

Nether Lochaber Community Association
Ordinary Meeting (following AGM), Thursday 16th March 2023, 19:00

Nether Lochaber Parish Church Hall

Minutes

1. Attendees and apologies

The attendees and apologies remained as that of the AGM, namely;

Attendees:

Gordon Milne
Gordon Macintyre
Dave Wrigglesworth
Roger Barnett
Iain Jenner
Lisa Glaze
Richard Nicklow
Steve Morrow
Gill Morrow

Apologies:

Clara Barnett
Jo Cowan
Neil McRitchie
Morag Milne
Brian Pearson
Martina Preece

2. Office Bearer Election

The Office Bearers would continue as they had in previous year, namely L Glaze (Chair, 3rd year), G Milne (Treasurer, 3rd year) and S Pearson (Secretary, 2nd year). The Chair suggested a vice-chair be nominated for cover for the Chair. S Pearson nominated R Barnett, seconded by G Macintyre. R Barnett accepted.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

I Jenner proposed, S Pearson seconded. S Pearson thanked G Milne for taking the notes in her absence.

4. Treasurer's statement

Current funds in bank £7110.76, including some restricted funds. Inspiring Scotland funds not spent will go towards legal fees if/when the asset transfer for Inchree Barn takes place. This will not cover all of the fees, but most of it. There is an estimated 1k-1.5k of unrestricted funds. Need to finish buying gardening tools.

5. Inchree Project

No update.

6. **Village Hall**

No update. The hall remains closed (see AGM minutes).

7. **Tubs/Garden Areas**

We need new tubs as many of the current ones are disintegrating. L Glaze has seen black plastic tubs which would be ideal to replace the small tubs. All agreed and L Glaze will arrange to buy enough to replace all small tubs. The maintenance will be less. D Wrigglesworth suggested that the Community Council could supply some funds for this.

All agreed that the bigger tubs with apple trees will present more of a challenge and perhaps replacement of these could be looked at next year.

Discussion moved to the benches which need to be painted. L Glaze is to check if the Village Hall could be used to store the benches to allow them to dry out before being painted.

All agreed to replacing 3 or 4 of the trees on the orchard which have been damaged by Council strimmers.

8. **Creag Mhor**

The wall needs one good go at it to finish. There will be an issue with the copes.

9. **Picnic Site**

Needs weeding. This can wait for a future activity day.

10. **Activity Day**

We need to work on the rose bed at St. Brides church – L Glaze said there is an invasive weed that needs to be removed before replacing the soil. We could pull up the plastic and remove as much of the weed as possible, then replace and use horse manure. There are bulbs in there so we must be careful, but can put them back.

Meet at the picnic site at 10am on Sunday 2nd April.

It was noted that we also need to do a beach clean, perhaps in mid-summer.

11. **500 Club Draw**

G Macintyre will send numbers once the draw has taken place.

12. **Correspondence**

S Pearson received the renewal notice for the insurance via Gordon Macintyre. S Pearson has contacted Zurich and the contact details have been updated.

13. **AOB**

D Wrigglesworth said that there needs to be a closer relationship with the Community Council. There is now an 'NLCA' item on their meeting agenda. There is a newsletter imminent. There was a suggestion that we outline the differences between the two organizations in the newsletter. It would be helpful to make it clear that the Community Council is a public body, essentially the next layer of governance under the Highland Council. Whereas the Community Association is a charitable body, independent of politics, which aims to make Nether Lochaber a better place to live, work and visit.

G Macintyre reported that D Stewart has secured some space in the Lochaber Times to highlight any local issues.

There were suggestions on how to store the gardening tools, for example, could they be stored temporarily in the Village Hall while it is closed, in a lockable storage box? Alternatively, as we have a good relationship with the people at the Creag Mhor Hotel we could approach them to utilize some of the space at the back of the hotel. This would be in closer proximity to the cemetery. The chair asked people to come up with some ideas. In the meantime, I Jenner will check with HIS for prices for a lockable storage box.

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 20th April at 7:30pm.

The Church Hall should be booked and the meeting will be in a hybrid format, and a Zoom link provided. At that stage we will assess if we wish to go ahead with this format for future meetings.