council's Flood Team Engineer.

**SB to provide  
contact  
details**

FB referred to various concerns raised by AKCC with Highland Council in February 2024, including those about the stability of the steep slope below Cemetery Brae, as part of its response to THC's statutory consultation on the associated planning application. FB said when he had consulted the Planning Department's website prior to the AKCC meeting, he was no longer able to find the planning application. It was agreed that FB would contact Cllr. Sarah Atkin for clarification of the position and to find out if organisations participating in statutory consultations were entitled to a reply.

**FB to contact  
Sarah Atkin**

- 5c Community Concerns Arising**
- 5c(i) Killen Vacancy on AKCC** - RB said that although she had posted an advert on the Killen Noticeboard, no one had come forward, who could replace Hamish MacLean. RB agreed to post the advert on the Avoch Noticeboard and social media sites **RB to place further adverts**
- 5c(ii) Railway Footpath between Avoch and Fortrose** – During further discussion of this item, TP said that AKCC should liaise with Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council (FRCC) about any planned maintenance work and that Lucy Vaughan was the relevant FRCC contact. He understood that the landowner was about to undertake some work on the footpath, including removal of the hay bale that had been discovered on the footpath recently.
- 5c(iii) Removal of Branches, etc from Brae above Lazy Corner** – DM expressed concern that although Highland Council had kindly agreed to remove the waste resulting from the clearing works on the Brae, not all the waste had been removed. The remaining waste had eventually been removed by Norman MacIver (NM), a local resident. It was agreed that RB would write to NM on behalf of AKCC, thanking him for his help. **RB to write to NM**
- 5d Police Report** – RB said that there had not been a Police Scotland Reports since the previous meeting.
- 5e Correspondence**
- 5e(i)** Email dated 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024 from Lyn McNeil, Mid Ross Community Partnership advertising a Community Networking Event to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024 in the British Legion in Dingwall
- 5e(ii)** Email dated 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024 from Matt Barnes, Marine Conservation Coordinator for the Moray Firth Coastal Partnership advising of the creation of the Seashore HUB Project, whose aim was to equip local communities with the resources and equipment required to assist with collaborative beach cleaning. AKCC welcomed the proposal and it was suggested that Sarah MacDonald Taylor (SMT) may be interested. It was agreed that RB would raise the matter with SMT. **RB to contact SMT**
- 5e(iii)** Email dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 from Hannah Cameron-Ross (HCR), Emergency Planning Officer, Highland Council, thanking RB for completing the local resilience survey. The intention was to develop plans and local preparedness to mitigate against potential natural hazards including rising sea levels, etc. RB agreed to be the AKCC lead for this work and contact HCR. **RB to contact HCR**
- 6. Avoch Amenities Association (AAA) Update**  
The AAA meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 had been cancelled. TP said that he would attend the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November and make the agreed contribution of £150 towards the Pavilion's running costs. **TP to attend & make a contribution**
- 7. Black Isle Community Councils (BICC) & Black Isle Place Plan (BIPP) Update**  
TP said that BICC's current focus was on setting up the organisation, support and advocacy for the BIPP, which had been formally registered by Highland Council.

RB referred to the email, dated 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024 from Anne Phillips and Alan Plampton (BICC) enclosing a collection of draft documents describing how the BICC's governance body of the Black Isle Local Place Plan will work. Copies of these documents, which are stored on the AKCC network drive may be requested from RB. The next meeting of BICC was 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

**8. AKCC Website Working Group Update**

Although TP, CL, TM and others had made substantial progress with the proposed development of the website using the Plexus system, circumstances had prevented the group to meet to agree next steps. It was agreed that TP, FB and TP would meet immediately after the AKCC meeting to arrange a further website meeting.

**TP, FB & DB to meet**

**9. Avoch Public Toilets Working Group Update**

The next meeting of the Working Group was 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

**10. Avoch Sharing Shed Update**

It had not been possible to meet with Black Isle Cares (BIC) due to illness. TP and FB to arrange a further meeting in the next 2 weeks.

**TP & FB to meet BIC**

**11. Assets owned and managed by AKCC**

See Matters Arising 3.5 above.

**12. AOCB**

**12.1** The arrangements for Remembrance Day on 10<sup>th</sup> November were discussed. FB and RB agreed to attend on behalf of AKCC. FB thanked MMM for arranging to deliver the memorial wreath provided by Highland Council.

**RB & FB to attend parade and service**

**12.2** RB referred to the passing of Jenni Carmichael's husband, which was noted with considerable regret. It was agreed that RB would arrange for a card expressing AKCC's sympathy, followed by a garden plant a few weeks later.

**RB to arrange card and a garden plant**

**12.3** SBak referred to the collection of winter clothing, bedding, etc for Ukraine, which had been organised with the Inverness Rotary Club. Items were to be taken to Fortrose Town Hall between 1000 - 1600 hrs on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November. RB agreed to promote on social media.

**RB to promote on Facebook**

**12.4** DB referred to the meeting to discuss the proposed Library of Things being organised by Transition Black Isle, which was to be held in Inverness on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024. RB agreed to circulate links.

**RB to circulate links**

**12.5** DM said that the Christmas lights were to be switched on at 1600 hrs on 1<sup>st</sup> December, followed by a social event with mulled wine, etc in the Avoch Pavilion. RB agreed to promote on social media and ask for volunteers to help to put up the lights.

**RB to promote and ask for volunteers**

**13. Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 16<sup>h</sup> December 2024 at 7.30 pm in Avoch Pavilion.