

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
TUESDAY 24th September 2019

Present: Julie Ferris (Chair), Seumas Anderson, Guy Knight, Yowann Byghan, Cllr Elaine Robertson, Cllr Kieron Green, Cllr Andrew Vennard, Anne Foster (Secretary), PC Iain McLeod, 12 Members of the Public

Apologies: Steve Patterson, Rhoda Thomson

Declarations of Interest: Seumas Anderson, as landowner, with a potential interest in the Scottish Water proposals. Steve Patterson with regard to development of the former Highland Arts site, as someone who works with the owner.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2019 were APPROVED subject to the following amendments:

Scottish Water 3rd Paragraph. Change: 'representative of the former Stakeholder Group' to 'member of the public', following an email request received from the relevant party.

Final paragraph. Delete: 'Cllr Robertson advised the matter was likely to go to appeal'.

Correspondence relating to the Minutes had been received the previous day. The CC would consider and respond in due course. This includes reference to the Stakeholder Group and the CC will seek to clarify the status of this group.

Proposed: Guy Knight Seconded: Lisa Robinson

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Scottish Water (SW)

The Chair thanked all those who had responded to the CC's survey and her fellow community councillors who had collated the responses. Particular thanks were given to Stuart Reid who had attended the opening of responses as an independent observer. The consultation exercise had come in under budget at £246.99 and had hopefully raised awareness of the proposal as well as giving everyone the opportunity to comment. All those present had seen the CC response to A&B Planning – copies are available from the Planning Portal, the Island website or the CC Secretary. We await the outcome of the planning process.

Bus Service Ellenabeich – Turning Circle

The Chair summarised the current situation; a possible solution for a turning

circle for the bus had been identified at the top of the slipway in front of the former Highland Arts and a topographical survey from A&B is awaited. Cllr Elaine Robertson reported that she understood this has now been done. She re-iterated that there have been changes in personnel at A&B and the officer now dealing with the case is John Blake. The challenge will be to obtain funding for further preliminary work, and then of course for the work itself.

The Chair thanked Tony Hill and local businesses and organisations who continue to facilitate the temporary turning arrangements in the former Highland Arts car park. The CC is very limited in what it can achieve, and any solution would need the support of the local community.

The CC will continue to emphasise the vital importance of the bus service to the community and will use whatever influence it has to resolve the situation.

Parking at Ellenabeich

The Chair reported that the CC are obtaining quotes for polite notices regarding resident parking at Ellenabeich. Guy Knight reported that 2 trailers and a boat are still on the car park, but the motorbike and cars have been removed, and PC McLeod has been very supportive. The CC would like to get this resolved over the winter. Cllr Elaine Robertson thought the amenities warden had already visited, but will let him know that notices need to be posted on the vehicles.

Seumas Anderson reported that PC McLeod, representatives from A&B, Ron Hetherington and himself, representing the Hall, had met to make arrangements for parking for the Stone Skimming Championship event. Representatives will also assist on the day and equipment (radios, cones and signs) has been made available to support management of the car parks. Tony Hill has agreed to open up the former Highland Arts car park, and this is appreciated. There will be a charge for parking and proceeds will go to the Hall development fund.

Phone Directory

The Chair reported that an initial 100 copies of the phone directory is to be printed, despite a relatively low entry of local residents and businesses. This first edition will be sold for £2.50 per copy and will include a tear-off slip for those who wish to be included in future editions. The Chair thanked Anne Foster for all her work on the new directory and the Church office for production to date. It has been agreed with Brien Dickey that the CC will print this edition through a local commercial firm.

Campervans

The CC has had confirmation that Seil has been included in the SW NC500 project to provide a facility for campervans to dispose of waste and access water.

A bin has been requested for the car park in Ellenabeich. Cllr Elaine Robertson suggested that A&B have a policy of not providing bins as this encourages fly-tipping. It was agreed that this is a 'chicken and egg' situation, but on balance the CC considers the provisions of bins as preferable – we await the response

from A&B to our request.

Peace Pole

Following feedback from the community, it has been decided not to obtain a Peace Pole for Seil & Easdale.

