

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24th MAY 2016 Seil Island Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs Elaine Robertson, Roddie McCuish and Julie McKenzie, Seumas Anderson, John Gordon, Alan MacFadyen, Anne Marie Robin, Graeme Bruce, Julie Ferris, Dr George Hannah and 26 members of the public

APOLOGIES: Charles Struthers, Chris Dugdale, PC Jeremy Moore

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Seumas Anderson as a landowner potentially affected by the Scottish Water waste water proposal; John Gordon re Planning Application 16/00975/PP

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March 2016 were agreed as an accurate record; proposed by Jean Ainsley, seconded by George Hannah.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 22nd MARCH 2016

Boundary Commission Proposals

As previously reported, a response was not expected until the end of May.

Argyll Sea Kayak Trail

Planning consent had been given for the Interpretation Panel.

Scottish Water: New Waste Water Proposals For Seil

The Chair tabled a copy of Rob Mustard's reply to the Community Council's letter of 25th March, together with information received the previous day relating to the first meeting of the stakeholder group to be held on 6th June. The Community Council was invited to nominate four community representatives to this group. The Terms of Reference were also tabled, with the CV of Mr Ian Clifforde, the external independent expert appointed to the group.

Concerns were expressed by several of those present as to the "independence" of an expert appointed by Scottish Water. It was agreed that such concerns should be raised through the stakeholder group.

There was also concern expressed that the community would be limited to four representatives. It was proposed that there should be a "pool" of six, to ensure that at least four could attend subsequent meetings, and that attendees could be changed as appropriate to the issues raised. Cllr McKenzie pointed out that the Ward Councillors and the Constituency MSP also represent the community. Cllr McCuish suggested the representatives report to the Community Council to involve the whole community.

The Community Council would consider suggestions for the representatives to ensure that the community was fully represented at the meeting on 6th June.

Roads

Thanks to Charles Struthers' excellent working relationship with the roads department, a number of issues are being addressed including verge cutting, Slow warning signs near Balvicar Stores where school children wait for the bus, and white lines in place of the bollards at Balvicar and to delineate the proper side of the road on dangerous bends. As always, a number of drainage and pothole issues are also being addressed: on the Ardmaddy road, at the entrance to Camaslaich on the Ardencaple road, and at Seaview.

Health - home care

Cllr Robertson reported that a pilot scheme for Appin and Lismore had funding for a part time co-ordinator and was hoping to employ local people to care for local people. Dr Hannah pointed out that this was precisely the model which had been disbanded here! He stated that Carr Gomm costs the Council £16.80 per hour to provide care, a fraction of which actually goes to the carers. While it was hoped that the pilot scheme could be rolled out as the way forward, major concerns remain.

Police Report

PC Moore was not able to attend the meeting, but had sent his sincere and grateful thanks to Seumas Anderson for all his help and assistance during his tenure as chair. It would be hard to measure how much the community has benefitted from Seumas's humour, patience and many hours of unpaid work outwith what was required for the role.

PC Moore reported as follows:

He would appreciate any information regarding vandalism to a vehicle parked near the toilets at Ellenabeich.

There had been several RTAs on the A816, causing some disruption, and two offenders had been reported for consideration of road traffic offences.

The Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015 comes fully into effect on 31 December 2016. This will require any person who possesses, purchases, uses or acquires an air weapon to have a certificate to hold them legally. You will be able to apply from 1 July 2016.

Find out how to keep your property safe in the countryside by looking through the rural safety guides on the Police Scotland website.

Concerns were raised again at the meeting about speeding through Clachan Seil, and the need to act before someone was injured or killed. A working group to consider ideas, and monitoring equipment to record the pattern of speeds/times were suggested as ways forward. The Community Council would discuss these with PC Moore. If people had concerns about specific vehicles (e.g. tour buses) they should take the registration number if possible and report to the police.

Planning

New applications since last meeting

Renovation of boat shed Land to the East of 24 Easdale Island Oban
Ref No 16/00749/PP Status: application approved.

