

SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

TUESDAY 28th MAY 2019

Present: Julie Ferris (Chair), Seumas Anderson, John Gordon, Guy Knight, Yowann Byghan, Rhoda Thomson, Cllr Elaine Robertson, Cllr Kieron Green, Anne Foster (Secretary)

7 Members of the Public

Apologies: Steve Patterson

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 26th March 2019 were approved as an accurate record.

Proposed: Guy Knight

Seconded: Yowann Byghan

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Scottish Water

SW had informed the CC that the planning application for the new Waste Water Treatment Works would be submitted by the end of May. As Statutory Consultees, the CC would respond on behalf of the community. Once the application is in the public domain the CC would seek evidence to inform their response by sending a letter to all residents on the Open Register asking if they wish the CC to object to or support the application, or if they have no view either way. They would also be invited to add any comments relevant to the application. A notice would be put in the Seileachan for any resident not on the Open Register but who wished to respond to contact the CC secretary for a letter.

A member of the public expressed the view that this would polarise the community. The Chair explained that it is not a referendum, but a request for quantitative and qualitative data to inform the CC's response. John Gordon advised he had already asked for it to be noted that he was not in favour of the consultation and that he considered it an inappropriate and unnecessary use of Community Council funds. A former member of the Community Council stated that the CC is already aware of the views of the community and offered to share her experience of a similar exercise carried out some years ago which she felt had not been at all helpful. The Chair noted and respected these views but confirmed that the consultation would go ahead.

Yowann Byghan reminded the meeting that the exercise relates only to the planning application and so previous issues were not relevant. As Treasurer, he felt it was legitimate expenditure for the CC. The Chair suggested the cost would be in the region of £300.

[Subsequent addition in the interests of transparency:

£21.50 – purchase of Open Register

c£60 – quoted mail merge & letter/label printing costs

c300 2nd class stamps @ 61p £183

1000 envelopes c£25

Estimated total £289.50

The Area Governance Officer has confirmed this would be an appropriate use of the administrative grant, it would be classed as community engagement costs]

Concern was expressed that the CC would merely represent the majority view expressed i.e. if the majority of those responding wanted the CC to support or object to the application it would do so. The Chair clarified that the results would be reported in a clear and comprehensive manner and again emphasised that the CC has a responsibility to seek the views of the entire community, particularly as some feel that they were not consulted at the appropriate time previously.

Bus service Ellenabeich

Cllr Elaine Robertson reported that she understands the matter is still with A&B for a topographical survey. She advised that officers are struggling to cope with workloads, but she is aware of the September deadline. Concern was also expressed about the funding of any proposed solution.

Parking at Ellenabeich

The Designated Disabled Bays have been marked out and are being used. Seumus Anderson reported receiving a letter of thanks from a member of the public.

The problems caused by trailers and abandoned vehicles is becoming a serious issue as informal efforts appear not to be having any effect. These vehicles take up space and limit parking opportunities causing people to park on the grass, in the bus stop area and in the narrow streets – see Police Report below. It was agreed the CC would pursue this and suggested letters be sent to the relevant parties. It was also agreed that it would be helpful to raise this matter at our next public meeting which is on Easdale and it was hoped Easdale residents could then be part of the discussion on this issue. PC Stuart Johnson advised that similar issues at Port Appin/Lismore had eventually been resolved and encouraged the council to continue their efforts. Guy Knight is leading on this issue for the CC and it was asked that PC Iain McLeod contact Guy when he is next on the island.

Bridges

The CC is awaiting contact from A&B regarding results on checks on bridges.

Phone Directory

Anne Foster reported that the response for entries for the phone directory were still relatively low and the CC will continue to encourage people to respond, including local contractors, B&B and self-catering providers. She expects that once the directory is printed there will be a demand for people to be included. Anne will format what we have and the CC will make a decision about proceeding.

Campervans

The CC is looking at possible solutions in response to complaints received about users of campervans (mainly depositing waste due to lack of appropriate facilities). Yowann reported that a 'certified location' provides basic amenities of a water supply, a disposal facility for grey water (bathing/washing up) and black water (toilet waste). The CC has raised the possibility of this as potential community gain from SW. It was confirmed we would also approach A&B about the provision of bins on the car park.

