

ARDENTINNY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

[www.ardentinnycc.co.uk](http://www.ardentinnycc.co.uk)

MINUTE OF MEETING HELD TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017

Present; Marian Norris (Convener), Eileen Connell  
(Secretary), Malcolm Bartley (Treasurer), David Marshall, Val Kennedy.  
Others; Councillor Bruce Marshall, David Robertson (FCS). Aidan Doherty.  
Apologies; Neil Robinson, Bill Tierney, PC Donald McKay, David  
McKenzie (NP)  
Members of public; Sandra Tweddle, Mary Dodds, David McDowall.

1. Marian welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.
2. Apologies were noted and Marian asked if there were any Declarations of Interest. Val informed that she had an interest on a planning issue. As there was no financial implication it was agreed that she would not require to leave the room when the item was discussed. All agreed
3. Police Report

Donald was unable to attend but had sent a short report. There had been no incidents or crime reports since the last meeting.

There are some additional joint patrols being carried out between Police Scotland and Forestry Commission Scotland over the coming weeks to look at the crime being committed in rural areas.

- o Minute of December meeting.
- o 2 amendments have been made, omission of item in treasurer's report, and a typo.
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- o Matters arising
- o . Concerns over 2 particular areas of the road between Ardentenny to Blairmore. One is at the approach to the narrow road before Stronchullin Farm and the other is at the left of the bend to the straight road. Since September Marian has had several attempts to contact with the roads department but to no avail. She then sent another to Callum Robertson and to Kilmory headquarters but has had no answer. Bruce added that he too had reported these 2 areas. The councillors have a casebook system of reporting but has not had any report back either. He will again put this through the system. This had already been reported several years ago but nothing was done. Since then the situation has understandably got worse. Val also pin pointed an area in Blairmore which she considers a danger due to the camber of the road and the possibility of a dangerous drop over the edge.

Traffic mirror. The original purchase of a traffic mirror for the end of the road from the village hall has fallen through. However another one is ordered. We may have to get planning permission if it is to be located on council land.

- Treasurers Report
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Admin expenses

£ 14.98

Income Maintenance of toilets A&B £ 157.50

Bank balance 20/01/2017 £ 2055.33

8. Correspondence All correspondence has been sent round to all community councillors.

- SSE has asked that vulnerable people register with them for priority services in the event of an outage. Information has been put on CC notice board.
- Letter from Dick Walsh regarding the council seeking people's views of what matters most in the services they provide in preparation for the cuts it will be necessary to make. A link was provided for people's views. This has been put on the CC notice board.
- Consultation on the proposal to move the children's services from Paisley to the new Glasgow hospital. This has been put on the CC notice board. Also parents in the village have been made aware of this.
- Letter from Sharon McDonald to inform that A&B have been successful in securing £15,000 to strengthen and grow Gaelic across the area.
- Letter from Humza Yousf with comments on the Dunoon-Gourock ferry. The tender process in particular.
- Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice have launched their first newsletter. This will be put on CC notice board.
- Argyll & Bute council news roundup information.
- Argyll & Bute Local Housing Strategy Summary.
- Loch Lomond Live Park Local Development Plan.

#### 9. Forestry Commission

- David Robertson informed that this would be his last meeting with us as he was retiring at the end of March. He kindly stated that he has enjoyed coming to our CC meetings over the years and acknowledged that we have now moved on to be a very much more constructive and helpful committee. As yet there is no replacement for his position but David asked that any issues to be directed to Steve Gillen for the meantime. David handed round leaflets which gave detailed information on the disease which is affecting mainly larch and to be aware of the operations which are going on to fell and clear the area. The Birchwood Walk and the Carrick Walk are closed at present. Certain restrictions are in place re, mats to walk through, notices have been put up to try to contain the infection. The extraction of the trees etc may mean that there may be timber lorries travelling through the village.
- A report in the Herald stated that the tallest tree in Britain is in Ardentinny. Whether this is the case has not been confirmed. There has been a laser measurement of 224ft. but exact measurement has to be done by someone actually climbing the tree. Later in the year there will be a 3 tree challenge. The tallest tree in Wales, England and Scotland will be climbed by the same person to establish the tallest. No date has been agreed.

Marian thanked David on behalf of Ardentinny Community Council for the very positive support he has given us over the years and wished him well for his retirement.

10. National Park Report                      No report

#### 11. Councillor's Report

- Bruce felt that it is important that FCS finds a replacement for David as he too acknowledged how positive it is to have input to the CC. He will contact Gordon Donaldson to encourage him to find a replacement.
- Bruce also reported to A&B another area of road which causes concern. He will check if that has been done.
- At a seminar in Kilmory the Scottish Government was condemned in regard to the broken promise made to increase the police force by 1,000 police officers. This is unaffordable and there is an annual deficit in Police Scotland's budget of £70 million. They inherited a huge HR responsibility which is a large part of their budget.
- The police station at Strachur will close and along with one or two other rural places.
- Budget will be 23<sup>rd</sup> February. There may not be much change, possibly because it is a budget year,
- A decision is thought to be a 3% rise in council tax. The higher bands will have an additional 3% percent rise.
- The decision to cut only 1 metre of grass has been dropped. There should be a more sensible approach towards it. The new thought is, if it needs cut then it will be cut.

