

Seil and Easdale Community Council
Public Meeting: 19:00, Tuesday 24 July, 2012.
Seil Island Community Hall

Minutes of last meeting

Present: Mike Shaw (Chair), Seumas Anderson, Ann-Marie Robinson, Charles Struthers, Sue Vest, Cclr. Iain MacDonald, Cclr. Duncan MacIntyre, Dr George Hannah and 6 members of the public

Apologies: Robert Rae, Alan MacFadyen, Chris Dugdale, Martin Waddell, Cclr Elaine Robertson, Cclr. Louise Glenn Lee

Proposed by: Seumas Anderson. **Seconded by:** Jenny Tarbert

Matters arising

Scottish Water

A broken sensor at Pumping Station 3 has lead to a high volume of tankers (in excess of 100) over the past few weeks to remove sludge. On investigation it was discovered there was also a breach to the membrane. Both problems are believed to have been rectified. During the recent work, tankers have been turning near the end of the golf course, damaging the bell mouth at the new housing plots. SECC have requested that they use the space by the shop in future. Scottish Water has agreed to reinstate damage to the verges caused by turning lorries. Following a request by SECC, they have also agreed that as future incidents arise, they will give necessary information to Balvicar Stores to be displayed. Dr Hannah offered to display a further copy at Easdale Surgery.

Charles and Elma have met with David Innes (Scottish Water) and have agreed that the screening fence at Pumping Station 3 will be raised by a further 40 cm (18 inches). Planning permission is being sought for this.

A number of people have reported sludge being washed up at Balvicar. This has been reported to SEPA and is believed to be unrelated to Scottish Water activities.

The silver fencing near Tigh Cladich has been replaced following concerns over safety. The orange fence near Cnoc a Challtuinn remains. Charles will again request that Scottish Water remove it as the grass it was protecting is now well established.

Although the majority of issues have now been resolved, some disputes remain. Scottish Water has said they will serve notice to get access to connect water at Balvicar Boatyard. Dr Hannah queried whether the outflow pipe in the Bay was in line with the plans as it terminates vertically rather than horizontally, suggesting that this removed part of the function of the pipe. He will take his concerns direct to Scottish Water.

There were discussions about the extreme cost of the overall project and whether at some point this would no longer be borne by Scottish Water and about whether the system will ever work properly. Ccrlr Iain MacDonald said that the problems were worse than he had realised. Ccrlr MacIntyre agreed that the issues has continued for far too long. The meeting were reminded that Sheila Campbell Lloyd had previously said that the system on Seil was of an extremely high quality but unsuitable for the area and that in 2011 promised, on behalf of Scottish Water, to deal with all outstanding issues.

Roads

Charles reported that verges are being allowed to grow as a cost saving measure. Any cutting is likely to be 3-4 weeks in happening. Ccrlr MacIntyre queried whether to lack of cutting was a funding issue as £40 Million had been allocated to road upkeep. He noted that when cutting was occurring, it was only one rather than the usual 2 widths. Discussions continued about the safety aspect of uncut verges versus the ecological arguments for leaving them. Seumas suggested looking into schemes whereby local machine owners are contacted to maintain roadsides. Following discussion of the potential for redistributing budgets, Ccrlr Iain MacDonald said he would be interested in investigating community alternatives.

The bollards at Balvicar have been filled with gravel but there are still holes and the loss of another bollard has created a further hole. Charles has been told that the request for a white line has been recognised but that this would not be done until the liners were in the area for other work.

There has been no movement recorded at Kilninver Bridge for over a year. It was reported that due to current priorities, restoring the bridges on the West Coast of Mull, there is still no date for a further meeting to discuss contingency plans. There was a discussion regarding why this was taking so long and why the offer by the Kilninver Estate to part fund an alternative road and bridge has not been acted on. Ccrlr. MacIntyre said that this was good opportunity and agreed that plans for a contingency should have been in place before the issues arose on Mull. Concerns were also raised that the bridge parapets have been hit a number of times by vehicles. Charles will attempt to contact Carol Keeley (Emergency Planning Officer) and Douglas Hendry (Customer Services Executive Director) to progress this.

The road side part of the cemetery fence now has a rail and capping which improves its appearance. There is a kissing gate waiting to be installed between the cemeteries. A request was made to Councillors to look at the funding for fencing as the current one is being seen as a false economy with a limited life span.

A letter has been received from a member of the public regarding the sign about falling rocks which has gone from by Dunearn on the way into Ellenabeich. They have informed relevant departments thus SECC see no further action that needs to be taken at this point.

