

Seil and Easdale Community Council
Public Meeting: 1900, Tuesday 24 January, 2012.
Seil Island Community Hall

Present

Seumas Anderson (Chair), Martin Waddell, Ann Marie Robin, Alan McFadyen, Mike Shaw, Charles Struthers, Sue Vest, Const. Jeremy Moore, Counsellor Neil MacKay, Counsellor Duncan MacIntyre, Counsellor Elaine Robertson, Counsellor Louise Glenn-Lee, Dr. George Hannah + 15 members of public

Apologies

Robert Rae, Chris Dugdale

Minutes of last meeting

Proposed by Martin Waddell, seconded by Alan McFadyen

Matters arising

Scottish Water

Charles distributed a plan which showed that although the majority of issues have been resolved, there are still some items outstanding.

Carol Collis has prepared a plan for fencing to screen the pumping control station by Balvicar Stores and the at the roadside by the treatment works. Local ideas including input from Louise Wilson at the old Drs House, Balvicar have been taken into consideration. Elma raised concerns that the shower at the treatment works will be seen above the fence. She also noted that the planning application said the installation would be khaki but that this was not the reality. In order to increase the screening effect, it was suggested that the planting go round the corners of the treatment works so it would be seen less on the approaches. Elma said that although the gear box is now fixed, she still gets noise from the plant. There are ongoing discussions regarding this. There is also a lot of surface water near her tractor gate. She has been told by Scottish Water that a drain will be put in but as yet there is no progress on this.

The Council has requested that the fence at Pumping Station 2 be removed. This has been passed onto David Innes. Scottish Water have indicated that this is a landowner issue. SECC are pushing for a resolution.

The orange plastic fencing near Cnoc a'Challtuinn is still there. It should be removed and David Innes is aware.

Roads

The meeting about Kilniver Bridge Scheduled for 10 Jan 2012 was postponed. A new date has yet to be set. There has been no further movement recorded. Seamus asked the Councillors to clarify the stage at which emergency plans are at. Cllr. MacIntyre said that the Emergency Planning Officer would have plans to bring to the next Bridge meeting. Monitoring will be ongoing and it is hoped that there will be a meeting in early March. Cllr. Glenn-Lee said that the police had looked at alternative access routes and that there is now a need to combine the plans in existence. Cllr. Neil MacKay explained that there had been other priorities due to the bad weather. Seumas suggested that bad weather could increase damage to the bridge, especially if there was a period of hard frost after the prolonged recent wet weather.

Problems are ongoing with potholes on the Ardmaddy Road with at least 5 cars have been damaged recently. The public are urged to continue to report problems and were reminded of the safety risks if their cars are damaged.

The plastic bollards running from Balvicar Stores to the village are increasingly getting broken with 14 now as short, unsightly, hazardous stumps. A request has been made that they be removed and replaced with a white line.

A general lack of adequate drainage on the roads is evident. In particular, the puddle at the south end of Clachan Seil is getting larger.

Sea Wall

There are now 2 holes in the sea defences at Ellenabeich. As ownership of the land is unresolved, no repairs are able to be carried out. Cllr. Glenn-Lee suggested that for a fee, a Land Registry search may be beneficial. SECC will write to Historic Scotland. Further actions will wait until after the public meeting.

Cllr. MacIntyre suggested that if there was a safety issue, the person responsible needs to take action and that as a community the decision needed to be made as to whether the wall is left to deteriorate, signs are erected or the area is fenced off.

418 Timetable

Cllr. MacIntyre confirmed that for the coming budget year the 418 service was safe. Numbers of passengers indicate that it is a valuable service.

The final siting for a bus shelter at Ellenabeich is yet to be confirmed. Local opinion continues to be invited.

Police Report – Const Jeremy Moore

The Drink Driving Campaign was extended into January. Despite the high numbers of drivers being stopped, only one from the local area has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal. Other crime in the area has been low and Const. Moore had no significant events to report.

The main challenge faced by the police in recent weeks has been managing the effects of the winter weather. Const. Moore commended the work of the Council and Hydro staff in clearing roads blocked by trees and helping maintain access and power to the community.

Planning

The Clachan Wind Farm application is with the Council. A survey to assess local opinion regarding the wind farm is being organised by SECC

Recent Applications:

- Demolition of existing byre and erection of dwellinghouses and detached garage with septic tank and associated drainage, land 130m west of Kilbrandon House Balvicar – interest declared by Mike Shaw
- Installation of hydro power and construction of a rockfill dam to create storage reservoir, land south of Ardmaddy Castle – interest declared by Charles Struthers
- Erection of 2 dwellinghouses (redevelopment of derelict cottages), Carnan Dunmore, Isle of Seil.

Further details on all planning applications can be found on the Argyll and Bute website.

Health

Dr Hannah reported that his concerns regarding evacuation from Easdale have now been escalated to Nicola Sturgeon (MSP). One of the issues is that the Argyll and Bute Ferries Review describes the service as fit for purpose. However, the risk assessment being used by the Scottish Ambulance Service deems the service unsafe for staff to use. Clarification has been requested regarding the criteria for making the service acceptable for the Scottish Ambulance Service. It was agreed that this is now a political issue which continues to be pursued but that there was little progress that could be made with the meeting.

Dr Hannah also reported that the redesign at the Lorn and Island Hospital was ongoing. Significantly, 2 consultants (Dr Henderson and Mr Yadav) will retire in the coming months.

Work is currently underway at the Lorn and Islands Reception to improve and expand the WRVS shop and cafe facilities.

Other Business

Offer of Land Purchase

The Ingles Family have offered to sell their remaining land at Ellenabeich to the community. This would bring both responsibilities and opportunities. A number of members of the public expressed interest in the idea although there were also reservations about liability for the sea wall and the situation occurring if the Community Council were to cease to exist. Dr Hannah suggested that those who were not interested need not be involved but that there should be opportunity for others to take the idea forward. It was suggested that the Kilbrandon Trust would be a good organisation to take this forward. Mike clarified that 6 months ago, it was decided that the trust should keep going but that the existing directors should resign and SECC Community Councillors become directors in their place. The next step, should the community be interested in taking this further would be for the Ingles to instruct a lawyer to check titles.

Vodafone Initiative

SECC have applied on behalf of the community for the Vodafone Initiative which would see improved signal in the local area. The application has been acknowledged by Alan Reid (MP).

Fisheries Grants

Fisheries Project Funding Grants are available to fishing communities within Argyll and Bute

Dogs on the Golf Course

A number of dog walkers have asked that the decision that dogs be kept on leads on the golf course be raised. As this is in line with the Code of Access, the Community Council feels that it is not in their remit.

Tidal Power Project

Charles and Seumas attended a meeting on Luing late 2011 about tidal generation. There are currently a number of options being discussed. Grants of approx £120,000 are available to research and design a project. If the project is a success, this becomes a loan with interest. The Community Councillors are now looking for members of the public to help investigate options in conjunction with Luing.

Documents to be tabled

No documents were tabled

Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 27 March, 1900, Seil Hall