

APPIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
www.appincommunitycouncil.co.uk

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Thursday 5 June 2014 at 7.30pm in Appin Village Hall

Present: Alison MacCorquodale, David Craig, Jane Parkin, Paul Zvegintzov, Elaine Venters, Councillor Elaine Robertson and 7 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Linda MacLeod, PC Stuart Johnson

2. Minutes of the last meeting (13/6/13) were approved and signed.

3. Convenor's Annual Report (Alison MacCorquodale)

The former Community Council held their last meeting in August. Following the election in October only 5 councillors were nominated and unfortunately one became ill before he could take up his place. Further nominations were sought in November with the new council having its first meeting in January this year. During the time between the two meetings things were kept ticking over and thanks go to Issy Silkowski for her help during this period and until recently when our new secretary was finally in place.

During this past year the agenda has been busy as summarised below.

Trunk Road /A828

The authority for the Trunk Roads – BEAR Scotland has been busy. Resurfacing the A828 through Appin has been done with most of the work done to upgrade work done by the previous contractor which was said to have been substandard. A proposal from Transport Scotland regarding a 50 mph speed limit through Appin was discussed.

Council Roads

Issues raised by the Community Council to Roads Department at Argyll and Bute Council have been dealt with over the past year. The road to the school was resurfaced which is a vast improvement following numerous complaints.

Cycletrack

Problems with Japanese Knotweed have been raised and passed onto Sustrans. The new approach gates at the Jubilee Bridge were put in place this year. This is now a route which is being well used by both visitors and the local community.

Jubilee Bridge

I am delighted to report that the bridge has been repaired and is being well used by all. Congratulations for all his hard work and persistence go to Mike Rayworth and also to the contractor – Stuart Carmichael and his team especially as the weather was not at all co-operative! It was officially opened on 25 February.

Broadband

A Broadband project has been set up locally following news that Appin was to miss out on the BT fibre optic broadband rollout. A questionnaire was sent out to all households in the area. A report was then completed and submitted to Community Broadband Scotland and Highland and Islands Enterprise. Following a meeting with HIE where the broadband project was reviewed, HIE confirmed it would be revisiting the fibre optic broadband plan with BT and have subsequently confirmed that BT will include Appin in the plan by extending the cabling. However not all Appin households will be included – postcodes not included in the plan will be confirmed by end of 2014. Those not included in the BT rollout will be included in the Community Broadband Scotland project phase III and CBS has already approved this and funding is in place. Thanks to Bob Cornish and Penny Cousins for all their hard work involved in this project.

Scottish Water

Scottish Water held a public exhibition in January 14 of their plans for the new septic tank, etc at Port Appin following much community dialogue via email and the media over the plans. The local community were not happy about the proposals and were very vocal about it. Scottish Water had taken all the comments on board and withdrew their plans. They subsequently held another exhibition of their revised plans in April and the local community were much happier with the new proposal. Planning permission is now being sought and this work will be carried out as soon as possible.

Despite indicating last year that it would be my last convenor's report, I find myself doing another one following a year when a new council came into being. I have agreed to remain as convenor for a further year to help the council bed in but would hope that a new convenor can be found within the next year so I can hand over the reigns.

And finally thanks go to our Local Councillors (Elaine Robertson and Louise Glen Lee) for all their help and support over the past year. Many thanks to Jane for helping with the circulation of email correspondence, to Elaine for agreeing to take 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 to the benefit of the community.

4. Secretary's Annual Report (Elaine Venters)

Meetings

The Community Council have held 3 meetings since our last AGM (two since the election of the new council.) These were held in August 2013, January and April 2014.

The meetings have been well attended by members and our Local Councillors – a special thanks to Councillor Elaine Robertson for all her assistance.

Attendance by members of the public has been modest over the year with the exception of the January 2014 meeting when 22 people attended to raise concerns with a representative from Scottish Water regarding the proposed route of a new septic tank outfall pipe across the bay in Port Appin.

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.

Community Council Website

The Appin Community Council website received 5800 unique visitors over the 12 months to end of May 2014 – an average of 483 unique visitors per month. People viewed on average 3.3 pages per visit. As well as visiting the site noticeboard and pages on local organisations & businesses, there was reasonable readership of the Community Council meeting minutes. As previously reported by Issy Silkowski there is scope for making more use of this Community asset in particular the website's Community Noticeboard area.

5. Treasurer's Annual Report

There is an end of year balance of £3000 with few transactions over the year other than £1069 paid to Appin Community Trust (Jubilee Bridge donations). A draft version of the annual accounts were presented 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 Elaine Robertson and seconded by Doreen Evans.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next AGM will be in June 2015 (exact date to be confirmed) in Appin Village Hall.