A member of the public has expressed concerns about parking at Cuan Ferry having had to take their vehicle to Luing unnecessarily on a number of occasions due to lack of space. Conflict occurs between local residents, kayakers & divers and ferry users. Ccrlr. MacIntyre said he would report back on the issue once the full extent of the Ferries Review was known.

Sea Wall

There has been no progress regarding the repair of the holes in the Sea Wall as there are ongoing uncertainties about ownership and responsibility.

It is understood that when Argyll and Bute Council purchased the land for the toilet block there was a clause that they would gate the access along the sea wall and put up warning signs. This has not happened and it was agreed that it was not a long term solution as the wall will continue to deteriorate. Cclr. MacIntyre suggested that the outcome of the Ferries Review may have a bearing on the situation.

Purchase of land

SECC have received a letter from Slate Islands Heritage Trust encouraging a purchase of the land on offer by the Inglis family. The letter also raises concerns about the further deterioration of the Sea Wall.

All directors of the Kilbrandon Trust except for those involved with the Community Council have now resigned. Seumas agreed to become a Director of the trust. This will now be able to be used as a vehicle with which to investigate the options and potentially the purchase the land.

Funding needs to be further explored in order to raise approximately £15,000, to cover purchase and legal fees. There are various options to explore including Lottery Funding, Coastal Communities Grants and the Scottish Land Fund.

The risks and responsibilities need further clarification. Cler. MacIntyre recommended the outcome of the Ferries Review be considered. There is a possibility that some of the land being offered for sale will be needed by Argyll and Bute Council to improve links to Easdale Island. Should this be the case, the Community may be at risk of being forced to sell the land once the legal work has been done.

Planning

Current Planning Applications

Extension to dwellinghouse to form ancillary/holiday letting unit (amended design to planning permission reference 11/01592/PP) Land North West Of Dunearn Ellenabeich Isle Of Seil Argyll And Bute . Pending consideration.

Ref. No: 12/01368/PP Demolition of existing lean-to and erection of single storey sunroom. The Granary Balvicar Isle Of Seil Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4RA. Pending consideration.

Ref. No: 12/01263/PP Erection of timber fencing and installation of rubber matting covers to existing apparatus. Sewage Works Clachan Seil Isle Of Seil Argyll And Bute. Pending consideration.

Ref. No: 12/01264/PP Erection of wooden fence, interpretation board supports and extension to existing retaining wall . Pumping Station South West Of Cruachan Clachan Seil Isle Of Seil Argyll And Bute. Pending consideration.

Ref. No: 12/01282/NMA Non material amendment to planning permission 08/01306/DET (Erection of 6 Dwellings) - Amendments to access arrangements. Clachandubh Lodge Balvicar Isle Of Seil Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4RA. Application Refused

For further information on planning applications, see the Argyll and Bute Website <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment>

A request by TSL for non material alterations to the housing at Balvicar in the form of an additional entrance was rejected on the grounds it required full planning permission (**Ref. No: 12/01282/NMA**). SECC will await further progress on this and respond if necessary.

There was discussion about the retrospective planning permission applied for by TSL for a sewage treatment plant and vehicular access at the new housing plots by Dunearn (Ref. No: 12/00917/PP). The effectiveness of reinforcement was questioned as were the reasons for why planning permission was not sought before work began.

There has been no formal decision from the Planning Department regarding Clachan Wind Farm. Seumas quoted from a press release in which Rory Young, owner of Clachan Farm is seeking further Community involvement should the planning permission be granted. It was agreed that although the prospect of additional funding for the area is tempting, for SECC to investigate this further would contradict their objections raised to the planning application which were based on views expressed by members on the local community.

Health

There has been no movement on the evacuation from Easdale Island and the Scottish Ambulance Service continue to refuse to use the ferry. Seafari are in the process of purchasing a wheelchair accessible boat but it was agreed to rely ad hoc on private firms for evacuation is impractical. Derek Lesley has agreed to come to a Public Meeting but it was agreed that as he has little power to resolve the situation, this will be unnecessary. SECC will write to the MSP to raise the matter further.

At the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Dr Henderson and Sarah Henderson (paediatric nurse) will be leaving in the next couple of weeks. Attempts to find a suitable replacement for Dr Henderson have so far proved unsuccessful and cover in the short term will be by locums. Mr Yadav continues to work as a locum surgeon following his retirement. Mr Creel is now working at a permanent surgeon although is towards the end of his career. David Whiteoak remains on leave. The hospital was described as being in a 'state of flux' and GPs will be meeting shortly with management to discuss the provision of sustainable services.

AoB

Sue Vest asked for volunteers to help run individual sessions with the Seil Guides in order to help keep the unit running.

Documents to be tabled

None

Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 25th September, 19:00, Seil Hall