

SEILEACHAN

Seil & Easdale Community Council Newsletter

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April 2021

This issue is being sent to email addresses made available through clubs and societies *etc* (apologies for any cross-postings) and will also be available on the Seil & Easdale Community Council (CC) facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/758246257908565/>). The CC has decided that house-to-house deliveries cannot be made at this time. A few paper copies will be available at the shop for those without access to the internet; if you know of anyone without internet access, perhaps you could print out a copy for them?

The *Seileachan* should also be available on the community website: <http://seil.oban.ws> (together with full minutes and agenda).

Contact: seilandeasdaleccsec@btinternet.com for additions to the Community Council's email list, or any issues arising.

Copy for the next issue should be sent to the editor, Sue, by 31 May: scwfenton@gmail.com

SEIL & EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (CC)

Public Meeting, Tuesday 23 March by Zoom

Present: Guy (Zim) Knight (Convener), Seamus Anderson, Willie Munro, Peter Daalman. Steve Patterson, Jakki Carter-Brown and Mary Freer, together with Argyll & Bute (A&B) Councillors Elaine Robertson and Kieron Green and 26 members of the community. Apologies were received from Rhoda Harper.

Jakki stepped down as CC secretary due to work commitments; thanks were extended to her for all the work she has done to date but she has agreed to stay on the CC. Mary Freer has agreed to take over as secretary.

Land Sale at Ellenabeich

Zim commenced the meeting with the Land Sale issue and explained the background. The CC has joined forces with the Slate Islands Heritage Trust and Kilbrandon Trust to have a joint approach. Contact has been made with a number of bodies; the Community Buyout Group, Land Fund, A&B Council, Highlands & Islands Enterprise and Historic Scotland to try and seek out the best and most viable options available to us.

A Community Buyout is a complicated process and certainly not as simple as it may sound. In our case it would be classed as a late application and be a two stage application. However, in light of the fact that it is jointly funded by the Scottish Government and Lottery funds, the disputed ownership of land and liabilities essentially make the application a non-starter until these issues are resolved. If the liabilities were taken out of the equation, the community would still have an ongoing insurance liability in the region of £2,000 a year for the remainder. If the community raised the money it could be easier, but this in turn can cause division in communities. If some pieces were sold off to private individuals, and the liabilities were taken out of the equation, the sum required for the remainder would be more achievable but challenges remain. The community needs to decide what they want and should funds become available, would be obliged to make it work.

Ellenabeich is an ideal place for the development of a heritage trail with interpretation panels and improved pathways which would benefit visitors and residents.

The major liability in all of this is the old pier, which is currently on the 'buildings at risk' register and a B- listed historic monument. There has been devastating storm damage over the years to the pier and to the quarry wall and repair would be very expensive. There is a possibility of a body (un-named at this time), which has an interest in the area, and may be willing to take on the liability of the pier/quarry for the area's benefit.

Those present thanked the CC for their hard work on this matter. John Gordon confirmed the poor state of the sea wall in the quarry and suggested that should a prospective buyer take up the idea of a marina, any attempt to enlarge the entrance could cause collapse of the sea wall. He also queried the ownership of the foreshore between the low and high water marks, there being a discrepancy between the current and previous maps of ownership. Seamus believes that the low watermark may be the point of ownership. Obtaining responses from the various bodies approached has been slowed by the current covid working from home situation. Mary asked if the possibility of crowd-funding had been looked into; this had not yet been investigated.

Young Islands Challenge

This challenge is up on the CC Facebook page again, and is aimed at everyone between five and 25. You are asked to register and put forward your views on what it is like to live on an island and the challenges you face. There is training and support available and a 'cool challenge sheet' to complete. Willie is co-ordinating this so please speak to him should you need any further information.

Litter/Bins/Speed Signs/Rubbish/Trailers/Plants

We are continuing to pick up litter when walking about and this can only be from locals/workman so please use the bins provided or take it home. We are still chasing the A&B council for bins. The rubbish on the slip at Ellenabeich has been removed.

The CC has applied for a grant to undertake various repairs *etc*. If you have any old pots and a few spare plants then please do assist in making the island brighter. The trailers in the back car park remain a work in progress; Councillor Robinson is coordinating with A&B Council. Assistance to cut up the trailers in the back car park, and remove them to the tip, has been offered; all have been subject to a series of council notices.

Covid 19 and vaccine

Nearly all adults have now had their vaccine and second doses are due to commence in April. The surgery has now been told not to dose anyone under 50 until those over 50 have had their second dose. You will be called by the surgery when your time comes. We would like to thank the surgery for their hard work to date and managing to vaccinate the majority of us.

NB The CC Facebook page is a private group, and CC items should not be copied and pasted elsewhere *ie* on the

Seil Survival facebook page. Zim is concerned that items such as letters from the surgery, information about the progress of the land negotiations etc should not be put into the public domain.

Defibrillators

We have been looking at these to ensure that the defibrillators are regularly checked and are compiling an up-to-date list of those who have been trained in their use.

Dog Warden

Rhoda is continuing to chase the dog warden. Three bins had been ordered but they are not now available. The school is using the playing field area, and is having to clear it up, prior to use. Please make sure all dog mess is removed.

