

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2014
Easdale Island Hall**

PRESENT: Seumas Anderson, Graeme Bruce, Charles Struthers, Eileen Colston, John Gordon, Alan MacFadyen, Cllr Elaine Robertson, Julie Ferris and 7 members of the public

APOLOGIES: PC Jeremy Moore, Dr George Hannah, Cllrs Duncan MacIntyre, Iain MacDonald, and Iain MacLean, Anne Marie Robin

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

John Gordon re: Erection of fence (retrospective) The Old Engineering Works, Ellenabeich

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The first sentence under the heading Health should read “leading to implementation by April **2015**”. With that amendment, the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September 2014 were agreed as an accurate record; proposed by Alan MacFadyen, seconded by Eileen Colston.

MATTERS ARISING

Scottish Water

Charles Struthers had been informed that lowering of the fence at the main pumping station was in hand, and that the obtrusive safety sign at the top of the shower unit had been painted out, although this had not yet been done.

It was noted that the cover planted was now growing up to naturally shield the pumping station. Occasional smells from the pumping station continue to be a problem.

The Community Council sought views on commissioning a map for the new notice board at the shop, to show locations of interest. An aerial photograph was suggested, although it was felt that a schematic plan might be clearer. The Community Council would consider options and report back.

Charles would talk to Scottish Water about replacing the steps from the cemetery gate to the War Memorial with a ramp for disabled access.

Roads

It would not be possible to create the passing places relating to the Kayaker Facilities to be developed at Cuan at the sites proposed, as there had been an objection from the tenant. A double passing place would be created over land controlled by the developer.

A&B Council are seeking to extend the ditch around the bend to drain the puddle at the summit of the Ardencaple Road.

Flooding had occurred again on the bend at Whinbank, with the drains needing to be cleared.

Concern was expressed at the dangerous level of flooding recently experienced at Kilninver. Although outwith Seil and Easdale Community Council's area, individuals were advised to ring the Roads Department direct, or to report any dangerous occurrence to the Police on 101.

A submission had been made to the Community Council regarding bushes obscuring the view of the road near Cnoc Fennaig. Charles Struthers would bring this to the attention of A&B Council, since the bushes were growing from the ditch. It was noted that it is the responsibility of landowners to cut back any vegetation on their land that impedes sight lines along the road.

The inadequacy of verge cutting, responsibility for which had been placed with Amenity Services this year, was discussed again. Cllr Robertson acknowledged that there had been a number of problems, and complaints received from Community Councils across the area. There would be an Amenity Services Consultation meeting in the Corran Halls at 6.30pm on Tuesday 16th December, which would be an opportunity for Community Councils to raise any issues of concern.

Graeme Bruce noted that according to the Scottish Government's Planning Advice on Conservation area management, regular traffic management surveys should be carried out to gain an understanding of how the area works and what aspects sustain activity and movement. To the best of his knowledge, no such survey had ever been carried out at Ellenabeich. Cllr Robertson would check on the situation with the Roads and Planning Departments, and would report back.

Health

The Chair read a letter received from Dr George Hannah, requesting the Community Council's support of the current nursing arrangements. Dr Hannah reported that there is currently a plan to reorganise the service, with a single large team based in Oban which would possibly mean different nurses visiting every day rather than maintaining the small team from the surgery. It was agreed that the Community Council would write in support of the current system.

Shaun Davidson, lead in the project Reshaping of Care for Older People, had already been invited to the next Community Council meeting in January, along with Caroline Henderson, District Nursing Administrator. It was agreed to extend the invitation to include explanation of the Community Nursing proposal as well.

Police Report

PC Moore had submitted a written report, which the Chair read to the meeting. Three issues were brought to the community's attention:

There had been a report of local children abusing the facilities of the Golf Club, using the hut in the dark evenings, leaving a mess and defacing the visitors' book. Some of the flags have been removed and launched into various bushes and hard to get places, and one is still

missing. This is a community facility that is well used and much enjoyed and the police fully support those who put their own time and effort into making it the success it is. PC Moore and other officers are keeping an eye on the Golf Course, especially in the evenings, and anyone with any information regarding those causing any form of disturbance should contact the police.

There had been another complaint of a male urinating on the foreshore at Ellenabeich. Enquiries are ongoing to establish this male's identity, as such behaviour is totally unacceptable – especially as there is a public toilet close by!

Finally, the police are still receiving complaints about Facebook, usually as a result of what people post late at night after alcohol has been consumed. The law is quite specific under The Telecommunication Act and traceability is usually quite simple through the internet provider. Remember, if you think you would get in trouble saying it then don't type it, and if you do, wait until the next day before you send it to make sure it is suitable.

Eileen Colston reported that speeding through Clachan was still a problem, and noted that there had not yet been the promised deployment of a police officer with a speed gun.

Planning

Graeme Bruce reported that there had been discussion in the Scottish Parliament regarding a number of complaints raised against the Argyll & Bute planners. Cllr Robertson was unaware of this, and would check on the situation.

