

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2018

Present: Julie Ferris, Seumas Anderson, John Gordon, Rhoda Thomson, Guy Knight, Steve Patterson, Cllr Elaine Robertson, Cllr Kieron Green, Anne Foster
31 Members of the Public

Apologies: Nina MacLean, Yowann Byghan

The Chair welcomed Anne Foster, the new secretary to the Community Council (CC)
The Chair reported that Argyll and Bute Council (A&B) are no longer able to print minutes and agendas free of charge for the meeting and have advised that other CCs use email. A sheet was circulated for the secretary to note email addresses of people happy to have minutes and agendas emailed prior to the meetings.

Anne can be contacted on seilandeasdaleccsec@btinternet.com if people would like to be added to the distribution list. Minutes are available on the Island website and the Slate.

Declarations of Interest

Seumas Anderson, as landowner, with a potential interest in the Scottish Water proposals.
Steve Patterson re matters pertaining to the former Highland Arts site, as someone who works with the owner.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2018 were APPROVED subject to the following amendments:

Scottish Water – last paragraph – “No support was indicated *for a meeting chaired by Mike Russell*”..

Planning BT pole to read 10.8m high

Bus Service Ellenabeich (Arrangement).. continue until the end of March 2019

Proposed: Anne Reid

Seconded: Julian Taylor

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Scottish Water (SW)

A member of the local stakeholders' group wished for it to be noted that at the previous meeting he had commented on the Save our Seil response. He wanted both options to have the same high level of water treatment and noted that if 1a was opposed the other option would result in buildings near to properties.

The Chair updated the meeting on events since the previous CC meeting:

- 11th October – email From G Fleming with alternative site proposal (on A&B website)
- 18th October - Stakeholders Group members attended CC interim meeting to inform and update new CC members – Document *Why Option 1A* was tabled.
- 26th October (as agreed) - CC wrote to Mike Russell (MSP) asking him to encourage SW to reconsider their response to our requests for a meeting. Details of emails were read to the meeting, including the response.
- 13th November email from SW advising of Drop In event on 28th November
- 15th November CC requested a plenary session at this event

- 16th November SW declined

Not everyone had received a postcard invitation to this event, particularly new properties and it was suggested that organisations should refer to the updated post office gazetteer.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The A&B Planning Officer has determined that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will not be required. Although there was some concern from the meeting that the wider environmental impact may not be taken into account, the Chair noted that the Planning Officer has stipulated that a considerable amount of information should be submitted with any planning application to address the quality and sensitivity of the site, with particular regard to issues relating to the environmental impact, flora, fauna et al. As a “major” development there will be a statutory requirement to undertake pre-application consultation with the local community, including at least one community event.

The Chair expressed concern that SW have completely disregarded the CCs requests for a public meeting and the form that consultation should take. The Chair will attend the drop in event and ask this to be formally recorded.

In response to a question regarding information; the Chair advised the CC do not have any more information other than that already available to the public.

Report from Stakeholder group

A spokesperson for the Stakeholder group gave an outline of the history of the group and how it had come to the conclusion that 1A was the best option:

‘The stakeholder group set up by Scottish Water included 8 local residents, our 2 councillors and an independent expert and was chaired by Mike Russell MSP. The group spent 18 months looking at a wide range of options for fixing the problems of waste water treatment on Seil.

The local members rejected Scottish Water’s initial nomination of an independent expert, and researched and identified Chris Chubb, an acknowledged expert in waste water from England. His advice was highly valuable in forming our conclusions.

The local members had a number of aims: the solution had to maintain the natural environment and amenity of Seil and ensure that waste water was managed in a way that minimised the impact on our people and our surroundings. In particular, any new facilities had to be well away from housing and main roads, and hidden from view as far as possible. In view of the failures of the present system which employed new techniques, we also required any solution to use tried and tested technology.

After lengthy discussions with Scottish Water technical staff and the independent expert, the local members unanimously decided 1A most closely fulfilled the aims we had set and this view was endorsed by the wider stakeholder group.