Non material amendment to 15/03444/PP (Erection of dwellinghouse and detached domestic garage/workshop) for various alterations Status: application refused

Renewal of planning permission ref 13/00605/PP (Demolition of store and erection of 2no. semi-detached dwellinghouses) Status: application approved

Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of sewage treatment plant
Land North of The Old Manse Seaview Terrace Ellenabeich
Ref no 16/00975/PP Status: awaiting decision

Erection of garage/store Land North West of Dunearn Ellenabeich
Ref No 16/01393/PP Status: awaiting decision

Installation of 2 rooflights and satellite dish, erection of greenhouse, garden shed and craft shop
55 Easdale Island
Ref No 16/00771/PP Status: awaiting decision

Still pending/decided since last meeting

Non Material Amendment to Planning Permission 14/00914/PP (Change of use of land for the siting of timber shed, installation of petrol storage tank and erection of associated fencing.) Alterations to entrance gate, position of storage tank and size of safety shed. Installation of short hose, crash/safety post and ventilation holes.
Land Adjacent to Public Car Park Ellenabeich
Ref No 16/00653/NMA
Status: application withdrawn

Installation of telecommunications cabinet. Land Opposite Public Toilets, Ellenabeich
Ref No 16/00733/TELNOT
Status: application refused
The Planning Department had confirmed that as this is within the Ellenabeich Conservation Area it cannot constitute “permitted development” and an application for express planning permission is required.

Erection of 1 interpretation panel. Land opposite Art Gallery, Ellenabeich
Ref No 16/00061/ADV
Status: application approved

Erection of garden fencing (retrospective) 1 and 2 Caolas Ellenabeich
Ref No 16/00158/PP Status: application approved

Vodafone Rural Open Sure Signal (ROSS)

John Gordon reported that the project was now completed, but that he had flagged up future improvements such as raising the height of antennae for any subsequent round of development. John had been asked how much it would cost for the community to put in

additional units – he reported that Vodafone would not allow this as there would be issues regarding ongoing maintenance if properties changed hands.

It was agreed that the introduction of Sure Signal was of great benefit to the community, and the Chair thanked John for all his time and effort in making the project a success.

Bus Shelter

Charles had still not heard from the legal representatives of the landowners of the intended site and would chase their response.

Parking in Oban

A report would be made to the Area Committee on 8th June, and the consultation would take place thereafter. Again, the Chair urged everyone to respond.

FORWARD PLANNING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Anne Marie Robin reported on the first event in the project, a Brainstorming Session which had taken place on 3rd May. 25 people had attended and through group discussion produced many positive ideas about our community's assets and future needs. Anne thanked all who had attended and contributed so much to the starter session, and those who had offered their support in further development of ideas.

The top three assets identified in our community were: our people and their skills, our location and natural environment, and our existing facilities, e.g. surgery, school, shop, halls etc.

The top three needs identified regarding the built environment were: housing for families, small units for work, industry and business and tourist facilities.

The top three needs regarding the natural environment were: a sewage system that works, a pathway network and access to the foreshore and sea.

The top three needs regarding health and care were: reverting to the locally staffed health and care services that worked so well, supporting and maintaining our primary school and looking after and providing for our elderly locals.

The top three needs regarding sport, recreation and tourism were: a café/coffee house, launch sites and safe walking and cycling routes.

Sheets from the session were displayed for perusal and for anyone to add their ideas.

To progress ideas the intention is to work together on specific topics and share the diverse knowledge and skills in our community. Positive views and suggestions are welcome; the project group will keep the community posted about the next steps.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Loss of school librarians

Dr Maggie Thorpe asked if the Community Council would make representation opposing cuts to the provision of school librarians.

Convener

As stated at the preceding AGM, Seumas Anderson would be stepping down as Convener

after this meeting. Seumas was applauded for his tireless work on behalf of the community, and for the great effort he has always made to reflect all views and opinions.

TABLED PAPERS (all available on request from ferrisjef@aol.com)

Scottish Water

Rob Mustard's letter of 22nd April 2016 in reply to the CC letter of 25th March (also available)

Ruaridh MacGregor's email of 23rd May regarding the Stakeholder Group

Terms of Reference of Stakeholder Group

CV of Independent Expert

ACT – Argyll & the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust

Festive Lighting

The Nature of Scotland: Scottish Natural Heritage Magazine Spring/Summer 2016

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 26th July 2016, time tbc, Easdale Island Hall