

**SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**PUBLIC MEETING: 23rd JULY 2013**  
**Seil Island Hall**

**PRESENT:** Seumas Anderson; Mike Shaw; Charles Struthers; Anne-marie Robin; John Gordon; PC Moore; Dr George Hannah and 3 members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** Alan MacFadyen; Julie Ferris; Cllr. Elaine Robertson and Cllr. Louise Glenn Lee.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2013 were agreed as an accurate record; proposed by Jenny Smith; seconded by Henry Tarbatt.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**Emergency Planning Preparation**

John Gordon reported progress on the **updated Seil Telephone Directory**. Having resorted to physically checking occupants, addresses and numbers to ensure accuracy, this has become considerably time consuming but worthwhile.

Lanarkshire Rotary has produced a good example that we might refer to regarding **emergency procedures**.

John now has a **map** of Easdale Island properties/addresses and will be attempting to produce similar for other areas in our community.

Two “pockets” have been identified where **mobile phone signal** can be received - the area around Kilbrandon Church and an area from the top of Bealachannuirin brae to Kilbride Farm. If any other areas are known, please inform SECC for inclusion in the Emergency Planning.

This prompted a mention from Jenny Smith about an appeal to SECC on **Seil Chat** to approach mobile phone providers about improving our local reception.

An interesting discussion about mobile technology resulted, with past, present and future aspects mentioned. This included a reminder that SECC recently applied to benefit from Vodaphone’s offer to assist improved reception. This was done through our MP, Alan Reid but unfortunately this area was not selected.

It was agreed to investigate the possibilities of improving mobile phone reception further.

**Scottish Water**

Charles Struthers updated on various points.

The issue with **Balvicar Boatyard** remains unresolved.

The **promised new noticeboard at Balvicar** has not yet appeared and there seems to have been some misunderstanding about it replacing the present board at the shop.

The **sewage smell at the shop** detected by many in June, was reported. The possible reasons mentioned in the response were viewed as incredulous by many present. PC Moore emphasised that it is a serious matter and it was agreed that monitoring should continue.

Clarification has been received that the **plans to be implemented for the wooden fence are not those submitted by SECC**. Mike Shaw asked that our Argyll and Bute Councillors do something about this. Emanating from the discussion was the strong feeling that planners seem to ignore the views of the local community. Charles will speak to Cllrs. Duncan MacIntyre and Elaine Robertson.

### **Roads**

Charles Struthers highlighted the dangerous consequences of economising on **verge cutting**. PC Moore agreed, especially when advance warning signs are obscured. Charles has been informed the verges will be cut eventually. Although now the responsibility of Amenity Services rather than the Roads Dept., Charles will email Graham Stone (Roads), Amenity Services and our Councillors about the situation.

**Graham Stone** was commended by Charles and PC Moore for his efforts with any reported road related problems.

Although not so apparent during the recent dry spell, **the puddle near The Old House** at Clachan Seil has yet to be sorted.

A discussion followed about the **Clachan Seil speed restrictions**. Opinions seem divided about the success of the 30 m.p.h. speed limit.

### **Health**

The application to purchase the **Easdale Island phone box** has been sent. This is with the intention that the phone box will be used to **store the Easdale Island defibrillator**.

Jenny Smith conveyed that despite an initial enthusiasm, **the First Responders group on Easdale Island appears to be a non starter**. Dr George Hannah suggested that a First Aid Course might be useful as an alternative.

**The siting of the defibrillator offered to the Seil Island Community Hall** by Dr George Hannah is being discussed, with most favouring outside the hall, for easy access.

Dr George Hannah summed up the current state of **Homecare** - "it is not what it used to be". The different ethos of Social Work and Health result in delays. It was agreed that Carr Gomm seem to be using their finances unwisely.

### **Police Report**

PC Moore informed us that it had been **a difficult summer** with resources, money and man power stretched to the limit.

The increased number of **campervans** requiring places to park has been a big problem this season. PC Moore reminded us that it is an offence for them to park overnight on the roadside.

The Chair, Seumas Andreson, referred to a consultation letter SECC received from Police Scotland.

Jenny Smith suggested we respond and use the opportunity to emphasise that we are **happy with the Community Police model we had; it should be protected if not enhanced.**

### **Planning**

SECC's efforts to ensure continued access past the old engineering factory on Engine Brae are on going. Gates and a large dog are quite intimidating at present and there are fears about further restrictions when/if the property is sold to new owners. Seumas Anderson has the forms from Argyll and Bute Council Access Team required for **maintaining the road for public use.**

There were **three new local planning applications:**

Renewal, for the erection of a dwelling house, **east of Balvicar Farm.**

Demolition of garage, alterations and extension to existing dwelling house, **Tir Aluinn - Clachan Seil.**

Retrospective, for erection of shed and fence, **The Old Inn - Ellenabeich.**

A representation has been submitted on behalf of SECC about the Ellenabeich shed on conservation issues. To date there has been no response.

### **Balvicar Rubble**

Most of the rubble has been removed. Hopefully a satisfactory outcome for all concerned. SECC will keep in touch with the situation.

### **Proposed bus shelter**

Several councillors reminded those present of the background, history and associated **problems regarding a bus shelter in Ellenabeich.** Mr George Doyle is presently engaged in fund raising for this purpose.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Dog Warden**

PC Moore confirmed that there is a dog warden for our area. This enquiry was in response to a problem repeatedly experienced by a local resident who consulted SECC. Dog "poo bags" were being placed in her empty bin; so it was suggested that she contacts the dog warden and also puts a notice on her bin.

#### **Community Council Elections**

Application forms for the next four year term of the Community Council will be available from 9th September 2013, to be submitted by 27th September, with elections October 31st.

Anyone interested in our local Seil and Easdale Island community please consider standing for election.

**Documents to be tabled:** Letter from Police Scotland

**Date and time of next meeting:** AGM - Tuesday 24th September 2013, 19.00 Seil Island Hall