

MINUTE OF MEETING OF ARDENTINNY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD IN ARDENTINNY VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 04 August 2015 AT 7.30PM

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

Present: Councillor Bruce Marshall, David Robertson (Forestry Commission), David McDowall, Sandra Tweddle, Adina Robinson, Mary Dodds,

Apologies David McKenzie (National Park), PC MacKay

Declaration of Interest: Nil

The Convener asked if the minute was a true and accurate record of the meeting held April 2015.

Proposed: Malcolm Bartley Seconded: Marian Norris Minute accepted.

Matters arising;

The Convener explained the situation regarding the removal of the tree at Solders Rock and thanked David Robertson (FC) for his assistance.

Roy confirmed that the 'Rural watch' sign posts had been delivered and at a cheaper price than originally quoted and that the signs had been placed around the village along with the 'Neighbourhood Watch' signs.

David Robertson (FC) announced that he had completed a recce of sight lines over the Larach and work will begin Sept/Oct dependent in the weather.

The Convener reported that the Community Council website, as previously agreed was in the process of being built by Mr Clive McClure.

Treasurers Report: Malcolm Bartley reported the following

Expenditure:	Travel Expenses	£35.00
	Mr D Menzies Audit Account	£10.00

Income: Nil

Bank Balance as at 16 June 2015	£1923.55
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Malcolm explained how the expenses would be worked out and the amount of 40pence per mile would be paid to community Councillors on official business.

Bill Williamson asked what was the overall cost incurred on Knotweed spraying? He was informed that the overall cost was as follows: The community council paid for the training which cost £522. The equipment for carrying out the spraying in a safe and recommended way was paid for by sourcing and obtaining funding for that specific purpose.

Bill Williamson expressed concern that private land was being sprayed. It was explained that the National Park and the funding agency had been consulted about this and they stressed the

importance of having both public and private land sprayed as knotweed has no boundaries.

Secretary Report: Roy reported on the following; Nil

Police Report: PC McKay reported on the following:

There have been 6 incidents since the last meeting:

Resulting in one crime whereby an intoxicated female was arrested for obstruction at Shepherd's Point. Shepherds' Point has been monitored at the weekends but likely due to the poor weather, has been fairly quiet on the whole. Sight lines due to vegetation are currently being actioned by the Council. Sight lines are not great at many locations either side of Ardentinny in a year that grass/weeds are growing abnormally fast.

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

The proposed ward boundary changes and the way it was being implicated and encouraged all those against it to express their opinions the details to be found on the council website. Marian Norris reported that the caucus is to have a meeting to make a combined protest about the changes and it is hoped that each community council and each individual will also make their protest. Marian will write on behalf of the community council.

There is a deadline for Community Council elections for co-opted persons to get election paper work in. Councillor Marshall informed the Community Trust they had been awarded £1600 grant however the grant of £2000 they had been awarded last year had not been used and they would have to pay it back.

Forestry Commission Report: David Robertson reported on the following;

The planning of installation of mains water to the toilets is ongoing and local residents who may benefit in also being connected were to be approached. A feasibility study of the site is to be analysed. The septic tank at the toilets on the beach keeps getting blocked due to hand towels being thrown away therefore to eradicate this hand blowers are to be installed. There is to be a harvesting plan from Gairletter forestry road to Kilmun Boundary in the near future. There have been no tenants signed up to use the nursery field yet. The installation of the water supply will take place in spring 2016.

Complaint Update: The convener reported on the following; All procedures carried out to deal with the complaint from a resident had been carried out correctly as reported by the governance department of A&B council. This procedure was carried out with the knowledge held at the time and, as there is no remit for complaining about the behaviour of a community councillor and, on advice from A&B, we must draw a line under the situation and move on. Also that the Code of conduct should be followed by all members in the future. (See attached appendices)

Bill Williamson stated that it was his view that the convener had been aware that community councillors cannot complain about each other and had instigated a conspiracy by having a "friendly visitor" placed in the meeting to attack him. He added that the convener had chosen

the people whose opinion to ask and he singled out a member of the audience as being one of them.

Recording of minutes:

It was agreed that the Community Council meetings were to be recorded in the future to assist in writing the minutes. Malcolm Batley was to cost the purchase of a device by the next meeting.

AGM

The Annual general Meeting will be held on the 06 October 2015 commencing at 7pm followed by the main CC meeting.

Update from Village Hall Eileen Connell reported on the following:

The hall recently helped to host a wedding for a member of the community, which went well. Funding applications for the hall continues looking at gaining funds for a feasibility study of the hall. The hall management group continue to run the hall in a professional manner.

