

ARDENTINNY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

www.ardentinnycc.co.uk

MINUTE OF MEETING HELD 4TH April 2017

Present; Marian Norris (Chair), Neil Robinson (Vice Chair), Malcolm Bartley (Treasurer), Eileen Connell (Secretary), Bill Tierney, Val Kennedy.

Others; Councillor Bruce Marshall, David McKenzie (NP) Lynn Kerr (ACT) Peter Wilson (Actual Reality)

Members of public; Jim Robinson, David McDowall. Dougie Menzies, Mary Dodds, Bill Williamson.

Apologies; David Marshall, PC Donald McKay

Marian opened the meeting, thanked everyone for attending and asked if there was any Declarations of Interest. None

Marian asked if there were any items for AOB. She indicated that the community council wished to add as an item regarding the CC notice board.

Police Report No report as PC McKay is on sick leave.

National Park Report

The new Local Development Plan is now in force. Please find a link here <http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/planning/planning-guidance/local-development-plan/>

In addition, the Scottish Government is considering changing the way planning is run in the future. One of the proposals is to look at planning from the bottom up, being built from Communities interests. A consultation is entitled Places, People and Planning (<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/01/3486>) closed on 4th April.

A new addition to the local NP Planning Process, which will complement the Local Development Plan, is the Local Development Action Programme. The Action Programme accompanies the Local Development Plan and identifies the actions needed to implement and deliver the development delivery and to highlight where more focussed action is needed to help facilitate this.

The Community Councils will still be the statutory consultee on planning applications within their area of responsibility.

National Park Partnership Plan

The new National Park Partnership Plan is under development and a draft will be open for consultation from the 10th April to the 3rd July 2017. Communities are encouraged to review this draft and ensure their priorities are receiving the level of focus that is needed. The consultation can be found at:

http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/park-authority/get-involved/consultations/nppp/?utm_source=Stakeholder%20email&utm_campaign=NPPP

Other

With Linda McKay standing down, James Stewart, who has a background in the Private Sector and Army, has been appointed as the new convenor to the National Park. James made a visit to Cowal recently and was shown Ardentinnny Beach and the Argyll Mausoleum at Kilmun.

Camping Byelaws and Management Zones

Now in place until end of September.

Eileen Connell had read the draft plan and was surprised that there is only one reference to the Cowal area. It was agreed that comment on this would be made to the NP.

David asked if Ardentinn Community Council would be in agreement that he remained our NP representative until the next elections in 2018 despite leaving the area. No objections from any CC members.

Minute of meeting.

A couple of amendments to be made to Treasurers Report and

Proposed Neil Robinson Seconded Val Kennedy.

Matters arising from meeting.

- Traffic mirror. This has been purchased and Neil has offered to put it up.
- Roads. Marian has again contacted the roads department by email and by letter suggesting ways that the identified areas of concern could be improved more economically. There has been no reply to any of her communications.
- Tallest tree. Still no clarification if Ardentinn has the tallest tree. Contact to be made with FCS for update.

Treasurers Report

Expenditure Ardentinn Hall Rent		£72,00
	ACC Data Protection Reg.	
Fee	£35.00	
Income	Nil	
Bank balance 20/03/2017		£1,948.30

Correspondence

Several emails received. All emails sent round to all CC members for information and comment.

Forestry Commission

Community & Visitor Services:

- Easter event for 2017 to be held at Glenbranter due to harvesting works at Ardentinn, only for this year – fully intend to be back at Ardentinn next year.
- Potholes filled on Riverside road on Friday 24th March, any further problems please report to GB office.

Environment:

- Rhododendron clearing at White Bay area and Toll a Bhuic ongoing is mostly related to the Phytophthora felling, going well.

Forest Management:

- Phytophthora felling is going very well. Dundaraich Area felling is complete, just awaiting road surfacing before extraction can take place. Toll a Bhuic and White bay progressing well too and on schedule. Most of Larch is down and other species will follow. Again road will have to be surfaced before trucks can start to remove logs.