Police Report

The CC is aware of a number of recent incidents involving dog thefts so please take care and look after your dogs.

Easdale Ferry Emergency Cover

Concerns have been raised over cover when a number of ferrymen live off Easdale Island. There is always one ferryman on the island, and at least one person qualified to do the ropes so emergency cover is always on hand. The ferrymen are notified at the same time as the emergency services so should be able to get there in plenty of time, if required.

Counselling Service

A new counselling service is being made available to school children, aged 10 to 18.

Planning Applications

- Change of use from shed to holiday let on Easdale Island
- Change of use from licensed premises (Puffer) to residential
- Polytunnel to rear of 61 Ellenabeich

Planning requests passed

- Wall at 38 Ellenabeich
- Extension at 31 Ellenabeich

School at Hall & Playpark

This has caused an issue to some but it is only until Easter. A&B Council has a duty to safeguard the children in their care and have had to undertake a number of risk assessments to allow the school to operate at the Hall.

AOB

Street lights. The timing is out on some street lights following the recent power cut. Please report on the A&B website as you will know the location.

Scottish Water. Issues with sewage into gardens at Balvicar have now been now resolved.

Rest and be Thankful. A consultation has been carried out by A&B Council regarding the long term objectives for the situation; the present status is untenable and presently it is hoped to create a new road on the west side of Glen Coe.

Date and time of next meeting (AGM)

6.30/7.30pm Tuesday 25 May. Seil Island Hall/Zoom.

SEIL ISLAND HALL

March Lottery Winners

£50 Mary Macpherson

£10 Tracey Volpe, Mary Sandilands, Jeanette Sheldrick

April Lottery Winners

£50 Lesley Addison

£10 Merlie Cuesta, Mary Phillips, Eddie Holland

Thanks to the lottery collectors and to everyone who takes part in this major fundraiser for the Hall. Subscriptions are being collected for this coming year. As not everyone is comfortable with knocking on doors at this difficult time, you could help by paying your subscription direct to the hall bank account. Contact Janet Scott for further details on 483 or jes.janetescott@btinternet.com

Amazon Smile

A reminder that anyone can help generate funds to the hall by accessing Amazon through the following link:

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/SC032419>

You don't need to create a new account, it doesn't cost you anything, or affect your Prime status if you have it.

Hall Broadband upgrade

Thanks to Ken Jones and John Colston, the Hall now has upgraded broadband and a vast improvement in speeds.

Temporary use by Easdale Primary

We have been pleased to help the community by enabling Easdale Primary to use the Hall while the School is undergoing essential electrical work. We are grateful for everyone's support and cooperation during this time.

BALLACHUAN RESERVE

The Scottish Wildlife Trust's Ballachuan reserve has a new voluntary Reserve Convenor, Ann McKillop. Ann started off as a conservation volunteer and worked for over 30 years as a ranger and park manager, so has come full circle. She is glad to be back volunteering, especially on such an important site as Ballachuan Wood, and can be contacted on 516, or 07890 263 052.

EASDALE RIB RENDEZVOUS

The 2021 Easdale RIB Rendezvous in May is officially cancelled. Many who booked accommodation for 2020's event rolled their booking onwards to 2021. With RIBs on the water at Easdale, Seafari has an obligation to offer boating advice.

When the Seafari village shop re-opens, we would like to focus on supporting the local economy and would prefer to stock locally produced goods if possible. Email: oban@seafari.co.uk or call 003.

TREASURER, KILBRANDON & KILCHATTAN CHURCH

The role of Treasurer would suit somebody who has approximately 2-3 hours to spare each week, although this does vary. Admin/bookkeeping experience would be an advantage. Responsibilities include recording all receipts and payments on a spreadsheet, counting and banking cash donations, being the main point of contact for any church finance issues, submitting Gift Aid claims, writing reports for church meetings and preparing annual accounts. For more information, please contact Denise McLean: mcleananddenise725@gmail.com

THE ISLE OF SEIL GOLF CLUB

The 2021-22 season began on April 1. New Members, Adults and Juniors are welcome. We offer a one year new adult beginner membership fee of £80, which includes beginner coaching (current annual adult membership is £170). Junior membership is £15 which includes beginner coaching. Membership forms are available in the club hut or by email; contact George Hannah at seilgp@yahoo.com Our first fun competition for all ages is on Easter Sunday April 4 at 2pm. The first handicap medal competition is Sat/Sun April 10/11. On April 7, the weekly Wednesday 9 hole stableford competition commences at 2pm. On Thursday evenings at 6.30pm, commencing May 20, we plan to organise 9 hole fun forward blue tee competitions for beginners (all abilities welcome to join in).

THE ISLE OF SEIL COASTAL ROWING CLUB

Current Covid regulations do not allow rowing, as an outdoor organised contact sport, until 17 May. New members are always welcome; three free goes then it is a whole tenner for the year. Lifejackets provided. Juniors (over P7) have free membership. Speak to Sue on 545. 'Return to rowing' fitness sessions are being organised, details tbc on our Facebook page, @seilskiff