Update from Ardentenny Community Trust Dennis Gower reported on the following:

The summer season has nearly passed with Glenfinart walled garden blooming nicely. There have been fewer visitors than normal visiting the garden this year. A wedding was held in the Garden which was very successful. Fund raising continues with the aim of restoring the surrounding wall.

Hydro Scheme; Neil Robinson was asked to give an update of the Hydro schemes:

The steering group had been established, involving 7 members with experience in these matters. Ross MacArthur's project was still going ahead. The next AGM would be June 2016. The newly written Constitution would be on the Village Notice Board within the week for all to see.

Planning: Notice Board adjacent to Coronation Wood on shore path had been approved.

AOB: Bill Williamson complained that the Coronation Wood members had left branches on the beach and was therefore 'Fly Tipping' and asked that a letter be written to them informing them of this. Roy agreed to formulate said letter and send it out.

All members are requested to submit any business for 'Any Other Business' at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting to allow time for any required preparatory action.

Next meetings:

AGM

Tuesday

06 October 2015 @ 7.00pm

Community Council Meeting

Tuesday

06 October 2015 @ 7.30pm

All community council meetings are open to the public.

Appendix A

Complaint Details

Towards the end of the Community Council meeting held in February 2015, the meeting having been interrupted so often and with obvious disrespect to the Chair by Mr. Bill Williamson and Mr. Dennis Gower, the Convener, Val Kennedy, used the gavel three times to try to regain order but Mr. Bill Williamson took no heed of the gavel or the Convener's request for Mr. Williamson to be quiet. Most of those present left the meeting, which ended immediately. A member of the community who attended the meeting subsequently submitted an official complaint about the behaviour.

At the April CC meeting the action the Convener had taken and planned to take regarding the complaint was reported. The Convener had closely followed the CC guidelines for complaints, and finally questioned both Mr. Williamson and Mr. Gower at the April CC meeting about their behaviour as representatives of the Community Council and their willingness to apologise to the complainer and in future to abide by the CC Code of Conduct. Neither gentleman would do so and therefore the complaint was passed back to the complainer.

The complainer sought advice from the Council legal department and on 19th June 2015 the complainer was advised by the Council officers that they had no remit to deal with a complaint against elected Community Councillors. At the subsequent CC meeting in August the Convener reported the events and gave Mr. Williamson and Mr. Gower an opportunity to apologise and assure that they would be respectful to the Chair in future. Unfortunately this was declined.

Argyll and Bute Council agreed that the complaint had been dealt with correctly by the Community Council and suggested that a line should be drawn under the matter, the results should be attached to the minutes, and that relevant papers should be filed by the secretary.

Appendix B

Complaint Question/Answer

Questions asked by convenor of bill williamson and dennis gower re complaint made by Mrs. Robinson.

I have received from Mrs Adina Robinson a complaint about the bad behaviour witnessed during our last Community Council meeting

Dennis has acknowledged receipt of the complaint by email.

Bill, have you received a copy of the complaint?

Answer, Bill : NO, I received two.

Members of the Community Council have received a copy of the complaint and I will give members of the community present here tonight a rough resume.

Mrs Adina Robinson reported in an official complaint that two members of the CC, whom she named as Bill and Dennis, had shown disrespectful behaviour generally and particularly towards the Convener

The complaint covered instances in which they acted in a way which she considered was not representative of the people of Ardentenny, and the complaint included the words disrespect, disruptive, argue, disruption.

Bill and Dennis, I presume that you have read the complaint.

Answer, Dennis : yes

Answer, Bill : yes

Do you accept that the complaint is an accurate assessment of events the last meeting?

Answer, Dennis : no

Answer, Bill : no

Would you like to take this opportunity to apologise to Mrs Robinson, the Community Council and the village in general?

Answer, Dennis : No. I have nothing to apologise for

Answer, Bill : No

Do you wish to make any comments? You will have 3 minutes each to speak.

Bill and Dennis each were given just over 3 minutes to speak. Dennis spoke of his disagreement with the complaint and Bill read out some of the complaint. Neither apologised in any way or seemed contrite.

Does any member of the CC have any comments to make?

No comments from Community Council

Cllr Bruce Marshall commented that he considered the brief summary of the complaint read out to all by the Convener was a fair assessment.

Both Bill and Dennis have given their response to the complaint and I wish to close this item by asking one final question. At future CC meetings will you comply with the Code of Conduct prepared by Argyll & Bute Council and agreed by Community Councillors, and also will you respect and support the Convener at all future meetings and during CC business?

Answer, Dennis : no

Answer, Bill : no

Thank you everyone. This item is now closed. We will move on to the next item. I will be writing to Mrs Robinson in due course, giving the questions and responses.