

ARDENTINNY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held in Ardentinny Village Hall 1st June 2010

Present: Val Kennedy (Chair), Eileen Connell, Malcolm Bartley, Teresa Forsyth, Jimmy Gordon, Dennis Gower, Stephen Johnston.

Neil Dempster, Vicky Fairley, David McDowall, Margaret Emmett, Chris Emmett, Fraser Harding, June Harding, Bruce Marshall. Gordon Watson (Forestry Commission)

Apologies: Elaine Allan, Bill Williamson.

Val welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. She asked if there was any Declaration of Interest. None

Adoption of minutes

Val asked if all had read the minutes of the last meeting and if they were a true and accurate record.

Proposed Jimmy Gordon

Seconded Dennis Gower

Matters arising from minutes

Roads Jet patching machines due to arrive in around August/September. Neil Dempster asked if there could be something done about the poor visibility at the shore side of the road at Stronchullin Farm due to overgrown shrubs etc. Bruce stated that he would look into this.

Walled Garden An update of this will be dealt with later in the agenda.

Caravan Park Jim Rennie, Public Protection Officer, had spoken with the contractor carrying out the work in the park who had informed him that the large backfills should be completed by April. Smaller backfills will be done by the park owner.

Caravan park owner had told a local resident that he intended putting further caravans on the site. The position at present is that Argyll & Bute Licensing authority is at the point where they are looking at whether his park license will be granted. Argyll & Bute lawyer, Donnie Kelly, states that this licensing may determine the amount of caravans allowed so the amount of this could increase if the license is granted. It was acknowledged that, over the past few weeks there has been an improvement in the park with holes being filled in and landscaping carried out.

Forestry Road There continues to be opposition to the proposal of a road leading into Midge Lane. Gordon Watson (Forestry Commission) informed that a formal planning application is being put in but that the FC have not sought legal advice in regard to submitting application. He gave an outline of past events and reasons why this was the most viable site. e.g. alternatives, cost, visual impact, safety, sustainability. A biomass convertor had been suggested for the Kilmun area so that all tree harvested from the hill could be turned into eco friendly fuel etc. This is not seen as viable as it would not be cost effective.

Dennis stressed that safety on the road would be compromised with additional traffic. Gordon's response was that it was not only FC who had a responsibility for road safety and other authorities such as Argyll & Bute Roads Department and Police have been consulted and are happy with the proposal.

As there had been a communication problem resulting in Community Council not being prepared for the visit of Gordon Watson, there was a short discussion regarding whether people wished Gordon to provide the intended presentation or would rather ask questions. It was agreed that Gordon Watson would attend our next meeting to give his presentation.

Walled Garden Dennis gave an update on the work the Working Group had been doing. The representatives of the Forestry commission had been very helpful. The valuer had visited the site and it was expected that the result would be obtained by 2nd July. The valuation cost would be around £600 plus vat and it was hoped that the Community Council would meet half of the cost as the FC would pay the other half. It was intended that a Trust would be set up (company

limited by guarantee). Funding was being looked into. A detailed inspection was carried out by Norman Laird. Some research on the history of the walled garden has been being carried. The survey of the village in regard to whether they wished the walled garden to be bought showed a majority response of interest. Dennis took the opportunity to ask if there were any members of the Community Council who wished to join the working group.

Chris Emmett commented that, if the situation of contesting the opinion of the valuer this may incur further expenditure.

A query was raised in regard to a request at the April meeting that the Community Council pays the half share of the valuation. It appears that the impression was that this had been agreed at the meeting but had not been minuted. Vicky Fairley asked why it had not been minuted. Eileen (Minute Secretary) stated that this was part of a general discussion with various suggestions made. No vote was taken on this request. Val apologised for this not being minuted.

As the community monies from the former Ardentenny Community Trust had been donated, initially to the Ardentenny Village Hall, Malcolm suggested that not only should the Community Council be expected to pay toward the valuation but also Ardentenny Village Hall committee be approached to contribute part of it. As there had been no agreement or formal approach to the Community Council carried out it was not a foregone conclusion that all the monies would come from the Community Council. Stephen reiterated that formal approaches should be made from the Working Group to the Community Council before decisions are made.

