

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

(Draft) Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2018/19

Tuesday 28th May 2019

Present : Julie Ferris (Convenor), Seumus Anderson, Yowann Byghan, John Gordon, Guy Knight, Rhoda Thomson, Anne Foster (secretary), Councillor Elaine Robertson, Councillor Kieron Green and 7 members of the public.

Apologies: Steve Patterson

Minutes of Previous AGM held on 23rd May 2017 were approved. Proposed by Guy Knight and seconded by Seamus Anderson

Matters Arising from Previous AGM held on 23rd May 2017 – None

Convenor's Report - Julie Ferris, Convenor, welcomed everyone and gave the following report:

Since our last AGM, Chris Dugdale stepped down as a Community Councillor, and Graeme Bruce, Anne Marie Robin and Charles Struthers decided not to stand for re-election in April 2018. Only three members – Seumas Anderson, John Gordon and myself - stood for re-election, necessitating a by-election in June 2018 which is why there was no AGM last May.

Following that by-election we were delighted to welcome new Community Councillors Yowann Byghan, Guy Knight, Nina MacLean, Steve Patterson and Rhoda Thomson. Nina MacLean has subsequently decided to stand down, so once again we have a vacancy. Uta Binnie gave us wonderful support as Secretary from January 2017 through to March 2018, and we were very fortunate when Anne Foster stepped into that role for us in November 2018.

I would like to record thanks for the work done on a completely voluntary basis by all our Community Councillors and hard-working secretaries, past and present. Thanks also to our Argyll & Bute Councillors for their unwavering support, and for all the work they do to maintain our services in the face of an economic environment that is challenging, to say the least.

Thanks are also due to Sue Fenton, editor of the Community Council's newsletter, and the team of volunteers who deliver it in all weathers, and to Nick Bowles for setting up and maintaining the website on our behalf.

In line with the objectives in our Constitution we have endeavoured, amongst other things:

- To ascertain, co-ordinate and reflect the views of the community
- To foster community spirit, and
- To be a means whereby the people of the area shall be able to voice their opinions on any matter affecting their lives, their welfare, their environment and its development and amenity.

Apart from January this year when we cancelled the meeting because of the weather, we have continued to hold six public meetings a year, preceded by meetings to set the Agenda; another six interim meetings to discuss issues which arose in the intervening months; and additional "special" meetings as circumstances dictated. We also attended training courses and responded to consultations, as well as handling the mind-boggling amount of correspondence received. Happily, there is still nothing to beat good old face to face conversation and we have engaged in plenty! We want to hear what is of interest or concern to the community – please don't hesitate to tell us.

The level of attendance at our public meetings has been very gratifying, regularly exceeding 30 members of the public. The meeting held in March 2018 to discuss the new GP contract was attended by over 140 – not surprising given the incredibly high esteem in which the community holds our excellent medical practice. I am pleased to report that Rhoda Thomson will be representing us on a new group formed with our fellow Community Councils of Luining and Kilninver & Kilmelford which will engage with the Practice over issues affecting the community.

55 attended our last meeting with guests from Scottish Water, reflecting the community's concern over this issue. The Community Council has been committed to ensuring the voice of all members of the community has been heard over this major project. There are differing views; they all share a genuine wish to achieve the best possible solution for our beautiful environment and they all deserve respect and consideration. We intend to further engage with the community over the imminent planning application for a new Waste Water Treatment Works, as will be discussed in our upcoming public meeting.

We worked closely with our community Police Officer to address concerns over speeding motorists at Balvicar where our schoolchildren get on and off the school bus. The eye-catching signs subsequently installed have hopefully had some positive effect in this regard.

In the coming year, we will continue to work on these and other issues affecting the local community, including roads, health, our vital local bus service, and parking. We comment on planning where we feel it appropriate to do so, applying three broad criteria of avoiding ribbon development, protecting our outstanding natural environment and not overloading existing infrastructure. We will also strive to protect the unique environment of our Conservation Area.

In short, we will continue to try our best on the community's behalf – we look forward to working with you all.

Treasurer's Report

Yowann Byghan, Treasurer, presented the accounts for 2018/2019. He thanked Stuart Reid for auditing them, and for his support and advice. Income over the past year has been from the Administration Grant (£455.60) and the sale of directories (£177.50). This with the carried forward figure (£4,620.63) gives a total of £5,253.73. The larger items of expenditure have been rent costs for the hall and the purchase of the policeman signs for Balvicar. The carry forward figure for 2019/2020 is £4,509.39.

It was noted that all future transactions will have an associated paper trail for audit purposes.

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Ann Reid and seconded by George MacKenzie.

Thanks to Yowann were noted.

Election of Officers

Office bearers, having declared willingness to stand for another year were duly re-elected. These are: Julie Ferris – Convenor, Seumus Anderson – Vice-Convenor and Yowann Byghan – Treasurer.

Any Other Business - none

Ann Reid expressed thanks to the Community Councillors for their work.

Meeting closed at 6.45 pm