New applications since the last meeting

Alterations and extensions to dwellinghouse. Balvicar View, Clachan Seil.
Ref No 14/02505/PP Status: Application Approved

Non material amendment to planning permission 12/01876/PP Erection of dwellinghouse and detached domestic garage/workshop (introduction of porch to main house and roof of outbuilding raised) Land West of Dunearn House, Ellenabeich.
Ref No 14/02561/NMA Status: Application Refused

Still pending

Installation of oil fired heating boiler and installation of 1200 litre oil storage tank including erection of associated enclosures and formation of bin storage area.

Cottage between 30 and 31 Ellenabeich
Status: Pending Consideration

An amended plan had been submitted. The Community Council has written requesting that the parking surface be as sympathetic as possible to the Conservation Area.

Erection of fence (retrospective)

The Old Engineering Works, Ellenabeich
Status: Pending Consideration

The Community Council had made a submission regarding this application, and has since received notification from the Access Officer stating that the A&B Access Team believe the route is a pedestrian Public Right of Way (PRoW) but that there was not as yet sufficient

evidence submitted to support the claim that the route is a vehicular PRow. The Community Council has written to the Access Officer to register disappointment and concern over this decision, and to request clarification of what further evidence would be required, and whether there is a right of appeal.

There was considerable discussion and concern over the decision, since the Ordnance Survey maps and historic photographs show that there has been a road past the Old Engineering Works for more than a century. A response is awaited from the Access Team.

Site for the erection of 20 dwellinghouses

Land South East of Oban Seil Farm Clachan Seil Isle of Seil Oban PA34 4TN

Ref No:14/00180/PPP Received Monday 20 January 2014 Status: Pending Consideration

The Community Council would comment once more detailed plans were submitted.

The applicant has appointed an agent to take the application forward.

It was noted that the Reporters have now completed their examination into the unresolved issues raised in representation to the Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan and the report has been submitted to A&B Council. The report is now available on the DPEA website at www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk/CaseDetails.aspx?id=115066 The report dated 18 November 2014 recommends removal of this site H-AL 5/23 designated for housing. Cllr Robertson confirmed that the Development Plan will be adopted in the New Year.

Provision of Seating and Bins in Ellenabeich

Graeme Bruce distributed a letter with which he proposed to survey the residents of Ellenabeich regarding this proposal. It was agreed to go ahead with the survey using Graeme's letter.

Vodafone Rural Open Sure Signal

John Gordon was thanked for his work in submitting our application for this project. We have been shortlisted, and await the arrival of Vodafone engineers to assess our suggested locations.

It was noted that Harlequin, acting on behalf of the Scottish Government, have been looking for possible mast sites, but nothing further has been heard.

Graveyard Bin

A compost bin had been provided for the Graveyard. The Chair thanked Cllr Robertson for organising this so promptly.

Street lights in Ellenabeich

Further to the request at the previous meeting for maintenance of the streetlights in Ellenabeich, Graeme Bruce distributed photographs showing damaged (and in some cases dangerous) streetlights in the village, together with a summary of those which were faulty. Cllr Robertson had reported the need for maintenance back to Ryan McGlynn, the technical officer for street lighting, who had confirmed to her that he was obtaining costings and would report back on progress. Further to discussion of the need for community involvement, Cllr Robertson would contact Mr McGlynn and ask him to consult with the Community Council over types of lighting, and how to minimise light pollution to possibly work towards the Dark Skies initiative.

It was further noted that 3 of the 4 flashing 20mph signs at Easdale School were not working. Cllr Robertson would add this to the request to Mr McGlynn.

Redundant Cabling on Easdale Island

This had been reported to A&B Council as an eyesore and trip hazard. The Community Council would pursue its removal. **Ongoing**

Security Cameras on Easdale Pier

Further to a question at the previous meeting as to whether it was A&B Council policy to have security cameras on all small piers, as they were now being installed at Easdale, Cllr Robertson reported that the cameras were being installed at the slip to enhance the Council's ability to monitor the approaches. The Council confirmed that cameras were in place at a number of the piers.

Any Other Competent Business

Transfer of Responsibilities – Ferry Services

It was agreed that this topic should have been taken as a substantive agenda item.

The Community Council had received a letter from Martin Gorringe, Marine Operations Manager at A&B Council, regarding the Scottish Government's review of ferry services, which culminated in the publication of the Scottish Ferries Plan in December 2012. A&B Council had responded "It is the preferred position of Argyll and Bute Council not to operate any ferry services." Comments were invited in regard to the future model service profile for each Council operated route for transfer to Transport Scotland with effect from December 2014. As the deadline for submission was very tight (by 11th November), the Community Council had replied that it was felt that there was room for enhancement in terms of schedule and size of ferry, but in general terms as long as existing services were not disrupted or diminished the community would be happy. The Community Council had requested that Mr Gorringe or a member of his department attend this meeting to discuss the matter with the community, but had not received a reply.

6.45 Ferry to allow attendance at Community Council Meetings

Jenny Tarbatt stated that she had a long-standing request for a 6.45 ferry to enable timely attendance of Easdale Island residents at Community Council Meetings on Seil, and asked that this request be taken forward. The Community Council would raise this with Martin Gorringe.

Tabled papers

The magazines:

Welcoming our Armed Forces

The Nature of Scotland

Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 27th January 2015, 19.00, Seil Island Hall