Neil asked if there is a plan in place to repair the road which is deteriorating due to the excessive use of the road by tractors, log lorries, aggregate lorries as part of the FC's project of removing trees from the hills. Also Neil raised concern about the state of the bridge between Angle Cottage and Glenfinart Hotel which is already in a precarious state and has been reported previously. It was agreed that this we would be contact FCS and A&B to raise our concerns.

Lynn Kerr asked about an email she sent on Feb 22nd in regard to the minute of October 2016 meeting which stated that Marian would contact them again as there had been no report from ACT since Feb 2016. Marian assured Lynn that she had emailed ACT at least once to invite them to submit a report. As had been explained in the email of Feb 22nd since 2014 there had been a report given at each meeting from ACT. The provision for this has remained as part of the agenda.

Councillors Report

- After further discussion regarding the condition of bridge, verges etc Bruce stated he will take the concerns regarding the state of the roads and verges to the council for comment.
- Bruce attended the Area budget meeting and the area budget for Cowal for the last financial year was £596,000 which is very low. He gave a breakdown of how this was spent over the year.
- Cowal & Bute Education Attainment levels. The recent report has not been good. Dunoon Grammar is one of the better performers. The primary school levels are particularly bad.
- Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP). Thomson Court in Rothesay is possibly to remain open. The consultation on Struan Lodge has been given a 2 month reprieve and will be discussed at the IJB's meeting in May. Cowal Community Hospital is also to be discussed further.
- Grahams Point. At the meeting held in Kilmun to discuss the council's refusal to cut the grass at the children's play area and the history behind the situation, it was unanimously agreed that a petition and representation would be sent to Cleland Sneddon. Acha, who at present own the land have agreed to cut the grass until the situation is resolved. Four of the candidates seeking election were present and all agreed that, if elected they would take this situation forward with a promise that it would be dealt with within the 100 days rule. Bruce has again put in a competent motion to the Area Committee. Bruce showed the areas which are presently being cut by A&B. There is a huge comparison between the amount cut in South Cowal and other areas such as Blairmore & Ardentinnny. Amenity grass cut in Cowal is 501.000 square metres. (Grahams Point is 4.500) Private areas being cut is 80.000 square metres. South Cowal area alone is 15,000 square metres.
- Bruce gave a reminder that Ardentinnny CC agreed to become members of Argyll Countryside Trust (ACT). Malcolm assured Bruce that this was in hand.
- Bruce informed that he was not standing in the forthcoming elections. Marian thanked Bruce for his strong support of Ardentinnny throughout the years and wished him a happy retirement.

Malcolm asked Bruce if he knew of any reason for the low attainment levels in schools in the area. The reasons given by the Education Inspectorate was poor leadership by Council service management at upper and middle levels.

Dougie asked who held the public liability insurance for Grahams Point. Bruce reported it was Community Development Trust.

Future Meetings

A suggestion was made that the CC held informal meetings to invite people to come and meet and either bring items to the CC for the agenda or we could direct them to the appropriate organisation for an answer. All agreed that this may be something which can be tried and see if it is successful.

Delegates Report.

- CAUCUS. Meeting held in February. Main focus was the closure of the residential part of Struan Lodge. Support given to Max Barr of Struan Lodge Development Group. The CAUCUS agreed to write to A&B in support Bruce in getting A&B to continue cutting the grass at Grahams Point. Letter of concern sent to A&B regarding behaviour of elected members at area meeting. Also discussed were the plans to develop Dunoon. There will be several charrettes held for consultation.
- Website The site continues with reports etc, being added. There is also a facebook page for the CC. This will hopefully link in with other fb pages.
- Amenities We continue to look for volunteers to help with the cleaning. One resident has come forward to paint the inside of the toilets. Another has come forward to join the rota. Aidan will provide volunteers to help.

