

ARDENTINNY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held August 3rd 2010 in Ardentinny Village Hall

Present: Val Kennedy (Chair), Malcolm Bartley, Stephen Johnstone, Teresa Forsyth, Elaine Allen, Eileen Connell, Bill Williamson, Jimmy Gordon.

Apologies; Dennis Gower, Bruce Marshall, Martin Goldie.

Others; Vicky Fairley, Babs Marshall, Sandra Tweddle, John Primrose, Sandra Primrose, Margo Hendry, Jimmy Hendry, David McDowall, Rob Reilly, Freda Waldapfel, Colin McLure, Beth McLure, Sandra Davidson, Anna Williamson, David McKenzie, Lynne O'Keefe

Declaration of Interest None

Val began by welcoming everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of meeting held on 1st June 2010.

Val asked if all had read the minutes and if they were a true record.

Proposed **Teresa Forsyth** **Seconded** **Stephen Johnstone**

Matters Arising from Minutes.

Roads Still poor visibility on some parts of the road between Ardentinny and Blairmore. There has been no update in regard to when this will be dealt with by the landowners. Val had emailed Bruce regarding concerns over Ragwort and Japanese Knotweed.

Caravan Park No further update at present. R. Reilly requested that the

Caravan Park be discussed as AOCB later in the meeting.

Forestry Road (Midge Lane) No further update at present. Colin McLure suggested that Robert Aldam (Secretary of Kilmun Community Council) is contacted for further information. This was agreed

Riverside Road No further update. It was acknowledged that Gordon Watson may not yet have contacted Jessie Crowe to have the work completed on the road but needs to be chased up. Stephen Johnstone asked David McKenzie (National Park Representative), if he would be able to also look into this as he felt that the National Park should have take some responsibility as they are trying to attract tourism to the area. This was agreed

Wild Camping Although there have been no major issues reported over the past few weeks, R. Reilly asked who is responsible as there are signs up stating No Camping but this is not having any effect. It was felt that there was a lack of consistency by having signs but not moving campers on. It appears that the Forestry Commission do not have a policy of moving on campers if they are using the area appropriately. R. Reilly reported that there were 11 tents on the picnic area site over the previous weekend. David McKenzie (National Park representative) will monitor this.

Lochs & Glens Newsletter Contact had been made with Ron Cruickshank who compiles and distributes the newsletter. It is now one of the projects of Benmore and Kilmun Development Trust which will enable them to apply for funding to carry on the newsletter.

Carrick Castle Walk It had been proposed that a return walk from Carrick to Ardentinnny would take place in the autumn. It had been suggested that this would be postponed until the spring. This would give the chance to fundraise for the event rather than use community funds. This was agreed.

Housing Development Working Group. The proposal to build houses south of Lochview has been quashed. Great work was carried out by the Working Group to achieve this result and a big thank you to them. Jimmy Gordon suggested that formal thanks be sent to the group. This was agreed.

Horse Sign Still has not been replaced.

Val welcomed the new National Park representative, David McKenzie, to the meeting and invited him to give an outline of his background, experience and how he sees his new role with the National Park. David summarized his experience and informed that he specialises in renewable energy, his main interests within the NP at present are, Marine Access, Heritage and History, Sewage Treatment and Japanese Knotweed.

Val thanked David for his input and welcomed him to future meetings.

Police Report

Martin was unable to attend the meeting but had passed on his report. There had been 2 issues in the village. One was the burning of a caravan in Glenfinart Caravan as well as vandalising of several other caravans. This continues to be investigated.

The second was a report of a young boy breaking into a boat at the picnic area.

Speed limit repeater signs are the responsibility of Argyll & Bute council rather than Strathclyde Police. Eileen will contact Bruce Marshall to ask if he will look into this.

Councillor's Report Bruce was unable to attend the meeting but did pass on that he had been in contact with authorities on the problems along the shore with Japanese Knotweed. Spraying should take place in the Blairmore and Strone area during August or September.

Information leaflets regarding Japanese Knotweed were made available,

Treasurer's Report

Malcolm gave the report.

