

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 13 November 2014 at 7.30pm in Appin Village Hall

Present: Alison MacCorquodale, David Craig, Paul Zvegintzov, Jane Parkin, Lorraine Drysdale, Charles Steuart Fotheringham, Elaine Venters, Councillor Elaine Robertson, Councillor Roddy McCuish, PC Stuart Johnston, Elaine Jamieson (Forestry Commission) and 6 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Linda MacLeod, Duncan MacIntyre

2. Minutes of the last meeting (11/09/14) were approved and signed.

3. Forestry Commission Presentation: Rhododendron Control in Glen Creran

A presentation was made by Elaine Jamieson, Policy, Support and Development Officer with Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) on a planned project for long-term control of rhododendrons in Glen Creran. Elaine explained the oakwoods and lichens in Glen Creran are under threat from invasive, non-native types of rhododendrons which are very hard to kill with herbicide and when cut back, simply grow back stronger.

The Forestry Commission is looking to adopt a collaborative long term approach by working with local communities as the problem affects both FCS land and household gardens. Local landowners have already expressed an interest in a collaborative project and the FCS are looking to involve the wider Appin community. Elaine is looking for feedback from communities regarding interest in becoming involved in the Glen Creran project, what information communities would find helpful to raise awareness of the issue, what training and advice could be provided. An example raised at the meeting was what to do at Clach Thoul now that work has been done by Appin Community Trust (ACT) to cut down a stretch of rhododendrons on the west side of the Clach Thoul walk. Elaine explained that ACT could, for example, apply to the FCS for funding to assist in the development of a long-term plan for the control of the cut down and remaining rhododendrons at Clach Thoul. Elaine Jamieson can be contacted on 01631 565091 or email elaine.jamieson@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

4. Matters Arising

4.1 A828 Trunk Road

>ACC wrote to Trunk Roads regarding moving the 40mph signs closer to Achnacone and installing a flashing speed sign. Trunk Roads didn't say 'no' outright, but confirmed there would be no action in this financial year. ACC to raise the topic again as we approach the new financial year. It was reported to the meeting that speed checks have and will continue to be carried out in the area by Road Policing. In response to a comment about the speed of large trucks eg. Timber lorries through Appin, PC Stuart Johnson stated that speed checks recorded these vehicles as being within the speed limit. It was agreed that with the tunnel-like approach to Appin from the south, the narrow road and narrow pavements, pedestrians do perceive the speed of large vehicles as being high, whereas in fact they are within the speed limit.

>Councillor Elaine Robertson reported that Trunk Roads are looking at reducing the speed limit to 50mph in the area around Creagan Inn.

>No update as yet on water flowing on to the A828 at Village Hall or poor road surface at Kirkton.

4.2 School Transport/Public Transport

Nothing to report.

4.3 Port Appin and other Council roads

>Subsidence on the road above Laich House, Tyneribbie – marked with cones and white paint. Roads Dept have carried out further inspections as the repair is now classed as a Capital project and needs to be fed into the Capital expenditure plan.

>No update as yet on road surface at Glen Creran or parking at Creagan Bridge roundabout.

>The road surface in the area around Port Appin Surgery and two residential houses. Inspections of the road surface and puddles carried out earlier in the year by the Roads Dept confirmed that remedial work was required. It was agreed to delay the work until Scottish Water had completed their installation of the new septic tank (opposite the problem area). With the SW work completed, a resident contacted the Roads Dept to enquire about when the work would start – to be told that there was 'no money for it now'. Councillor Robertson will visit the site, view photos supplied by local residents and take the issue up with the Roads Dept.

>Flooding on road from Appin to Port Appin in area between Appin and the British Telecom building. It was reported that the landowner (A Colthart) has been asked to repair the fence line which has moved down the hillside into the roadside ditch. Once the fence is moved to its normal position, the Roads Dept can clear the ditch which will in turn improve the drainage off the road surface.

4.4 Port Appin Water

Scottish Water have confirmed that they have been liaising with the owner of Rock Cottage regarding the contents of their letter to SW in August 2014 and the issues of concern have been resolved.

