

# **SEIL AND EASDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Public Meeting**  
**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021**  
**Zoom 7.30 pm**

## **AGENDA**

Guy started by saying Jakki had unfortunately had to step down as secretary due to work commitments, and the CC extended their thanks to her for all the work she has done to date. Jakki has agreed to stay on as a councillor. Luckily, Mary Freer had for some months been expressing an interest in joining, and has agreed to take over as secretary. I welcome Mary to the CC and we look forward to working with her in the future.

### **Present – Convener – Guy Knight**

**Seamus Anderson, Willie Munro, Peter Daalman  
Steve Patterson, Jackie Carter Brown,  
Mary Freer and Councillors Elaine Robertson,  
Kieron Green, and 26 members of the community.**

### **Apologies – Rhoda Harper**

### **Declarations of Interest – Seumas Anderson and Steve Patterson**

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting Held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

### **Proposed Willie Munro**

### **Seconded Seumas Anderson**

### **Matters Arising since the last meeting**

#### **1. Land Sale Ellenabeich**

Guy Knight 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, Argyll and Bute Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Historic Scotland to try and seek out the best and most viable options available to us.

A Community buy out 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 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 it would be easier but the community would still have an ongoing insurance liability in the region of £2000 a year for the remainder. If the community raised the money it would 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.

It was explained that should funds become available, the community would be obliged to make it work. A suggestion had been made that Ellenabeich was 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 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.

Jeanette Sheldrick – thanked the CC for all the work they had been doing in relation to this matter.

Julie Ferris – thanked the CC for their work.

Ruth Odling – agreed that the work was an onerous task and should be done in a manner to preserve the history of the place.

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 Anderson – believes that the low water mark may be the point of ownership.

Elaine Robertson - was impressed by the amount of work the CC has put into this matter and said that anybody with ideas should put them forward.

WM wished it noted that getting a response from the various bodies approached has been slowed by the current working from home situation as a result of Covid.

MF – asked if the possibility of Crowdfunding had been looked into; citing Cagwith harbour in Cornwall. This had not yet been investigated.

## **2. Young Islands Challenge**

This has been put this up on our Facebook page again, and is aimed at everyone between 5 – 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 you need any further information.

## **3. 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 Council for bins and will continue to do so. The rubbish on the slip at Ellenabeich has been removed and it is looking somewhat tidier. We have also tried to tidy up the area and the CC have applied for a grant to undertake various repairs etc. Some have commented they would like to assist so if you have any old pots and a few spare plants then please do so. Suggestions were to place some by the bridge as you drive onto the island, and at and around the bus stops, any help would be great and it will make the island a lot brighter. The trailers in the back car park remain work in progress and we continue to chase the Council on these. Elaine was co-ordinating and speaking with the Council.

GK said someone had offered assistance with the trailers in the back car park (which have been subject to a series of council notices) to cut them up and remove them to the tip. Elaine Robertson will clarify.

## **4. Police Report**

Iain is on leave and the CC will notify you if anything relevant comes to light. We are however aware of a number of recent incidents involving dog thefts so please take care and look after your dogs.

## 5. **Covid 19 and vaccine**

Nearly all adults have now had their vaccine and second doses are due to commence in April. 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. GK pointed out that the contents of this letter were put onto the CC FB page which is private, but was copied onto a public group page. Please do not copy and paste CC items elsewhere. GK concerned that he did not wish things of this nature put into the public domain.

## 6. **Defibrillators**

We have been looking at these to ensure that they are regularly checked and are compiling an up to date list of persons who have undertaken the course and are trained in the use of using these.

## 7. **Dog Warden**

Rhoda has been chasing the dog warden and will continue to do so. Three bins had been ordered but the Warden now says these are not available. The school is using the hall and playing field area, and are having to clear up prior to the children being able to use same. Reminder to all to make sure all dog mess is removed. The CC are still working on this and speaking with the dog warden.

## 8. **Easdale Ferry Emergency Cover**

Concerns have been raised over cover when a number of ferrymen live off the 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 also get notified the same time as the emergency services so should be able to get here in plenty of time. Despite not living on the island, the ferrymen are confident they can attend any emergency prior to the attendance of any of the emergency services.

## 9. **Counselling Service**

JCB introduced the new Counselling service which is being made available to School Children aged 10 to 18. There are 9 counsellors, JCB being one of them. There has been a great response to this new service, and the counsellors are finding themselves very busy post Covid lockdown.

Joan Best will advise the North Argyll Carers as this is available to Young Carers too.

## 10. **Planning**

Seumas Anderson reported on new planning requests –

1. Change of use from shed to holiday let – Easdale Island
2. Change of use from Licensed premises (Puffer) to residential
3. Erection of shed SE
4. Polytunnel to rear of 61 Ellenabeich

Planning requests passed

1. Wall at 38 Ellenabeich
2. Extension at 31 Ellenabeich

## **11. School at Hall and playpark**

We realise this has caused some in the community an issue but it is only until Easter. The 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. On the plus side this does benefit the Hall, which should be able to open earlier as all the risk assessments have been completed. There has been a letter received from the school thanking the community for their assistance in this matter.

Once more please clear up after your pets as the school uses all the outside facilities at the Hall.

## **12. AOB – Street lights**

It is noted the timing is out on some following the recent power cut, and the only defective one known is in Tramways. It is far easier to report this yourself by completing the form on the Argyll and Bute website as you will know the location.

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

Ruth Odling complained that the water tasted of Chlorine – if there is an issue with water pipes Scottish Water may have added this after testing. This will be looked into.

Rest and be Thankful – Willie Munro spoke about the consultation carried out by the council regarding the long term objectives for the situation in Glen Croe. Its present status is untenable and presently it is hoped to create a new road on the west side of the Glen.

GK advised that should anything come to light with regards to the land issue at Ellenabeich the community would be advised further either on the Facebook page or with a further meeting.

**Date and time of next meeting (AGM) 6.30/7.30pm Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 Seil Island Hall/Zoom.**