- There have been difficulties with the Conversation Cafes held by HSCP dealing with the re-design of Struan Lodge, Dunoon Hospital and other community resources. The advertising of the events have not been successful so has not had a good turnout. The HSCP (Health & Social Care Partnership) has agreed that future information should also be sent to the community councils to distribute within their area.
- A&B has stopped cutting the grass at Grahams Point in Kilmun as they say that ACHA was the owner of the land. Bruce went through the procedure of bringing this issue to the Area Committee meeting. However the committee regarded the motion to be incompetent. This situation will be taken by CC's to the next by CAUCUS meeting.

## 12. Actual Reality.

Aidan reported that they had a busy year and groups started to return again in January. He asked if there had been any comments or complaints about the children to which the answer was no.

They continue to carry out beach cleans and have 2 planned for the coming weeks before Easter. This is through the Marine Conservation Society which, rather than a normal beach clean enables the young people to learn about the nature of the beaches.

They have recently expanded the workforce with one and a half posts available in the maintenance and driving areas. Emphasis has been made to staff in regard to driving speeds through the village and out with. Good relations continue with FCS and communication regarding access to forestry area continues. Eileen informed that there will be a village beach clean on 12<sup>th</sup> March and that this will enhance the work that Actual Reality is doing with the young people.

## 13. Delegates Report

- Caucus. There has not been a meeting for several months but one has now been arranged for 16<sup>th</sup> February
- Website. Nothing to report.
- Amenities The Minute of Approval has been finalised and we now have a copy for the file. It is the intention that supplies will be bought with the money received from A&B for this purpose. We are looking for volunteers to help out and join the rota for helping to clean the toilets. We will put a notice up on the CC board to this effect. Aidan offered help with this from his staff for which we would be grateful.
- Cowal Health & Care Forum. The new chair is Duncan McGillivray and is prepared to take the forum forward .
- Planning. A letter has been sent to the Licensing board in support of the application for Ardentenny Hotel.
- Community Action Plan. Nothing to report
- Coulport After a report in the media about the MoD arranging additional armed patrols in the area a few people raised concerns. Val contacted Coulport about this and received a statement.

“Ministry of Defence (MoD) Police officers have historically routinely undertaken external patrols in the vicinity of Her Majesty’s Naval Base Clyde, which includes the Royal Navy Armaments Depot Coulport.

The extent of MoD Police patrol activity is covered by an agreement with Police Scotland. Responsibility for the maintenance and enforcement of the law in Scotland rests with the Chief Constable of Police Scotland.

There has been no increase to routine MoD Police patrols outside the two establishments during the last 24 months although MOD keep security at all of its establishments under review and there are no current plans to expand these external patrols. Any proposals to increase external MOD patrols will be agreed with Police Scotland. ”

Aidan reported that, as they work closely with MOD Police, they had a meeting at the Centre and had been advised that there would not be an increase in patrols but there would be a change in structure of the of how the patrols were carried out. There would be shore landings and patrols using dogs. .

Bruce had attended a seminar where Faslane was discussed and was informed that there would be an increase of 2,000 personnel with their families in the Helensburgh area. The Astute class

submarine is going to be located at Faslane. Some of the operations at Portsmouth will transfer to Faslane.

Val has been invited by the MOD to the annual C.L.L.C. to be held at the end of March.

#### 14. Ardentinny Renewables Trust

- Neil was unable to attend but sent a report. No transformer has currently been fitted however all the poles and cables are now in place ready for when this arrives. As soon as this arrives the whole thing will be connected but there is no time scale for the arrival of the transformer.

The ART constitution requires some minor amendments that OSCR had asked for. Anne Sobey from Community Partnership is helping out with these minor changes. When these are done the constitution will be re-submitted to OSCR.

Ardentinny Hall Management.

Very disappointed that the application for funding for the business plan was turned down. A strong protest was put in to National Park and Community Partnership as the application fitted their criteria. We accepted an offer of help of writing the business plan was given by Anne Sobey of the CP. However this has not been forthcoming. There will be a hall AGM at the end of April.

Ardentinny Community Trust. No report.

Ardentinny Conversation & Heritage.

Quiet at the moment but arranging a Beach Clean for 12<sup>th</sup> March.

#### 15. A.O.C.B.

Health Social Care Partnership.

- An additional Conversation Café event has been arranged for Kilmun Hall on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.
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- There was a recall notice on our defibrillator. Geoff Carr kindly arranged for the appropriate measures to be taken to have the defib checked and returned. At no time was the village without a defib.

16. Next meeting Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Marian thanked all for attending and ended the meeting.