Members of the stakeholder group will be at the public event in the hall on 28th November and would be happy to give further details of why we believe that 1A remains the best option for our community. ‘

Comments from Save Our Seil (SOS)

Lisa Robinson stated that SOS were once again very disappointed that SW have chosen to ignore the requests of the CC to hold a public meeting at which questions and answers could be properly recorded, and that their information event would be one day after the CC meeting. She stated that many in our community are disappointed that there will be no EIA. Although the planning authority were apparently unable to insist, SW could have conducted one of their own volition. Although this would have delayed the process it would have meant that SW had to justify the choice of site above all others. This, SOS assert, makes it even more important that the community continue to seek justification for the development in a countryside greenfield area. As this proposal constitutes the largest single infrastructure project that Seil will have seen to date the community needs to ensure that the correct decision is made, for all of the right reasons. SOS would encourage as many people as possible to attend the drop in event and make their views known.

The Chair noted that SW have a statutory obligation to record people's views and the CC would also encourage people to attend the event.

It was noted that copies of letters to various organisations are on the SOS website and a request was made for the responses to be posted too. This was agreed.

In response to comments and a question about representation at the event, (whether someone has a potential conflict of interest as both a community councillor and a member of the stakeholder group) it was noted that everyone has an interest by virtue of living in the community. The Stakeholder group has been working in good faith to represent the views of the Island as a whole.

A question was asked about Ellenabeich and Easdale. The Chair advised that SW were only dealing with the immediate issue relating to problems with the installation at Balvicar and the septic tank at Seaview. Ellenabeich and Easdale did not come within their scope of works.

The CC were asked if they had a view one way or the other. The Chair confirmed that the role of the CC was to represent the views of the community and probably reflected the fact that there was no consensus in the community

Works to septic tank at Seaview

In response to a question regarding further information on this it was advised that SW. has confirmed that no more work will be undertaken until the wider plan has been agreed.

Bus service Ellenabeich

The Chair advised that the CC is aware of the importance to the community of the service bus and coaches for local businesses. Following requests for community feedback on the turning circle, the CC received a supportive response from the Slate Islands Trustees. However the challenges of funding and possible opposition to the scheme remain. Guy Knight reported that alternative options had been discussed including an area of ground near to where boats are launched – this would require a concrete foundation being laid, and another option of opening up

the current pedestrian access to the Hall and creating a through route for vehicles. This would be referred to the Hall Committee. For full disclosure, it was noted that John Gordon is a member of the Hall Committee, Seumas Anderson the Chair, and Julie Ferris the Secretary.

Parking at Ellenabeich

Guy Knight reported on a useful meeting held (on site) to consider parking issues around the area at Ellenabeich where cars park to go over to Easdale and where the public toilets are. The meeting also included representatives from Easdale.

It was confirmed that two Designated Disabled Parking spaces are to be marked out as soon as lining machines and crew are available. There was a comment that this would only allow a disabled person to access their vehicle from one side, but Guy advised the group had looked at the matter very carefully and this was the best position. It was noted that the requirements of residents on Easdale with disabilities had been taken into account, but also the spaces are not solely for their use and other disabled badge holders may use the spaces. Cllr Elaine Robertson confirmed that the guidance relating to the measurements of Designated Disabled Parking spaces would be adhered to.

It was noted that possible future changes to the law relating to parking on pavements could have a major impact if the area where cars currently park is classed as a pavement. Should this arise appropriate measures will be taken by A&B Council to ensure the problem is addressed.

It was asked if signs could be painted on the road directing people to the public car park. It was agreed that this should be factored in to any enhancements made.

Community Payback order

The CC has responded to the survey suggesting local tidying/cleaning/maintenance projects which could be considered for this scheme. A suggestion from an Easdale resident, to repair a path on Easdale has been received. Cllr Elaine Robertson advised that A&B welcome suggestions and do often take them up in due course.

Armistice Day Commemoration

The CC noted that our community is fortunate to have such an active branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland, which organised a very moving service and had raised over £2000 for this year's Poppy Appeal. Stuart Reid, on behalf of RBL, thanked the community for their generosity.

Bin Collections

Comments had been made at previous meetings about issues with the bin collection which now appear to be sorted and thanks were noted. A local business advised this was not the case with commercial bin collections.

AGENDA

HEALTH: New GP Contract

The Chair has received no further contact at a local level, but it was noted that there are continuing discussions at national level.