A local resident raised the issue of whether SW are going to install a perch on the headwall – where the discharge pipe ends in the sea – to alert small crafts (dinghies, canoes) to its presence. ACC to seek input from small craft users on risk and contact SW about their plans.

4.5 Broadband

Bob Cornish reported that by early 2015, it will be known what broadband improvements are being provided for Appin. Highlands and Islands Enterprise will provide an update and talk to the community at ACC's meeting in January 2015. Argyll Islands Project is at the stage of selecting technical/system suppliers for broadband provision on Lismore, Mull, Jura. Their aim is to have a signed contract by March 2015.

4.6 Safer Routes to School

Cllr Robertson reported that the progress of the footpath reinstatement and associated drainage improvement works may now be affected by proposed plans to build new houses on plots adjacent to the path. Cllr Robertson to provide an update as the new houses are at planning permission stage with building work yet to commence but work on the Safer Routes to School path needs to be completed by 31 March 2015, otherwise the funding will be lost.

4.7 Recycling

Co-mingled waste collection came into effect on Wednesday 29 October with general waste green bins being collected on alternate weeks to recycled items in blue bins. If householders have any queries on what can and cannot be placed in the blue bin, or require a blue bin, there is a helpline to call – 01546 605514

Cllr Robertson confirmed that the recycling bins located at the Old Station area will continue in place for the time being until it is seen how the co-mingling collections settle down. The glass recycling must remain as there will not be kerb side glass collection, glass will have to be taken to the re-cycling area.

The issue of fly-tipping in laybys was raised as there are concerns that this may increase with only fortnightly general waste collections. It was noted that black bin bags of either domestic waste or building waste are being left at, for example, Appin House layby or tipped over onto the rocks by the shore. PC Johnston urged residents to formally report instances of fly-tipping as upon receipt of a report, the police can investigate and attempt to track down the persons responsible. (often identified by the waste they leave)

It was also reported that in Glen Creran residents wheel their bins to a central collection point at Elleric carpark. Residents often find that tourists/visitors to the area use the residents' bins to get rid of their rubbish. It was suggested that a permanent green bin could be placed at the Car Park for the general public to use. Cllr Robertson to follow up.

5. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received by the Community Council:

September: A&B Briefing packs, Community Council By-Election.

October: Agenda Oban, Lorn and Isles Area Committee, Fasanata Community cat walk show, Community Council meeting dates, Funding alert, Supplementary pack Agenda Oban, Lorn and Isles Area Committee, Community payback order annual consultation, Office furniture available, Oban High School, Minutes Oban, Lorn and Isles Area Committee, Development SOA local focus group Oban, Lorn and Isles, Community payback order annual consultation, Oban, Lorn and Isles Community planning group, Broadband and mobile infrastructure update, Scottish Rural Parliament exhibition

November: Scottish Rural Parliament exhibition, Get creative and ACT poster, Met office weather warning, Community Council engagement meeting, Funding alert, Launch of Community Council website, Agenda Oban, Lorn and Isles Community planning

6. Treasurer's Report

The change to have one bank account (current) instead of two (current and savings) is being processed by the bank. Funds standing at around £2800 just now.

7. Any Other Competent Business

7.1 Police Report

Crime Prevention Surveys – local residents can have a survey done free of charge by Police Scotland. PC Johnston would encourage residents who are concerned about the security of their properties to contact him by email at Stuart.Johnston2@scotland.pnn.police.uk or call Police Scotland on the non emergency number 101.

There is also helpful info on home security on the Police Scotland website at

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/safety-security-advice/home-and-personal-property/secure-your-home>

PC Johnston reminded the meeting that there are increased cases of heating and diesel oil theft in the winter months.

Members of the public are asked to remain vigilant and report any suspect vehicles or persons in the area. Residents can download information on how to reduce the risks of oil theft at

http://www.scotland.police.uk/assets/pdf/keep_safe/heatinganddieseloiltheft

PC Johnston also mentioned that the Scottish Government's reduced drink drive limit for Scotland will come into force on December 5.

There have been reports of a Black Kia car travelling at speed on the A828 within the Appin area. Members of the public are asked to report any sightings of this vehicle if they are concerned over its speed or driving.