- CHCE. Eileen informed that the forum put in a vote of no confidence to the HSCP and IJB. This resulted in the agreement that there would be an additional 2 months before the IJB discussed Struan Lodge and Cowal Community Hospital. The forum was provided with the draft locality plan for comment. The forum refused to give any comment as they felt it was full of jargon and acronyms. Struan Lodge Development Group has submitted to the IJB a vision for the future which would develop Struan and take it forward.
- Planning. An application from FCS to develop a new road at Stronvochlan
- Community Action Plan. Marian voiced concern at the lack of support from National Park in Cowal. Also the Community Partnership has made commitments to the village but has not kept to this. In view of the work put into the Community Action Plan by the village there is a feeling of disillusionment and frustration toward both organisations. An email has been sent by the Hall Management to Gordon Watson but there has been no response.
- Coulport. Val attended the annual Cowal Local Liaison Committee (CLLC) in Helensburgh. This meeting is so that representatives from the regulatory bodies involved in Coulport and Faslane can give their reports. SEPA is one of the main bodies as well as the Office of Nuclear Regulation. The reports are available online. A link will be put on the CC website. Jim Robinson stated that, in the 70's a representative occasionally came to CC meetings. It was acknowledged that now in modern times, information can be accessed online. Bill Williamson asked if the levels of tritium gas were discussed at the meeting. Val answered no as no-one asked this question. Bill would like this question asked but the answer may be on the website.

Actual Reality. A wood chip biomass boiler is being installed at the centre which will reduce their carbon emissions to zero. Actual Reality will be part of the rota for cleaning of the toilets and will provide 5 people to help. Neil asked if it was a system which also produced electricity. Peter stated it was only a boiler.

Ardentiny Renewables Trust

The difficulties around the constitution have now been resolved, the bank account is in place and the Trust is now ready to receive any monies from the hydro schemes. The Co-hydrover system is about to be completed and hopefully should be up and running in approx. 4 weeks. Ross McArthur's hydro scheme should be completed at the end of May. Ross has indicated that he is considering another one in the area.

Ardentiny Hall Management Group

There will be an AGM on 28th April. The container has been painted and the surrounding area replanted as per planning rules. Financially the hall is ok but needs people to run it.

Ardentiny Community Trust

The Trust newsletter has been distributed. Lynn summarized its content for the meeting. The car park is now finished with disabled places. The Easter event is being held on Easter Sunday. After Easter the garden will be open Saturday and Sunday.

Ardentiny Conservation & Heritage

Work started again in Coronation Wood. Cornus has been planted, broken branches etc been removed. Plenty leaves on the snowdrops but no flowers. A joint application with the trust was made for help with forming a path from the main road. This was not successful. NP has been contacted with a request for volunteer help. The flower and herb tubs are in the process of being planted. We have been invited to the Forestry Easter Eggstavananza at Glenbranter. No work at present at Nature Trail due to the restricted due to the removal of the diseased trees. A local man has offered to help with putting in the information posts at the trail. Our Ardentiny information leaflet has so well received that we have been asked to help with one for Blairmore.

AOB. As Ardentiny CC now has their own website it was suggested that we replace the Ardentiny.org website with our own address. A robust discussion followed with differing views on the matter. Marian asked David McDowall how he felt about the situation. He stated that he would be happy with what the CC decides to do. Neil suggested that as there are future plans to renew the CC notice board this would give the opportunity to put all appropriate websites on. Neil proposed that we look into replacing the present notice board with a larger board that would suit the requirements of the village. This was agreed. Neil will look into styles, prices of new boards. Marian deferred the matter for discussion at the next meeting.

Bill Williamson asked if the minutes are put on the website within the time frame recommended by A&B. The answer was yes.

The next meeting will be Tuesday 6th June. This will include the AGM at 7.00pm followed by the normal meeting at 7.30pm,