

ARDENTINNY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held 1st February 2011

Committee Present; Val Kennedy (Chair), Eileen Connell, Malcolm Bartley, Teresa Forsyth, Bill Williamson, Dennis Gower, Stephen Johnstone, Jimmy Gordon.

Others present; Marian McIntosh, David McDowall, Bill Bincham, Elaine Allan, Sandra Tweddle, Margo Hendry, P.C. Donald McKay, Inspector David Armstrong, Vicky Fairley, Pauline Gordon, Sandra Davidson, Bruce Marshall, Jessie Crowe.

Apologies; David McKenzie.

Val thanked everyone for coming and started the meeting by reminding all that it is not permissible to record meetings and that any recording equipment should be turned off.

She informed the audience that Elaine Allan had resigned from the Community Council. As none of the remaining committee wish to take over the vacant position of secretary, it is hoped that someone from the community would come forward to join the Community council and take the position.

Val asked the committee if anyone had a Declaration of Interest in regard to any of the agenda items. None declared. Val advised that there would be an item in AOCB which she would declare an Interest and leave the meeting during the discussion of that item.

Minutes of Meeting 3rd August

At the October meeting there were some amendments requested to the minutes of the August meeting and it was agreed that the revised minutes be brought to this evenings meeting for acceptance. The minutes were in order and accepted.

Minutes of Meeting 5th October

Val asked if the minutes were a true record of proceedings.

Proposed	Jimmy Gordon	Seconded	Stephen Johnstone
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Police Report

Inspector Armstrong introduced PC Donald McKay who will be the new police liaison officer for our area.

There were two incidents reported since the last meeting in October. Firstly a boat was reported stolen from the slipway at the Outdoor Centre. Also a complaint about fireworks from a New Year firework display held at Glenfinart Hotel on Hogmanay landing in a field where horses are grazed. Inspector Armstrong was asked if there was any advice he could give to prevent any problems in the future. He advised that it would be beneficial if there

was liaison between the hotel owner and the horse owner if there is an event such as this again.

Val asked if there were any questions for the police representatives. Stephen asked why the road toward the Larach was not closed after the accident involving the tour bus. Inspector Armstrong agreed that, although the road surface at that time of the accident was unsafe, it could be made safe by proper gritting so closing the road would not be necessary.

Matters Arising

Val outlined the changes which had been agreed to the process of dealing with matters arising and how this will make more time in the meeting for more current matters.

- **Horse Sign.** Bruce reported that in the current financial climate there is the possibility that the sign may not be replaced by Argyll and Bute Council unless a sign becomes available. A proposal was made that John Caunter is contacted to ask if he agrees that the horse sign up the Larach be resited. A suggestion was made that, as the original horse sign was brought down in an accident, that perhaps the driver of the car should be held responsible. Inspector Armstrong agreed to look into the conditions of the accident.
- **Walled Garden.** The application by Ardentinn Community Trust to buy the walled garden from the Forestry Commission has been accepted. Funding applications are ongoing. Dennis stressed that any questions about the walled garden should be directed to the Trust and not to the Community Council. Val acknowledged that the work done so far by the Trust has been admirable.
- **Caravan Park.** There had been a suggestion that there were people staying in the caravan park on a permanent basis. Confirmation was received from the rates valuation board who clarified that there are 12 caravans and 1 chalet on the valuation list. This confirms that the residents are staying on the site legitimately.
- **Overhanging trees.** Jessie informed that the trees causing concern are stable at present. There requires work to be done in that area to adjust some of the cables there. At that time it is intended that any unsafe trees will be felled.
- **The forestry road** which runs from the main road to the picnic area is to be repaired over the next few weeks, weather permitting.
- Jessie updated that the signs directing people to the Village Hall are now ready. It was agreed that this information will be passed on the hall committee.
- It had been agreed at a business meeting that a report from the Forestry Commission would be put on every agenda to make sure that both the Forestry and the Community Council are kept updated.
- Malcolm had asked that a discussion of whether the Ardentinn Village Hall should pay half the valuation of the walled garden be put on the agenda. He agreed that this discussion would be postponed to the April meeting.
- **Tractor.** There has been no sign of the CD's stolen from tractor.
- **Planning notices.** These have been redirected to Val.

Treasurers Report

Expenditure	Nil	Income	Nil
Balance on 20 th January 2011		£1869. 54	

Councillors Report

- Roads. Roads have been patched but not successfully. The new patching machine is on trial at present. The material used by this is water based rather than previously it was a tar based medium which was used.
- Tenders have gone out to repair the hole in the road and repair to sea wall and it is hoped that work should begin in the middle of February, weather permitting. Val asked if it would be possible to have a check on the stability of the remaining wall. Concerns were raised regarding whether the road would remain open during repairs. As there is a passing place opposite where the work will be carried out there should not be a necessity to close the road. However this is not definite. Val asked if Bruce could convey to A&B Council that we see the situation as an emergency as there may be deterioration in the stability of the wall and road if there are further gales etc.
- Budget. The results of the council meeting would be available on the council website. There is a possibility that one of the items which will affect Ardentenny is a cut in the Sunday bus service from 4 buses to 2 buses. This is not confirmed at this time.
- Stephen asked when the toilets at the church car park would re-open. Bruce could not confirm this but would enquire what the position was.

Privatisation of Post Office

Malcolm made the suggestion that the people of the village should be asked if they wished to mount a campaign to support the Post Office and perhaps the Association of Community Councils may be a starting point. Malcolm will contact Ann Gabriel chair of the Association. He will also attend the meeting of the Highland Region of CC on 19th March. Agreement was received from the floor.

Strone Primary School

Although the decision to close the school has been put in abeyance for the present there still needs to be support available for any future proposals to close the school. It was agreed that our continued support be passed on to Diane McCheyne of the Strone Parent Council. Val agreed to do this.

Argyll 1st

A letter had been received from asking for support and comments on this new political party. Dennis wished his views to be noted that this group may be approached if we feel dissatisfied with support we get from others political parties.

AOCB

Val declared an interest in an item in this part of the agenda and left the meeting. It was agreed that Malcolm would chair in her absence.

Elaine Allan wished to raise her concerns in regard to a New Year firework display held at a Glenfinart Hotel on Hogmanay. In a letter circulated to the CC and put on the website she outlined the risks and dangers to horses and that debris from fireworks and Chinese lanterns can be a danger to horses.

After a lengthy and frank discussion it was acknowledged that the Community Councils remit is that we cannot enter into a private matter between two parties but will be supportive in the general issue of informing the village of the safe use of fireworks.

It was suggested that the Community Safety Officer is approached to ask if they can make a visit to the village to give a display and information on the subject. Also information to be put on the noticeboard.

Val returned to the meeting and was given an update on the decisions made. Val agreed to get in touch with the Safety Officer.

Noticeboard.

A note is to be put on the village noticeboard to let people know that, when a notice is put up it should contain the originators contact details. Also the length of time the notice will remain on the board. Val will do this.

Inspector Armstrong asked that it be minuted his thanks to the owners of the Glenfinart Hotel who opened up the hotel, provided refreshments, safety and warmth to the people involved in the crashed tour bus. Without their help the operation would be much more difficult their help was very much appreciated.

It was requested that the question of help for people who are unable to get out for shopping during bad weather be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Val closed the meeting. The next meeting will be on 5th April 2011 at 7.30pm