The new police non emergency number is now operational – dial 101. Direct numbers to police offices are no longer available.

7.2 Dangerous Tree at Portnacroish (on-going)

No change. Despite receiving a letter from A&B Legal Dept advising the landowner Mr Wallace about his responsibility to remove the tree and his liability regarding the dangerous tree, no action has been taken. Cllr Robertson will take the issue up again with the Legal Dept as their clearance is required before any further action can be considered by the Council.

7.3 Emergency Plan (on-going)

A questionnaire will shortly be distributed to households to identify what help, equipment & buildings might be available to the community in the event of an emergency. Eg. If Appin needs to deal with an emergency situation until emergency services can reach the area. (roads blocked by major accident, heavy snow, power cut, incident at sea). A meeting has been arranged (since the Community Council meeting on 13 Nov) to discuss the Appin Emergency Plan and find people willing to form a short-term committee to pull the detail of the plan together. The meeting will take place on Thursday 4 December in Port Appin Hall – after the Skiff Project meeting at 7.30pm. All contributions and ideas welcome.

7.4 Jubilee Bridge (on-going)

Cllr Robertson said that Scotways (Scottish Rights of Way & Access Society) were very impressed with the renovation work carried out on Jubilee Bridge. The community at Lossiemouth are looking to work on their own bridge and made enquiries about how the Appin project was achieved. Mike Rayworth has written to them with a summary of what was involved. Cllr Robertson once again offered a public thanks for all the work done by Mike.

7.5 Clach Thoul Path (on-going)

It was agreed that the recent work on the path at the Airds Bay end of the Clach Thoul walk is a definite improvement. Further ditch/timber work is being carried out.

7.6 Community Council By-Election

A by-election for the Appin Community Council was held to fill the 3 vacancies. Three candidates were elected uncontested as follows: Lorraine A Drysdale, Charles H Stuart Fotheringham and Elaine Venters. ACC Convenor Alison MacCorquodale welcomed the three new councillors to Appin Community Council.

7.7 Healthcare

Integration of Health & Social Works departments – there are two drop in sessions in Oban on 25 Nov. 9am to noon at Oban Fire Station and 1-4pm at Reception Lorn & Islands Hospital. There is also now a website for the integration plans – www.healthytogetherargyllandbute.org.uk

Port Appin Surgery Out of Hours Service – there is a drop in information event at Appin Village Hall on Wednesday 26 November from 5-7pm.

8. Public Questions

8.1 Debris/waste at Mink Farm

Concerns were raised at the apparent increased level of debris and waste being deposited at the site of the former mink farm. Cllr Robertson will request a further visit to the site from Environmental Health department.

8.2 Lismore Ferry Consultation

A local resident asked for an update on Transport Scotland's Scottish Ferries Plan recommendation for a Port Appin to Point vehicle ferry service. Cllr Robertson reported that Argyll & Bute Council's position is that any ferry from Port Appin should be run by Transport Scotland not the local Council. Cllr Robertson said that there was no information on any ferry on either route being removed and that a substantial amount of work has been carried out on the infrastructure at Achnacroish pier on Lismore. Any major change to the infrastructure will be on a longer timeframe for whoever runs the ferry service. The infrastructure needed to put a vehicle ferry service terminal in to Port Appin is an enormous undertaking with associated costs in excess of £10m so it is viewed as not likely to happen anytime soon given the financial climate.

8.3 Community Hydro Project

Appin Community Trust has been offered a share in a hydro scheme project using a burn in Glen Creran. The Trust has carried out a brief pre-feasibility study and submitted an application for a lease to the Forestry Commission who are currently

considering applications from 50 projects. A decision will be made on 5 Dec 2014 as to whether the Appin application is successful. The Trust plan to hold a public meeting in early 2015 to explain more about the Hydro Scheme project and potential benefits to the community – proposed date is at the next Community Council meeting on 22 January 2015.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is on 22 January 2015 at 7.30pm in Appin Village Hall.
Subsequent 2015 dates are: 9 April, 4 June (includes AGM), 10 Sept, 12 Nov.