

APPIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
www.appincommunitycouncil.co.uk

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Thursday 4 June 2015 at 7.30pm in Appin Village Hall

Present: Alison MacCorquodale, David Craig, Paul Zvegintzov, Linda MacLeod, Lorraine Drysdale, Charles Steuart Fotheringham, Elaine Venters, Jane Parkin, PC Stuart Johnston, Councillor Elaine Robertson and 7 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Cllr. Duncan MacIntyre, Penny Cousins

2. Minutes of the last meeting (5/6/14) were approved and signed.

3. Convenor's Annual Report

The Community Council has had a busy year. 3 new members have joined which gives us our full compliment of 8 community councillors. We have had an active year with a wide range of subjects and actions on the agenda as summarised below:

Roads

Problems with water flowing across A828 at the church/community car park have been discussed and the Hall Committee is asking a local contractor to help solve the problem. Give way white lines at Gunn's Garage need renewed following pothole work but unfortunately have not been renewed and also the potholes are back.

Problems with subsistence at Laich House requiring Capital funding from Council budget has now been allocated and work is due to start soon following further discussion with landowners and local businesses. Problems reported with road surface up Glen Creran.

Scottish Water

The plans for the replacement septic tank and outfall pipe at Port Appin caused quite a lot of residents comment. Scottish Water responded to public concerns with a revised solution for the route of the outfall pipe and work has now been completed.

Broadband

This has been an ongoing agenda item which Bob Cornish has been heavily involved with on behalf of the local community. We had a visit from Stuart Robertson, HIE Director of Digital and Campbell Cameron, local advisor on Community Broadband Scotland to update us on the BT Fibre plans which have changed in Appin residents' favour. Major parts of Appin are now included in BT's Next Generation Broadband Plan and hopefully be implemented by mid 2016. Solutions are being explored for the parts of Appin which will not be covered by the BT Plan. The speakers agreed to return towards the end of 2015 to provide an update. A big thank you for all his hard work must go to Bob Cornish who has been successful in the positive changes made so far on this.

Local Emergency Plan

The plan is taking shape with local residents completing a questionnaire about equipment and resources available for use in an emergency situation. An emergency kit bag full of helpful items has been received and is being stored in the Fire Station.

Clach Thoul Path

Thanks go to all involved in this well used path improvement work.

And finally thanks go to our local Councillor Elaine Robertson for all her help and support over the past year. Many thanks to all the community councillors for their help and support over the year. To Jane for helping with the circulation of email correspondence, to Elaine for all her hard work since taking over the secretary's post and to Paul for looking after our finances.

Community Council membership is voluntary and unpaid. The needs of the community can best be taken forward by hard work and close co-operation with the whole community. The Community Council does make a continued and sustained difference and progress is due to the efforts of the various individuals (named and unnamed) to the benefit of the community.

4. Secretary's Annual Report

Meetings: The Community Council has held 5 meetings since the 2014 AGM – June, September, November, January and April. The meetings have been well attended by members and one of our local Councillors - Elaine Robertson. We greatly appreciate Elaine's input and assistance. We were also pleased to welcome Cllr Roddy McCuish to our November meeting. Attendance by members of the public over the year has generally been modest but boosted when there is a presentation on a topic of interest. A number of organisations have taken the opportunity to present topics to the community at the council meetings. These include:

- Re-shaping Care for Older People by Caroline Henderson and Shaun Davidson, NHS/Argyll & Bute Council
- Control of Invasive Species of Rhododendrons by Elaine Jamieson, Forestry Commission
- Superfast Broadband for Appin by Stuart Robertson, Highlands & Islands Enterprise and Campbell Cameron, Community Broadband Scotland

Community Council Website: The Appin Community Council website received 5426 unique visitors to the site over the year, which is an average of 452 per month. People are able to read/access meeting agendas, minutes of meetings and other documents/notices of general interest on the website. The local organisations' listing has also been updated this year.

Correspondence: There has been a steady flow of correspondence throughout the year – mainly by email which is then easily circulated to relevant members for their attention.

5. Treasurer's Annual Report

There is an end of year balance of £3200. Transactions over the year have included the memorial wreath, stationery and annual website hosting and maintenance fee. The Community Council has consolidated its funds into one bank account (previously two). A draft version of the annual accounts was supplied by Paul Zvegintzov and will be audited and signed off as soon as possible.

6. Election of Office Bearers

Current office bearers will stay in post and continue for a further year. Proposed by Charles Steuart Fotheringham, seconded by Lorraine Drysdale.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next AGM will be in June 2016 (exact date to be confirmed) in Appin Village Hall.