AGENDA

Health

Rhoda Thomson, the CC Health representative, had advised there were no current issues to raise. Cllr Kieron Green reported he had recently attended a meeting where the Primary Care Improvement Plan had been on the agenda. He understands this will be rolled out next year and is looking to work with GP surgeries on this issue.

Roads and Bridges

It was noted that Japanese Knotweed is still thriving along Loch Seil, although we have had confirmation it has been treated. An outbreak opposite Alma Cottage has been reported to the CC and the secretary will follow this up with A&B.

The pot holes in the road between Alma Cottage and The Old House are opening up again and the road surface at Balvicar crossroads needs attention. This will be reported to A&B by the secretary.

The broken grate at Tramway is still outstanding despite the notices for the adoption being placed many weeks ago. Cllr Elaine Robertson said she was aware of this and would check on the situation.

Police Report

The meeting welcomed PC Iain McLeod, who reported that Police had recently been called to Cuan Ferry where parked cars had impeded the bus turning. Sadly, Police had also attended a sudden death on Seil. There continue to be ongoing issues such as diesel spills on the A816.

PC McLeod said he was pleased to see that some of the abandoned vehicles had gone from Ellenabeich. He had identified some vehicles without insurance or MOTs and would be issuing notices on these. The trailers are actually on the verges not the main car park road surface so may prove more difficult to deal with, although it is appreciated that they are still an eyesore.

Reporting from further afield; the police have now been issued with tasers and the first time one was used, although not deployed, was an incident where a man

was threatening an officer with a knife. The threat of the taser was sufficient for him to drop the knife. There was discussion of the danger that tasers could be deployed against those unable to understand or comply with instructions. The police are aware of this and prioritise de-escalation. PC McLeod offered to report further on procedures at a future meeting. Cllr Robertson and the Chair noted the risks the police face on the community's behalf.

Other events in the wider area included the seizing of £14k from a person under the Proceeds of Crime Act and reports of attempted break-ins. PC McLeod advised continued vigilance and encouraged people to report anything suspicious to the police.

In concluding his report PC McLeod confirmed that he hoped to attend the stone skipping championships next weekend to assist with traffic control and expressed his best wishes for the event.

Planning

Seumas Anderson reported on applications since the last meeting:

19/01994/NMA Shop, Ellenabeich Non-material amendment to 19/00033/PP.
Pending Consideration

19/01853/PPP Balvicar Farm Renewal of permission for erection of dwelling house
Pending Consideration

19/01455/LIB

19/00100/PP Monaveen Lodge Replacement of rear kitchen roof

Non material amendment to application Permitted

Permitted

19/01486/TELNOT Grianan Replacement of TV antenna Permitted

19/01452/PP The Old Coach House Change wall position Permitted

19/01232/PP Clachan Seil Waste Water Treatment Works Pending Consideration

19/01027/PP Cruach Scarba, Clachan Seil Erection of lattice mast Permitted

There were no comments on these applications. Seumas reported that SEPA had raised questions relating to the plan submitted by Scottish Water and SW were in the process of collating the answers.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Play Park

The CC had been asked how the play equipment is funded. It was reported this is done through the Hall Committee and includes arrangements for ROSPA inspections and approvals. The best way to support the play park is to support the Hall.

VE 75 Commemoration May 2020

It was noted that 8th to 10th May 2020 has been designated an International Celebration of Peace to commemorate the end of the war in Europe. More information is available at www.veday75.org The Chair would liaise with RBLs as to whether the community has any plans to mark this occasion.

Scarecrow Festival

This had been an enormous success, firing everyone's imagination and really bringing the community together. Congratulations were offered to all involved.

Phone Box at Ellenabeich

It was reported that the door is now affixed with a rope round the box and the glass panels have been smashed. The CC will report this as being dangerous.

BT monitor usage of public phone boxes, and communities can purchase those deemed redundant. The CC will consider as and when the occasion arises. Meanwhile it was agreed that keeping the phone box well-maintained contributes to the overall appearance of the area as does mowing the grassed area in the village, for which Guy Knight was thanked once again.

Date and time of next meeting

6.30pm Tuesday 26th November 2019 in Seil Island Hall