ROADS – Balvicar Bus Stop

Steve Patterson reported that 2 reflective signs '*SLOW DOWN CHILDREN*' have been ordered. They are to be positioned 15-20 metres from the bus stop on either side of the road. They have weighted bases and are moveable/free-standing. There was a request from a local resident to be consulted regarding their location. It was reported that the matter had also been raised at a recent school meeting. The Chair thanked colleagues and PC MacLeod for their input on this matter.

The secretary is happy to report highways issues to A&B but the CC wishes to encourage individuals to do this in order for the overall number of queries on a specific issue to be higher.

It was noted the road by Alma Cottage is deteriorating further.

Overhanging vegetation on the right hand side approaching Balvicar junction from Ellanabeich is causing visibility issues. The CC will approach the landowner.

The 30 MPH sign approaching Clachan Bridge from Oban side is still to be re-erected. The CC will ask again about this.

POLICE REPORT

No report available

PLANNING

Seumas Anderson reported as follows:

- 8 Seaview Terrace: Alterations to extension and porch. PERMITTED
- 37 Ellenabeich: Replacement windows and doors. PENDING DECISION
- Kilbrandon Church: Air Source Heating System. PERMITTED
- (Former) Highland Arts Site: Alterations and partial re-roofing, formation of vehicular access and re-building of entrance wall. PENDING CONSIDERATION. It was noted that the applicant is in discussion with A&B Planning and may withdraw this application.
- BT exchange: Erection of pole, antennas and associated works. PERMITTED
- 38 Ellenabeich: Erection of boundary wall, gates and fencing, folding parking bollards formation of tarred area and patio area. PENDING CONSIDERATION
- Oban Seil Croft: Erection of dwelling house, septic tank, driveway. PENDING DECISION

Now that plans are no longer placed in the Post Office; it had been advised they were available to view at the Council offices. A member of the public had tried to access these and been told plans are now only available on-line. It was acknowledged that they are often difficult to read on a small scale. Cllr Elaine Robertson will clarify the situation. Problems using the Planning website continue although some people appear to have found ways to manage these.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bridges

Kilniver Bridge – In response to a request from the CC for an update Cllr Elaine Robertson advised that this bridge continues to be monitored regularly.

Clachan Bridge - A local resident has raised concerns about movement on the bridge, which the CC has referred to Cllrs Robertson and Green. There are no updates available. CC will continue to pursue with A&B.

It was noted that the bridge at Achnasaul should also be monitored as a critical link.

Problems relating to overhanging vegetation were discussed, and it was again noted that it is the landowner's responsibility to trim anything impeding the road.

Phone Directory

Due to the introduction of new Data Protection legislation relating to use of personal information signed consent is needed for individual details to be printed in the new directory. The legislation also no-longer enables an individual to produce the directory without them being registered as an 'information holder'. The directory will now be organised through the CC. Thanks and grateful appreciation were given to John Gordon for doing such valuable and sterling work over the past years. The meeting agreed that the directory was worth keeping. The 'who called' section is particularly useful.

The first attempt to obtain consent will be the provision of a hard copy of Seileachan with a slip for people to return, indicating their wish to be included in the directory.

Car Parking in Oban

Members of the Public highlighted problems with long-stay parking in Oban e.g. if you want to catch an early train or ferry. It does not appear possible to pay to park in Lochavullin before 9.00 am and the station car park is currently closed due to work on the ferry terminal. Parking permits are available for daily use, but this problem relates to occasional travel. There are issues parking at the hospital as non-hospital users park there. Parking is also available at Mossfield although this is not publicised as it is not properly designated. It was noted the Rockfield centre is £5 a day and the money goes to the centre.

Cllrs Elaine Robertson and Kieron Green agreed that parking is a significant problem and issues are being looked at by A&B

Community Development Trust

The CC are not aware of any further developments.

Fish Farms

There was a request for members of the community to consider signing a petition with regard to acoustic devices being used illegally by fish farms as these impact on local marine animals. More information is available from David Ainsley.

Utilities

Broadband: It was reported that there is often intermittent supply even when people are paying for 'superfast' broadband. Suggested causes offered by BT vary. CC had previously offered to write a letter to the MSP and will do so.

Electric Supply: Some people are still experiencing power cuts. CC will pursue enquiries.

Date and time of next meeting

6.30pm Tuesday 22nd January 2019 in Seil Island Hall.

