

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Public Meeting held in the Seil Island Hall at 7pm on Tuesday 17th November 2009

Present: Seumas Anderson Chairman
Tina Jordan
Anne Marie Robin
Mike Shaw Treasurer and Vice Chairman
Charles Struthers

Also present: PC Jeremy Moore, Cllr Donald Macdonald, Iain Jackson from Argyll and Bute Council and 13 members of the public.

1. **Introduction of the New Community Council** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting of the new Community Council and thanked the previous Committee members for all their hard work over the years.
2. **Apologies for absence** Councillor Donald Macdonald sent apologies on behalf of Councillor Elaine Robertson.
3. **The Minutes** of the meeting held on Tuesday 29th September were distributed, read and proposed as correct by Mike Shaw and seconded by Stuart Reid.
4. **Matters arising:-**
 - a. **Community Council: Bank mandates** It was agreed that Seumas Anderson as Convenor, Mike Shaw as Treasurer and Anne Marie Robin as Community Council Member would be signatories. **Meeting Dates** As part of accepting its Best Practice Guidelines and Constitution, Argyll and Bute Council want the Community Council to state in advance its meeting dates for the forthcoming year. However, the Chairman pointed out that the Seil Island Hall is also used by other groups and that what has always worked best is to hold the Community Council as close to the third Tuesday of every second month as possible. It was agreed to continue with this approach and, with this in mind, the date of the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday 26th of January 2010 at 7pm in the Seil Island Hall.
 - b. **Local Roads**

It was agreed by many present that Graham Stone at Argyll and Bute Council had done a good job of following up defects and potholes reported to him. Charles Struthers will be the new Community Council's point of contact for anyone wishing to progress a complaint or issue they have with local roads.
 - c. **Health Matters** Dr Hannah reported that there had been no further progress on his letter to residents, SAS, ferryman and NHS24 regarding medical evacuation on Easdale Island. There was also no news of any progress on landing lights for helicopter arrival after dark. Dr. Hannah gave an update on the incidence of swine 'flu in our area. He said that some patients were reporting 'flu like symptoms and about 50% of these would be swine 'flu. Vaccinations were now available on demand although he stressed that most patients' experience of the illness was relatively mild. Councillor Macdonald reported that the proposed NHS dental surgery at the Harbour Bowl, Oban, was progressing.

The NHS Highland Annual Review will take place on Monday 7th December at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. Members of the public are invited to attend. In addition there will be video conferencing available at the Mid Argyll Community Hospital, Lochgilphead. There will also be a live web cast of the event. If you wish to submit questions in advance please send in no later than Thursday 26 November 2009, marked clearly “**NHS Highland Annual Review**” to: Public Involvement Team, FREEPOST RLUC-KBCH-KKHC, Assynt House, Beechwood Park, Inverness IV2 3BW. Telephone: 01463 704702 Email:

getinvolved.nhshighland@nhs.net. To register for the live webcast contact Carol Duncan on 01463 705529 or email carol.duncan3@nhs.net

In order to increase public interest and involvement in NHS issues, Tina has suggested that more meetings concerning health, including those held locally, should provide live webcasts. Despite the disappointing news recently reported in Oban Times concerning the setback for The Oban Hospice, fundraising will continue towards improving facilities for patients requiring palliative care.

NHS Scotland is inviting people to take part in consultation about new Cancer Waiting Times. visit www.isdscotland.org/isd/5013.html or contact Susan Burney on 0131 275 6359 or email susanburney@nhs.net Closing date for responses is 8th January 2010.

The redesign of Mental Health Services in Argyll continues and is now at the planning and development stage.

Electronic patient health records – There have been local events giving information about proposed changes to the patient records system. The next event is to be held on 23rd November 2009 at The ARMS Centre, Campbell St., Lochgilphead. 1 to 3 pm. Please contact: Lornaahl.aol.com or 01369 830 877.

The Easdale Island Residents’ Association has enquired whether the Seil Hall Committee is acquiring a cardiac defibrillator and, if so, whether joint training could be undertaken (there is already one in the Easdale Island Hall). Dr Hannah said defibrillators are a popular idea for community buildings. It was suggested that the RA should contact the Hall Committee directly.

- d. **Scottish Water Project** As works near completion, Scottish Water are holding a public meeting on the 19th of November from 3 to 6pm about the reinstatement works for residents to discuss matters with them. The Chairman said that as Scottish Water would be leaving site soon it is imperative for representatives from the Community Council to attend in order to highlight any outstanding work which still requires attention. Mike Shaw urged anyone who has an issue to tell the Community Council so that we can continue to follow it up with Scottish Water afterwards if necessary.
- e. **Planning Matters** The Chairman said he had experienced problems trying to access Argyll and Bute Council’s planning application page in full but that there had been five applications since the last meeting.
- f. **Police report** PC Jeremy Moore said there had been 23 crime reports over the past few months with the majority being road traffic accidents. One of those had been a case of drink-driving at Kilninver which involved a visitor to the area. There was also an ongoing issue with vandalism in Easdale which was awaiting laboratory reports. He also said that over the past four weeks thieves have been operating over a wide area in North Argyll taking quads, trailers, outboard engines, other equipment and cash. Police believe it may be that contractors working in the area are spotting items in unlocked sheds and garages during the day and then returning at night to steal them. Although good DNA evidence had come to light recently, he asked everyone to take the precaution of locking equipment away. Four extra police officers have arrived in Oban and there is a new shift pattern in operation for a trial period which leaves PC Moore with less time to maintain a high public profile locally. The six community police officers in the area are now on a rota which means that they each take turn being responsible for their combined areas. He agreed with the Chairman that as a result of this shift pattern it was more likely that he would have to be reactive rather than proactive in future. This new shift pattern is transitional and PC Moore said the Community Council would have to be vocal about what it expects from the community police and Strathclyde Police in general as the situation develops. For now, the best way of contacting him about non-emergency matters is by email.

5. **Other business**

- a. **Association of Argyll Community Councils** The Vice Chairman had received notification of a meeting of the Association of Argyll Community Councils followed by its AGM on Saturday 28th of November. The Vice Chairman and Tina Jordan volunteered to attend.
 - b. **Telephone boxes** Heather Chaplain said that she had been in touch with BT about the public telephone box on Easdale Island. The equipment currently installed in the box is meant to accept coins – although the signage outside the box claims the phone is for credit card use – but the line is dead. She has been in discussions with BT about the possibility of reconnecting the line and installing a coin storage box thereby enabling it to function as a public phone again. Alan Reid MP had been contacted about the matter and he agreed to follow it up. Apparently the box is up for ‘adoption’, a process which must be carried out by a public body such as the Community Council. However, while adopting a phone box costs only £1 it seems the public body is then liable for insurance and maintenance costs. It was agreed that the best course of action in the short term would be to ascertain the operational status of all the local public payphones and to continue pressing BT to get them working.
 - c. **Community Engagement** Donald Macdonald alerted the Committee to a Community Engagement meeting in Corran Halls on Monday 23rd of November.
6. **Documents to be Tabled** A number of documents were tabled for general interest.
7. **Date, Time and Place of the next meeting** The next meeting of the Community Council will take place on Tuesday 26th January 2010 at 7pm in the Seil Island Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm.