

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 10 September 2015 at 7.30pm in Port Appin Village Hall

Present: Alison MacCorquodale, David Craig, Paul Zvegintzov, Linda MacLeod, Lorraine Drysdale, Charles Steuart Fotheringham, Elaine Venters, Jane Parkin, Councillor Elaine Robertson and 4 members of the public.

**1. Apologies:** Cllr. Duncan MacIntyre, Bob Cornish, PC Stuart Johnston

**2. Minutes of the last meeting** (4 June 2015) were approved and signed.

### **3. Matters Arising**

#### 3.1 A828 Trunk Road

- >poor road surface at Creagan Roundabout (coming off bridge, direction north) – no update.
- >Water flowing on to A828 from hillside beside Appin Village Hall – no update.
- >White lines at 'Give Way' at Gunn's Garage where Port Appin road joins A828 - raised again at meeting. (Update since meeting, lines were painted on 18 Sept.)
- >Query raised about a sign for Lismore Ferry at A828/Port Appin road junction.

#### 3.2 School Transport/Public Transport

Broken glass from shattered panel in bus stop has been sorted.

#### 3.3 Port Appin and other Council roads

- >Subsidence on the road above Laich House, Tyneribbie: Site meeting has taken place. A&B Engineering Dept to carry out a survey to see if the sightlines can be improved on the stretch of road involved in the retaining walls repairs – noted that it would have to be achieved within the budget already allocated for the work.
- >Car parking at Creagan Bridge roundabout: work now undertaken. Letter of thanks sent from Appin CC to A&B Roads Dept.
- >The road surface in the area around Port Appin Surgery: work now completed.
- >Deep potholes in passing place on road to Port Appin nr Ardtur corner – no update.
- >Query raised about overhanging tree branches on Glen Creran road which force drivers into middle of the road. It was said that branch cutting work is scheduled for late autumn. Cllr Robertson reiterated that it is the Council's responsibility to maintain verges to the boundary and the Roads Dept. are doing what they can with the resources available. The meeting was reminded that if a tree/shrub is on private land and overhangs a road/path, it is the responsibility of the landowner to cut the branches back.
- >Following a resident's letter, it was reported that the 'North Shian' sign at the road junction beside Airds Hotel in Port Appin is falling off its poles. Request made for sign to be repaired/secured and made safe.

#### 3.4 Broadband

Recent update by Campbell Cameron local adviser, Community Broadband Scotland (CBS) was read out which gave details of the final stages of fibre being laid /connected by BT Openreach in Ardchattan, Taynuilt, Connel and Dalmally. Progress is also being made with the CBS efforts to create a community owned solution for the Argyll Isles and Craignish Peninsula. More info on The Gigaplay Argyll initiative (which includes Lismore) can be read at <http://www.hie.co.uk/community-support/community-broadband-scotland/news/pioneering-argyll-islands-community-broadband-project.html>.

It is hoped to have an update on the BT Openreach fibre plans for Appin at the next meeting.

#### 3.5 Safer Routes to School

The improvement works already completed have been well received by users. No further work to be done until house plots sold/developed.

#### 3.6 Recycling/Litter

The new four wheel bin at Appin House layby is being emptied weekly by A&BC which is making a vast improvement to the appearance of the layby.

Dog Fouling – Cycle path. Concerns were voiced about on-going dog fouling on the edge of the cycle track – noticed near the primary school. A discussion took place about how to raise awareness of the issue – a school drawing competition to create a poster, an article in The Light parish magazine and a bin at the side of the cycle track near Station Cottages were suggested. All residents with dogs are reminded that it is their responsibility to clear up after their dog. Failure to do so is an offence under the terms of The Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 and will result in a fine.

#### 3.7 Planning Applications

Recent planning applications forwarded by A&BC to Appin Community Council for comment were: erection of barn/storage building on Shuna Island; Installation of air source heat pump, Sun Set Cottage, Tynribbie (retrospective); Forest Track, Glenure; Erection of fence/gate, Glencrean Estate (retrospective). No Objections/Comments from Appin CC.

### 3.8 Invasive Species

Penny Cousins reported that the Forestry Commission has made an Heritage Lottery Funding application for funding to start work on clearing Rhododendron Ponticum in Glen Creran in 2016. No progress as yet on FC holding a meeting for the Appin area. The topic of finding a way to communicate with and involve the community in the invasive species issue was discussed.

### 3.9 Community Governance

A discussion took place about the Boundary Commission's consultation on ward boundary proposals and how they impact on Ward 5, Oban North & Lorn. Members of the public have until 22 October to comment on the proposals via BC's website.

## **4. Correspondence**

**June:** Roads and amenity services, Oban Lorn and Isles community planning, Council's public liability insurance, Perfect Picnic, Community councils and other community groups, Minutes Oban Lorn and Isles Area Committee, Get funding, Scottish Heritage Angel awards, Confirmation of Oban parking event, Community Council annual by-elections, Community information

**July:** Funding alert, Community empowerment bill, Argyll and Bute health and social care partnership, Audit Scotland Best value, Open surgery, Community councils, Results 2015 training survey, Planning, Renewables seminar, Oban Lorn and Isles community planning, Argyll and Bute CPP.

**August:** Community information, Funding, Digital engagement community council workshop, Local government boundary commission for Scotland, Agenda Oban Lorn and Isles Area Committee, Fairer Scotland community council event, Planning, Review of police call handling, Understanding community renewables, Planning x 3, Questions from Oban Lorn and Isles community planning, Message to ACPG's, Minutes Oban Lorn and Isles Area Committee, Agenda Oban Lorn and Isles community planning, Oban Lorn and Isles community planning, Community renewables seminar, Development plan,

**September:** Spaces available fairer Scotland community council event, Planning, Funding alert news update, Minutes Oban Lorn and Isles community planning, North Scotland Towns Road show, Warmer homes, Reminder #ruralhour, Local Government Boundary commission, Winter Resilience Planning, A&B CPP, Resident's Letter re: North Shian sign, Resident's Email re: Clach Thoul path improvement

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

Community Council funds stand at around £3000. Recent expenditure: War Memorial wreath ordered.

## **6. Any Other Competent Business**

### 6.1 Dangerous Tree at Portnacroish (on-going)

No progress to report.

### 6.2 Emergency Plan (on-going)

Emergency contact team leaders identified for Appin and the Glen. Named person also required for Port Appin – volunteers welcome. Detailed map of area purchased. Further meeting of sub-committee to be held by late autumn.

### 6.3 Clach Thoul Path (on-going)

Improvement work has continued with further gravel being used and more ditching being put in. Letter of thanks (by email) received from local resident who, as a regular user of the path, has noticed a big improvement.

### 6.4 Community Action Plan

Penny Cousins reported that a project brief has been prepared. Initial funding application to Awards for All has been rejected. Application will be re-worked and re-submitted.

### 6.5 Police Report

No report available for meeting.

### 6.6 Appin Area Flower Displays.

Planters cleared and replanted over the summer. Where possible tubs to be underplanted with spring bulbs by end Oct. Enquiries to be made to find resource (digger or equivalent) to lift and empty the large pot-bound planters to allow re-planting/refurbishment to take place.

### 6.7 Community Noticeboards

Production of a new board for Glen Creran is in hand. Maintenance work on existing timber noticeboards – Chair asked Cllr Robertson if the work could be done using the Community Payback Scheme. Chair to supply details of work to be done/location of boards.

### 6.8 Community Hydro Scheme

Penny Cousins provided an update: the project has received a grant (subject to conditions) to carry out the feasibility study on Appin Hill site which is on Forestry Commission land. A steering group has been formed and a preferred consultant identified – meet in October. Aim is to complete the feasibility study by early 2016.

### 6.9 A&BC grass-cutting

It was noted that, while a good job is being done in the area overall, some of the headstones and paths at the graveyard are being covered in grass cuttings. A request was made for grass-cuttings to either be cleared up after cutting or cut in such a way that the cuttings remain on the grass and do not cover the paths/headstones.

## **7. Public Questions**

### 7.1 Parking at Ferry.

A question was asked about whether there were plans for new parking along the shore by the Port Appin pier. Cllr Robertson confirmed that, at the request of Appin Community Trust, a brief on site meeting with A&B Roads Dept took place to look at options on land on the shore-side of the road approaching the pier.

### 7.2 Lease of Boathouse, Port Appin.

A point was raised to ask Cllr Robertson to convey to A&B Council that the protracted decision making process for awarding a lease for the property was unsatisfactory for the parties involved. It was confirmed that a final decision would be made at the full council meeting at the end of September (five months from the lease application closing date)

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next Community Council meeting is on 12 November 2015 at 7.30pm in Appin Village Hall.

Dates for 2016 meetings are: 14 January, 24 March, 16 June (incl. AGM), 22 September, 17 November.