AGENDA

Police Report

PC Stuart Johnson was welcomed to the meeting. He gave apologies for PC Iain MacLeod who had submitted a report. This included:

Reports of a quad bike being driven around Ellenabeich to the concern of residents. When police attended it was established that it was being used by a funeral party to scatter the ashes of a loved one;

A resident from Seil had reported the theft of domestic heating oil, but this turned out to be a leak in the fuel system and the oil had been seeping out;

A report of males loading a van at the pier at South Cuan, which on investigation turned out to be the legitimate collection of a delivery of fresh shellfish;

A collie dog found near Balvicar, which with police assistance was subsequently reunited with its owner;

A motorist was advised regarding their manner of driving on single track roads near to Ardmaddy Estate;

The police had also received a number of calls regarding animals on the road and vehicles broken down or abandoned.

Re abandoned trailers and vehicles in the car park at Ellenabeich, PC MacLeod advised that the responsibility remains primarily with A&B Council, as it is a Council amenity and parking infringements have been decriminalised. Police still have the power and ability to remove vehicles if they are causing obstruction or are committing an offence, for example not being insured to be on a road. PC MacLeod had also brought concerns from a resident regarding vehicles using designated disabled spaces to the attention of the relevant Council department. With reference to concerns regarding motorhomes using carparks as overnight stops, there is little the Police can do unless an offence has been committed.

The police continue to be as busy as ever, particularly now with the tourist season upon us. Recent reports in the Oban Times about the state of the police station building are accurate, but the police and staff continue to try their hardest to give the best service they can. The Chair expressed the CC's appreciation for their work on our community's behalf, and for our community police's support in attending our meetings.

It was agreed that informing the police of our meeting schedule would be helpful.

Health

Rhoda Thomson is now representing us on a new group formed with our fellow CCs of Luing and Kilninver & Kilmelford which will engage with the Practice over issues affecting the community.

Following the first meeting, Rhoda reported that there has been no progress regarding GP contracts. There is a concern that a move to salaried practices rather than self-employed practices will impact on our Surgery. Locality Planning Groups have been re-established and Rhoda will provide feedback as a result of her involvement from a professional basis. It was noted that the locality groups are looking for community representatives and this has been put on the website, although the deadline had been 17th May.

Roads

It was noted that the 'jet patcher' has done a good job repairing the potholes.

The fence at Tramway has been moved and Cllr Elaine Robertson advised that the formal process for adopting the road is underway. As such the drain repair has been sent to the contractor and should be done in the next few weeks. The CC would let Cllr Robertson know when this has been done.

Knotweed along Loch Seil and its encroachment on to the island continues to be a major concern. As always, people should be vigilant of any new sightings and report to the CC and/pr A&B Council.

Planning

Seumas Anderson reported on applications since the last meeting:

- Cruach Scarba, Clachan Seil: Installation of 20m high lattice mast. PENDING CONSIDERATION. The CC has responded to a pre-planning consultation in support of this application following response from notification on the website.
- 38 Easdale Island: Installation of flue and associated stone screen. PENDING CONSIDERATION
- 4 Tramway Cottages: Installation of flue. PENDING CONSIDERATION
- 11 Ellenabeich: Installation of replacement windows, door and rooflight. PENDING CONSIDERATION
- Ardseil, Kilbrandon Cottages: Erection of timber garage. PERMITTED
- 23 Balvicar: Renewal of planning permission for demolition of store and erection of x2 semi detached dwelling houses. PERMITTED
- Seaview House: Alterations and erection of extension. PERMITTED

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Peace Pole

Yowann Byghan tabled information about the Peace Pole Project, and asked that the community consider the provision of a peace pole for the island. For more information see <https://peacepoleproject.org> It was suggested that anything to bring the community together was a good thing, and that information would be shared in the next issue of the Seileachan.

Merchant Navy Day 3rd September

The Chair has received correspondence from the Seafarers' Association asking us to consider flying the red ensign on this day. The CC will discuss at their next meeting.

Scarecrow Week 27th July – 3rd August

There would be a week of activities and events to raise money for Seil Island Hall developments. Scarecrows would appear throughout the island with treasure hunts, and the week would culminate in a Highland Fair and dance. The CC will support this and agreed to put publicity in the Seileachan. It was suggested that strategic placement of appropriately attired scarecrows might help the problems we have with people speeding through our villages.

Friday Fitness Group

Healthy Options had approached the CC to fund Hall hire for a 12 week Falls Prevention course to run from February 2017. The course evolved into a keep fit class for all levels of ability, and has been highly successful with about 30 people taking part over the past two years, meeting all the objectives of Health & Social Care policy in keeping people healthy and active within their own homes. Healthy Options can no longer fund the group, which is highly-motivated and very keen to continue and actively seeking a qualified instructor.

Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 23rd July. 6.30 pm Easdale Island Hall.

(Apologies noted from Cllr Kieron Green)

If you would like to receive notification of meetings, agendas and minutes please email Anne Foster on seilandeasdaleccsec@btinternet.com