

# Seil and Easdale Community Council

## Minutes of Public Meeting Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2011 Seil Island Hall

### 1. Present:

- **Community Councillors:** Seumas Anderson (Chair), Mike Shaw, Martin Waddell, Heather Chaplin, Alan MacFadyen, Anne-marie Robin, Charles Struthers.
- **Council Members:** Cllr Elaine Robertson, Cllr Neil MacKay, Cllr Duncan MacIntyre.
- **Members of the Public:** 10 plus Police Constable Jeremy Moore.

### 2. Apologies for absence:

Cllr Donald MacDonald, Robert Rae, Chris Dugdale.

### 3. Minutes of last meeting:

The minutes were proposed by Martin Waddell and seconded by Mike Shaw.

### 4. Matters Arising:

#### a) Community Tidal Energy

Seumas gave a brief synopsis of the presentation given to Community Councillors last week by Simon Forrest of Nova Innovation Ltd.

The proposed location is Cuan Sound, with a suggestion that Luing, Seil and Easdale islands are all involved and that a feasibility study could be shared by all. The company, with a background of engineering and community management, take their lead from the community and start small scale. Eventually the community owns the installations and benefits from the income.

Reference was made to their Shetland Community Project which should be operational by the end of the year.

Simon is waiting for feedback from our community and is willing to present to a more open meeting.

The consensus of opinion last week was that we should seriously consider benefiting from our assets but that our biggest hurdle is being able to work together.

Some discussion and questions ensued regarding funding, capital and the availability of The Kilbrandon Trust.

**b) Scottish Water:**

Charles reported that progress is still being made and that he will be given a list of the remaining outstanding problems. There will be a further update at our next meeting.

**c) Roads:**

Charles gave a brief update.

i. The surface dressing has been completed with the road markings and signs to be done soon.

ii. Charles has been given more information about how the knotweed problem is being dealt with. The chemical Tordon is considered to be fairly successful but the whole crop must be treated and it is a 5 year programme.

Some discussion took place about landowners who have inherited the problem, the authority required to use chemicals and the legal and criminal aspects of the plant's introduction. Advice was given by Cllr Duncan MacIntyre who also indicated that knotweed is a widespread Argyll and Bute issue.

iii. Cllr MacIntyre also informed us that there are serious concerns about Kilniver Bridge with major repair costs likely.

iv. There was agreement that the moving of the wall of the new build at Balvicar has improved both movement on the road and safety.

v. Attention has been drawn to the Balvicar road footpath problem.

vii. Christine Wills drew our attention to a part of the Cuan road at Ballachuan House that would benefit if made in to a proper passing place. Charles will follow this up.

**d) Planning Matters:**

i. There is only one new application since the last meeting.

Erection of two 20kw, 27.1m high (to blade tip) wind turbines.  
Dunmor House, Ellenabeich, Isle of Seil, Oban, Argyll and Bute PA34 4RF  
Ref.No. 11/00780/PP - Received: Mon 16 May 2011 - Validated: Tues 05 July 2011  
- Status: Pending Consideration

ii. Although outwith our Community area, there was some discussion about the planning application to move the fish farm in Seil Sound to Port Na Morachd. Various concerns were voiced about the possible detrimental effects on the environment, wildlife, scenery and tourism.

Mike Shaw reminded us that a balanced view should consider the employment opportunities involved with the fish farm and that any objections must be specifically relevant to this project and how it might affect our community. Seamus assured those present that points made at the meeting would be considered when the Seil and Easdale Community Council put their submission together.

iii. The decision to refuse planning permission for the Easdale Island wind turbine has been appealed by the applicant.  
All existing representation has been forwarded to the Scottish Government.

**e) Police Report:**

i. PC Jeremy Moore reported on road traffic issues. He warned local motorists not to become complacent about insurance, tax, MOTs, speeding and drink/driving. At present there is a concentrated effort, using available devices, to detect offenders.

ii. PC Moore also suggested we watch out for the opportunity to avail ourselves of some funding from The Crown Estate as it seems to have a lot of money.

**f) Clachan Wind Farm Update:**

SNH are finalising their 2 month study to prove/disprove the presence of sea eagles in the proposed site locality.

A planning application could be made by late August.

**g) Health Matters:**

Seumas selected some points from the OLI P.P.F. held on 13<sup>th</sup> June.

i. The Business Case for the Dental Access Centre in Nelson/Cruachan has now

been forwarded to the SGHD.

ii. The Hospital Redesign Developments are on-going, with noticeable improvements.

iii. Due to the recent retirement of Mr Kumar, it was confirmed that the visiting orthopaedic service from Paisley will in future be undertaken by a number of orthopaedic surgeons from the Paisley team, using their individual specialities to suit patients.

iv. A workshop was held on 30<sup>th</sup> June as part of the ongoing consultation on Patient Transport Service Redesign. Although none of our Community Cllrs were able to attend, Cllr Elaine Robertson reported that it had been a very worthwhile workshop.

v. It was confirmed that it is intended to provide a general urology service provided by consultant urologists in Oban. Dr George Hannah agreed about the need for this as the figures are quite high.

vi. At a previous meeting Cllr Elaine Robertson suggested a short meeting about emergency evacuation from Easdale Island. This meeting was co-ordinated by Cllr Robertson and was held in Oban on 26<sup>th</sup> July. Those present included Dr George Hannah, police, ambulance and mountain rescue representatives and Charles Struthers represented our Community Council. Cllr Robertson admitted there remained as many questions as answers to the situation but it was a start with some discussion.

PC Moore once again clarified that in any emergency health situation, call 999. The police have contact with all services that might be required to get a patient off the island.

Both Cllrs MacIntyre and MacKay expressed disappointment that they had not been invited to this meeting.

#### **h) Bus 418 Service:**

After our submission about the proposed cuts to our 418 service we have received a reply from Douglas Blades, Public Transport Officer with Argyll and Bute and an acknowledgement from our MP Alan Reid. We did not receive any reply from either of our MSPs, Mike Russell and Mike MacKenzie.

Discussions are on-going with West Coast Motors.

Cllr MacIntyre informed us that the £46,000 subsidy paid to WCM for the last 5 years has of necessity been cut to £20,000. However, due to the increase in passengers, he thinks our 418 service should be sustainable for the bus company. Dialogue should continue with all concerned about routes, possible re-routing, drivers, synchronised timetables, adjustments etc.

### **i) Main Issues Report:**

All Community Councillors studied the lengthy document and contributed to the contents of our submission.

Mike Shaw commented about the generalisations and lack of detail at this stage, making it difficult to find relevances to our own community. He did question why we were left out as a Renaissance village, considering the escalation of house building. The Cllrs suggested we ask to have a personal meeting with Fergus Murray of the Planning Dept. to take this forward and expand on our submission.

### **A.O.B.**

#### **The Crown Estate:**

A 7 page Paper has been received from the Scottish Government about the Scottish Parliament assuming responsibility for the Crown Estates activities.

Cllr MacIntyre advised that, in the event, funding should be localised and not go straight to central Scottish Government.

#### **Screen Machine:**

Back in town 25-28<sup>th</sup> July. Part of the programme to be the new Harry Potter film.

#### **New Secretary:**

Regrettably Jane Nichols intends moving from Seil; therefore we are looking for a replacement secretary.

#### **Elections:**

There is also a vacancy for a Community Councillor - nominations to be submitted by August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Volunteer/volunteers required for either or both vacancies.

**Documents to be tabled:** none

**Next Public Meeting:** Easdale Island Hall, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 7.30 - 9 pm  
(ferry 7.15)