

MINUTE OF MEETING OF ARDENTINNY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD IN ARDENTINNY VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 03 FEBRUARY 2015 AT 7.30PM

Present Val Kennedy (Convener), Roy Harrison (Secretary), Marian Norris (Vice Convener), Malcolm Bartley (Treasurer), Eileen Connell, Dennis Gower. Bill Williamson

Apologies Stephen Johnstone,

Present Councillor Bruce Marshall, David Robertson (Forestry Commission), PC Eddie McGonagall, WPC Tracy Miller, David McDowall, Sandra Tweddle, Neil Robinson, Adina Robinson, Norman Kennedy, Gordon Smith, Jim Robinson, Merle Ferguson.

Apologies David McKenzie (National Park), P.C. Donald Mackay, Aidan Docherty (Actual Reality)

Declaration of Interest: Nil

The Convener informed that, any points for A.O.B. should be given to her in writing prior to the meeting. These will be included in AOB depending on time commitment. She added that the evenings meeting would end at 9.30pm.

The Convener asked if the minute was a true and accurate record of the meeting held 2nd December 2014

Proposed: Eileen Connell Seconded: Val Kennedy Minute accepted.

Matters arising;

Recent Open Day held to provide information from National Park on possible bye-laws and campsite proposals. As yet there has been no feedback from National Park.

Hydro scheme; Bill informed that Dennis wanted changes made to his response regarding the letter of apology sent to Ross McArthur. Dennis was not present at this point. Further discussion of this was halted to allow the police report to be given.

Police Report

One incident had been reported since the last meeting. There were reports of several gun shots being heard in the Glenfinart area. The area was checked and enquiries carried out in regard to stalkers in the area with a negative result.

To date, the winter period has been one of the quietest within the Cowal peninsula with regard to crime levels.

There is an opportunity to purchase signs from Rural Watch Scotland to offer identity to Ardentinny as being part of the scheme. They are plastic signs and come with long cable ties for fitting to fixtures, i.e. - the entry signs to Ardentinny from both ends and/or notice board. Lochgoilhead have several of these signs in place if anyone has been there recently - example

attached at foot of email. Malcolm informed that he had already purchased some and needs help to get them put up.

Matters arising (continued)

Coulport: Bill Williamson objected to the statement in previous minutes regarding the Community Councils political stance. He wished his objection to be minuted.

Emergency Plan: An update was given highlighting future requirements prior to it going 'live'.

Data Protection: After much discussion the Community Council will sign up to it at a cost of £35. Marian Norris has agreed to do this.

Road side stones: Malcolm Bartley was informed that he had acted correctly in removing his stones and that the A & B council will be reviewing the situation throughout the village. Householders will be billed if it becomes necessary for the council workers to remove them or may face prosecution.

Dennis stated that he could not accept the minute as all his corrections had not been included. He was informed that the minute had already been approved prior to his arrival.

Bill spoke for Dennis stating that he felt there should be no need to apologise to Ross McArthur. As Bill had not been at the previous meeting, he had not been party to the discussion around this item.

Treasurers Report: Malcolm Bartley reported the following

Expenditure: £25.00 Association for the protection of Rural Scotland.

Income: Nil

Bank Balance as at 20th January 2015: £1702.95

Confirmation had been received that the first 20 miles of travel is not covered by travel expense.

Secretary Report:

The secretary reiterated the need for all persons concerned with requiring amendments to the minutes to have these in prior to the Pre Agenda meeting. The time scales had been agreed at the October meeting.

Letter received in regard to election posters not being allowed on lampposts etc. Bruce explained that this ban is no longer in effect.

Letter from Stephen Johnstone offering his resignation from the Community Council. Val paid tribute to Stevie as he has been a long standing member of the community Council and had worked hard for the village.

Letter from Neil Robinson asking to be co-opted into the Community Council to offer his expertise in the 'Green energy field'. (This was put to the vote and carried.).

The Convener agreed to write a letter of thanks to Steve Johnstone for his hard work and commitment to the community.

Councillor's Report: Councillor Bruce Marshall reported on the following:

Ardentinny 30mph. Response from Paul Farrell, Roads Technical Officer. This section of road does not meet the standards for an extension to the existing 30mph speed restriction. Bruce Marshall will ask for additional warning signs advising of pedestrians on the carriageway.

Bridge at Angle Cottage on C9. A defect pointed out on the bridge by the resident in Angle Cottage. This defect was first reported in 2009, and bi-annual inspections since then have shown no further deterioration, last inspection was on 23rd July 2014 and the next will be in July 2016.

Gairletter Bridge Councillor Marshall has asked for slow signs to be lettered on the road on the approaches to Gairletter Bridge. He had requested last year that the road between Gairletter and Ardentinny should be resurfaced. It is hoped that this will happen when finances are available but may not be until the 2016 budget.

C9 Condition of Road There have been complaints about the surface of the C9 particularly on the straight road where the water is ponding on the running surface, and the fact that when we have heavy rainfall the ditches are not coping with the water and the road is flooded.

Dennis Gower asked about the 30mph speed limit as to what does the road/area need to be to qualify for a 30mph restriction. Bill Williamson asked whether the community council agreed with the statement from the roads department. Marian seconded this. All were in agreement that a letter of objection is drafted and sent to head of roads department. Val agreed to do this.

Eileen informed that, as Sheena is no longer cleaning the toilets at the car park by the church, would A & B council be willing to maintain the toilets if a local person was found to continue with the cleaning. Bruce said that the council propose that communities run their own toilets. Suggestion was made that the person who is paid to clean the forestry toilets could be approached to carry out this duty. It was agreed that attempts would be made to find someone willing to do the job.