It was agreed that Ardentenny Village Hall would be approached to ask for contribution. It was suggested that the Forestry Commission be contacted as they have a Seedcorn Fund which would cover the cost of the valuation.

Riverside Road This is deteriorating badly especially at the caravan park. Despite assurances from the FC, repairs have not yet been carried out. Gordon Watson will speak with Jessie Crowe to try to get the work completed.

Wild Camping There have been lots of camping but with no major difficulties.

Police Report No police report

Secretary Report Ron Cruickshank who compiles and distributes the Loch's and Glen's newsletter had contacted to outline the difficulties he is experiencing due to rising costs etc. Before any decision is made to give a donation it was agreed that several questions required to be answered. Firstly, who else has been approached as well as what the shortfall is. It was agreed that Eileen would look into this.

Treasurers' Report £2016.59p No income No expenditure.

Councillor's Report Streetscene will be starting in September. 1 or 2 people will be responsible for particular areas e.g. burst drains, street lighting etc. As yet there is not a contact number.

Argyll & Bute are piloting a scheme of not cutting the verges for bio-diversity reasons. This will improve bio-diversity as well as save money. The verges will not be cut until June/ July

Argyll & Bute are making cuts throughout the area and in all services. There is also a moratorium on taking on new staff.

A new National Park representative has been appointed uncontested. A suggestion was made that he be invited to one of our meetings.

Walk to Carrick Castle. This was arranged to officially open the new part of the path at the Carrick Castle end. It is intended that the generosity will be returned in the autumn. Suggestions needed to make this happen and how this will be funded. Eileen and Teresa will investigate ideas.

Animal Act Scotland. Val outlined the work which had been done in the aftermath of the recent unfortunate incident. Meetings had been held with both parties and had been carried out in an open and honest forum with each meeting being minuted and both parties being informed of the content.

The result was that Fraser Harding suggesting ways in which a positive outcome can come out of a very traumatic situation for all involved. He had made approaches to the local primary school to look at ways which others can learn from their experience and inform others of responsible dog ownership. It was acknowledged that this would be a positive move forward to make others aware as well as help community relationships within the village.

David Marshall had agreed to add additional information to his holiday lets. The remaining holiday lets in the village have all been given leaflets and information on responsible dog ownership.

Vicky asked that clarification be made that Ardentinny.org is not affiliated to the Community Council.

Housing Development Working Group The proposal to build housing on the site south of Lochview will be discussed at the National Park Board meeting on 23rd June. Prior to this there will be a petition going round the village which will be presented to all Board members for that meeting. The petition will be on behalf of the Community Council and the Working Group.

A.O.C.B.

Supermarket Build (Dunoon). Teresa attended a meeting held by Dunoon Community Council in regard to the proposal of building a supermarket on the present site of Walker (which will move to another site). The proposal is also for 40 houses. There have been several objections to the proposal such as the impact of Argyle Street if the development went ahead.

Waterwatch Scotland. Teresa attended a meeting regarding this and reported that upgrade work will be carried out at Innellan, Toward, Sandbank and Dunoon. The work is being done by outside contractors and there have been some difficulties in one of the areas with sewage being directed back in to the village.

N.P. Leaflets. Val provided leaflets from the National Park which outlines the Country Code and also gives useful numbers.

Japanese Knotweed. Malcolm raised concerns that the Japanese knotweed at Gairletter and Blairmore Farm requires to be treated. Also that there is a pile of dirt which has been dumped at Gairletter.

Kilmun CC An item on their agenda for their next meeting is whether they should remain in the National Park. Fiona Logan from the N.P. will attend.

Signage The damaged horse sign has not been replaced yet. Bruce will look into this. Consideration to be made to have some type of signage to protect squirrels.

Speed limits. Discussion in regard to the present signage in the village and whether it was effective. This to be discussed further when Martin Goldie is at our meetings.

Date of next meeting. Tuesday 3rd August.

As Gordon Donaldson will be giving a presentation on Forests for Scotland, it was agreed that the meeting would begin at 7.00pm.