

Nether Lochaber Community Association Meeting
Thursday 19th January 2023 at 7.30pm by Zoom

Attendees	C. Barnett, R. Barnett, L. Glaze (Chair), I. Jenner, G. Milne, G. Macintyre, B. Pearson, S. Pearson
Apologies	None

1. Apologies

None

2. Minutes of last NLCA meeting Proposed and seconded

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved, being proposed by I Jenner and seconded by R Barnett.

3. Treasurer's statement

Total in account £12,583.42 This is exaggerated as we have been in receipt of a couple of big grants recently. Stage 1 survey funds have been going in and straight out again. We were awarded £9,480 by the Rural and Islands Ideas Into Action Fund. We need to monitor the spend against this as unspent funds need to be returned at the end of March.

The treasurer has submitted supporting paperwork for our annual audit. All paperwork will be ready for the AGM.

4. Inchree Project

Awaiting the outcome of the SLF Stage 2 application. We have had various questions from Terry O Neill, and everything seems to be in order. A SLF meeting will take place next week to consider applications.

SLF have suggested that we attend a webinar on costs of building materials due to increases in costs recently. C Barnett and S Pearson have signed up for this.

We have received various letters of support from residents of Inchree to support our application.

5. Village hall

There was a successful meeting, with Stuart Livingstone becoming chair of the Village Hall group. L Glaze said she had forgotten to bring up the suggestion of a liaison post, but we will need someone to act as a link between the two groups to ensure we are not overlapping e.g. in terms of funding applications.

The Village hall is under the ownership of the Community Council.

6. Tubs, garden areas

No report.

7. Creag Mhor

We need to make progress with the wall and we need to start looking at how we maintain it as we now own it. We likely need to demolish the entrance wall to properly fix the side

wall. Then we'll need to decide what to do about the piece of land. We will need to be careful and respectful of area. The initial plan was a 'field of hope' type area with daffodils. The area needs a good bit of maintenance. IT was suggested that we could use shrubs as ground cover, which would be fairly low maintenance.

We need to ensure the Ash trees stay safe and don't get dieback disease. I Jenner happy to do the work to ensure this is safe and will try to complete this by the end of March.

We will need to dismantle the wall at front to get enough stone to do the wall at the side. We don't think there is enough to complete the job with what is available. There needs to be a group who knows about wall building. Do this on an activity day (see below).

There was discussion about accessing archives to check when practice of burying outside the wall stopped.

8. Picnic site

No report.

9. Activity day

Creag mhor to sort out wall (see above). This will take place on Sunday, February 5th.

At the previous meeting we discussed the painting of benches and the bus shelter at Cuilchenna, and that the Picnic site benches need wood preservative. It was agreed to leave this until March as the weather will be better.

10. 500 club draw

To be drawn.

11. Correspondence

None

12. AOB

There was discussion about a receipt for the £20 paid for the gambling licence for the 500 club. The Council usually ask for proof of payment but have not yet done so.

Website

S Pearson provided the draft website link to the committee on advance of the meeting. She is still to collate the copy for each page and will be in touch with people. The minutes have already been pdf'd and put on to the Community Council website so this can be done easily.

Discussion about menu items as C Boles felt there were too many top-level items.

- Agreed to put 'Inchree' under 'Projects'. C Barnett asked that we put a link to Instagram page.
- Put 'Gallery' as a separate heading at the top.
- Change 'News' to 'What's Happening' – news and activity days, events under here.
- Embedded calendar? With events.
- 'About' section – Governance, meeting minutes, etc

It was noted that on phones, the 'Donate' button goes to the bottom of the page and asked if this be changed.

I Jenner has a slideshow with over 200 photos, which could be put on the Gallery. It was suggested that people could contribute to the Gallery page via email.

B Pearson will continue to liaise with the Community Council looking at their website.

Ceilidh

Unfortunately, we had to take a hit on the cost (around £300). The band said they could give us a discount next year! All agreed that we need to advertise a bit earlier. For the interval, in the past there used to be children coming to play. We will need to start advertising in November 2023, and S Pearson will put it on the agenda for the October meeting. We could ask some people/businesses to fund.

Social Events

I Jenner said that we should plan to have another couple of social events e.g. BBQ after an activity day. This may draw people in e.g. a beach clean at N Ballachulish.

Future funding

The NLCA started with a grant from Sustrans for gardening, then subsequently the mosaic. Sustrans have other funds available so we should apply. For example, a shelter at the picnic site, and/or something to enhance the orchard at the school. We also need to replace some tubs. We need to look at the Sustrans website to see what's available.

It was suggested that the Hall committee could consider funding for EV charge points. We should be thinking about things that go back to the original motivations for the CA, which was to enhance the spaces. I Jenner suggested people come forward with ideas for environmental funding applications to improve the area.

13. Date of next meeting

Thursday 16th February 2023. The AGM will be at the March meeting (16th March). L Glaze has booked the Village Hall for 16th March.