National Park Report: Not available

Forestry Commission Report: David Robertson gave the Forestry report. He apologised that the clearing of sightlines had not taken place due to the long term absence of a trained staff member. The tree at Soldiers Rock had been an ongoing concern and has been reported several times by Val Kennedy. Ian Adams had inspected this recently and agreed that it now needs removed. BT to be contacted to take down the power lines before this work can be carried out. Merle Ferguson asked David Robertson about the hemlock on the beach which is causing concern due to being a danger to dogs. David informed that this is not Forestry responsibility. It was agreed that newspaper coverage and posters already displayed should be adequate to inform dog walkers and no further action was necessary from the community council.

Actual Reality Report: Not available

Hydro Scheme: Marian Norris gave a report of the recent meeting held in the village hall presented by 'Hydrover' and their intent on possibly constructing 4 hydro schemes within the Ardentinny area on Forestry Commission land. This scheme is at a very early stage and the company asked to meet with some of the residents to inform how the scheme worked. They were pleased that the people present were very aware of this information. It is intended that a

public meeting will be held in May 2015 at which time the company will be able to give more details and answer any questions the residents may have.

Bill Williamson challenged Val over the right to organise the meeting and choose the participants and why he hadn't been asked to attend. The Convener explained that she had sent an email to all community councillors as well as people from all village organisations informing them of the meeting and reiterated that he could have attended if he wished.

Dennis felt that the whole village should have been informed. Val explained that this was a preparatory meeting with no details of the scheme being forthcoming and the public meeting would be publicized. Every household in the village had been leafleted to tell them that there was a hydro scheme proposal and they could find out more at this evenings meeting.

Bill asked that his objection to Val's action is recorded.

Caucus meeting; Marian reported that the caucus met with Tom Murphy, Head of Amenity Services when several areas of concern were discussed. These included, sightlines, closure of toilets, dog fouling, play parks, car parking. The points of this discussion were handed out to all community councillors.

Tom Murphy will write with a record of our entitlements as a village i.e. grass cutting, planting etc.

Role of the Community Councillor:

Bill Williamson stated that he wished the Role of Convener to be put on the agenda but was overruled and it was agreed that Role of Community Councillors would be the item. He felt that the visit led by the Convener to RNAD Coulport by 4 community councillors was undemocratic as he had not been asked to go. Bill asked Malcolm for his opinion. Malcolm agreed but acknowledged that he was on holiday at the time. The Convener explained to him how the situation had developed. It was highlighted that, as part of the role of Convener she has the right to arrange, attend and conduct meetings out with the community council and arrange for others to attend. Marian handed out to all community councillors leaflets explaining the role of a community councillor.

Planning: A planning application has been submitted to the National Park for Holyns. The 21 days for objections has passed although it is usually possible to continue to put in objections after this, Dennis asked why Val had not informed the community council of this application. Val provided the planning list she had received to emphasise that she had not been given the information. Dennis suggested that a letter is written to the National Park to ask for an extension in the deadline for objections.

The remainder of the agenda could not be dealt with as time had been wasted by some community councillors disrupting speakers and raising points which had been dealt with and agreed at previous meetings. The meeting abruptly ended at 9.30pm. Any outstanding items may be dealt with at the next meeting

Next meetings:

Pre-agenda Meeting Tuesday 24 March 2015 @ 7.30pm

Community Council Meeting Tuesday 7th April 2015 @ 7.30pm

All community council meetings and Pre agenda meetings are open to the public.

Copy / Extract of e-mail between Ardentynny Councillors

(Roy Harrison secretary, Dennis Gower & Bill Williamson)

Subject: Minutes : 03 February 2015

Date: Thu, 9 Apr 2015 17:56:04 +0100

Dear Roy

As we were asked to submit comments on these minutes, which were not taken due to lack of time, at the commencement of the last meeting, I am sending my own item, which I sen to you on 19th February last but which was apparently not accepted when you redrafted the Minutes for February.:

p.2 Under Matters Arising

"Dennis stated that he could not accept the minute as a full and correct record as his comments had not been included." The correction being in place of ".....all his corrections had not been included."

I am sure you will agree that I was not accusing you of omitting corrections - as you had actually accepted most of the points/corrections that I made and gave to you at the pre-meeting in January. I also offered to follow up my comments at the February meeting but was prevented from doing this through lack of time. Which, to my mind, makes it more important to be quoted correctly in the February minutes.

You may consider this unimportant, but as I have pointed out several times, the veracity of minutes is important as these are kept by A & B Council as a record for future reference (by students, historians, the public at large) and are part of the history of this village.

Dennis

Sent: Wed, Feb 18, 2015 11:12 am

Subject: CC_Meeting_Minutes_03 Feb 2015.docx

Hi Roy,

Thank you for the minutes, I have a couple of amendment requests.

David Robertson was in attendance so no need for apologies from him.

Matters Arising.

I objected to the wording used in the minutes to describe my contribution about Coulport. I didn't use the term political stance to describe either my views or those of the CC.

I did not say I was speaking for Dennis, I stated I intended to write to Ross McArthur as I disagreed with the content of the letter and the reasons for sending it.

Hydro Scheme.

What I challenged was the absence of details in the e mail sent to me by Val, no venue, no date or time. I also requested that the correspondence about this meeting be shared with the rest of the CC.

Role of Community Councillors

I stated I was unhappy with the undemocratic selection process not that I was not included. You have omitted Malcolm's contribution on this item.

Planning.

Val did not provide the planning list, she may have had it with her but it was not shared with me and I requested she share the e mails ,as has been agreed at previous meetings, with the CC but she refused.

I have tried to keep my requests to a minimum as I appreciate the time involved but the minutes must be an accurate record of what transpired on the night.

Regards. Bill.