Expenditure	Nil	Income	£300	Bank A/C	£2316.58
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Walled Garden

Jimmy gave the report. He informed that an application has been submitted on 14th July to the Forestry Commission to buy the Walled Garden. The Community Trust has been reinstated and the first meeting held to identify office bearers. A public consultation will be held by the Forestry Commission to establish if the criteria to buy the land has been met by the Community Trust. A letter of support had been asked for from the Community Council but there was 2 members of the Community Council who were not in agreement for this. Eileen Connell stated her reason for not agreeing to a letter being sent within the requested time frame and it was her opinion that the correct procedures had to be carried out by the CC and agreement reached within the committee before decisions are made. 2 committee members voiced their agreement.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the subject of the Walled Garden. Some of the points raised were;

- That the procedure for applying for a valuation of the Walled Garden was carried out without from the formal agreement from the Community Council.
- The Working Party were appointed by the Community Council and as such should have the autonomy to make decisions.
- Val acknowledged that perhaps the initial remit of the Working Group had not been given in a clear and methodical way for which she apologised.
- As there were conflicting opinions in regard to some of the actions carried out, it was agreed that, should it be necessary in the future for the Community Council to set up a working party, there should be clear guidelines and responsibilities in place to make sure that all correct procedures are adhered to.
- Why was no public meeting held before the Trust was resurrected.

- Some people in the village are concerned that they would be committing themselves to putting money into the Walled Garden. It was stressed that this was not the case.
- What is the garden going to be used for? Of the people who responded to the survey, the result was a 50/50 split between allotments or a garden with suggestions or a sensory garden. It was stated that it is the Trust's intention to give the village what they want. In regard to allotments the people of the village will get the first chance of obtaining one. The opportunity will then go to the people of the Shore Villages etc.
- Concern that grants for projects are more difficult to obtain.
- Concern in regard to the difficulty of raising funds for a project which there is no business plan.
- The moral issue of using taxpayer's money for the project.
- Acknowledgement that the Working Party had carried out a lot of hard work up to now.

Elaine summarised the thoughts and asked that we return to the matter of whether the Community Council send a letter of support to Ardentenny Community Trust. A vote was taken.

From the floor	For	8	Against	0	Abstentions	4
Committee	For	5	Against	2	Dec of Interest	1

A vote was taken in regard to whether the Community Council should fund the valuation of the Walled Garden

For	7	Against	2	Declaration of Interest	1
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Strone Saul Windfarm Val gave an outline of the situation with the proposed windfarm at Strone Saul and introduced of Kilmun CC Lynne O'Keefe to explain the concerns and objections.

The basis of the objection is the inappropriate site which has been suggested. Strone Saul is already 300ft high. Many organisations such as Benmore Botanic Gardens, Glen Kin (Outdoor Facility for Scouts, Guides etc). It was acknowledged that renewable energy is important for the area but it was felt that the proposed biomass generator at Dalilongart would be a more suitable resource and supplementary energy could be provided by projects such as Cairndow (wood pellets), These would be more acceptable than a windfarm which would spoil the visual impact for a very small benefit.

Areas that are against the proposal are, Dunoon, Hunters Quay, South Cowal, Inverkip and Argyll & Bute Council are against the proposal and there is a leaflet published of appropriate sites.

Val thanked Lynne for her presentation and asked for a vote from the meeting.

Objections to the proposal 15

For the proposal 0

Abstentions 5

Val agreed that a letter will be sent to object to the proposal of siting a windfarm at Strone Saul.

A.O.C.B.

Village Tub Regrettably Vicky has decided to retire from her responsibility for the tub at the notice board. Thanks go to her for the work she has done over the past couple of years in keeping the tub interesting and maintained. Anna and Bill Williamson have agreed to take over in maintaining this tub.

Village Hall

Letters received from John & Sandra Primrose and Margo & Jimmy Hendry.

Both letters asked if the Community Council had agreed with the advertising of the CC meetings being held in Glenfinart Hall rather than the known name of Ardentenny Hall.

After discussion it was agreed that this was an issue which should be passed

back to the Village Hall Committee for further discussion with their members.

Val closed the meeting and thanked everyone for coming informing them that the next meeting will be held on 5th October to which everyone is welcome.