

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 14 January 2016 at 7.30pm in Port Appin Village Hall

Present: Alison MacCorquodale, David Craig, Paul Zvegintzov, Lorraine Drysdale, Charles Steuart Fotheringham, Elaine Venters, Councillor Elaine Robertson, PC Stuart Johnston and 4 members of the public.

**1. Apologies:** Linda MacLeod, Jane Parkin, Penny Cousins.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting** (10 September 2015) were approved and signed.

### **3. Matters Arising**

3.1 ACC Convenor Alison MacCorquodale expressed a word of thanks and best wishes to former Councillor Duncan MacIntyre who has resigned due to ill health.

#### 3.2 A828 Trunk Road

>a discussion took place about the implications of the 50mph speed limit being planned for the A828.

>A resident raised issue of whether the road sign just before the Creagan Bridge roundabout (driving north) which says Invercreran could be changed to Fasnacloich which is the correct postal address for homes with the PA38 4BJ postcode. Cllr Robertson to follow-up.

Letter to be written to BEAR re:

>Potholes reforming at recently repaired road surface at Creagan Roundabout (coming off bridge, direction north)

>Potholes reforming at recently patched road surface at Gunn's Garage junction.

>Road drain/gulley at bus stop continually flooding – school children and local residents' windows being hit by spray from passing vehicles driving through the standing water.

3.3 School Transport/Public Transport  
Enhanced bus timetable in operation.

#### 3.4 Port Appin and other Council roads

>Subsidence on the road at Taychreggan: The revised scheme confirmed by A&B Council in November 2015 now involves the carriageway being moved over into the hillside by around 1.5-2m and with a new passing place visible from the existing passing places. In the most recent update, A&B has confirmed that they are keen to commence the construction programme which will be once Openreach and Scottish Water undertake works to move their equipment.

> 'North Shian' sign at the road junction beside Airds Hotel in Port Appin has been put back in place onto poles but, due to loose fittings, the sign has dropped down and is obscuring the cycle route signs. Cllr Robertson to follow-up.

>A word of thanks to A&B Roads Dept for the speedy response to repair the Glen road culvert that collapsed during Christmas holidays; also the good job clearing the scrub/saplings from the side of the Glen road.

#### 3.5 Broadband and Mobile Phone

>Bob Cornish provided the meeting with the following update:

Appin: The plans for rural communities are under review as a result of some budget and funding changes. These are to be discussed at a meeting between BT and the Scottish Government - John Swinney on 15 January. The outcome relating to Appin is not expected to be firmed up before the end of March.

In the meantime HIE have intimated that Appin will still have a superfast broadband service from BT, with FTTC cabinets installed at Appin, Achosrigan, and Port Appin as a start. Any further roll-out is still to be decided.

This government/BT delay means no further action can be taken by the community until the wider plan is firmed up and published.

The Community Council may wish to consider seriously lobbying local council and parliamentary representatives. It is now 2 years since the community submitted the detailed broadband survey and report to HIE local MP's, MSP's and BT.

Lismore: The development of the GigaPlus Argyll wireless-based system is well under way. Shortly after contract award, BC and two colleagues met with the First Minister and emphasised the desperate need for robust and satisfactory broadband services in Argyll's more remote communities. When proven, the system may be extended

to cover North Shian (PA38 4BA), and possibly Glen Creran (PA38 4BJ and PA38 4BQ) if BT does not cover these postcodes using fibre based systems.

>With an estimated 45% of local residents not having a mobile phone signal, a question was raised regarding (the lack of) mobile phone signal in the Appin area and whether A&B C were aware of any network improvement plans by the main operators. Cllr Roebertson to make enquiries.

### 3.6 Safer Routes to School

Sustrans is planning another meeting with communities before the final opening of National Cycle Route 78 this spring.

### 3.7 Recycling/Litter

Nothing to report.

### 3.8 Planning Applications

Recent planning applications forwarded by A&BC to Appin Community Council for comment were:  
Erection of dwelling house and shed, north east of North Ardnachlach; Erection of dwelling house, septic tank and vehicular access, land east of Waterside Lodge, Port Appin; Discharge of planning obligations, Ardnachlach; Erection of extension to shore base cabin, Scottish Sea Farms, Shuna cabin; Renewal of planning permission in principle, land south of Blarchasaig Farm.

### 3.9 Invasive Species

Rhododendron Project - No further developments to report. Fundraising for the Glen Creran element of the project is still in progress, being undertaken by contractors for the Forestry Commission. We await further information from FCS about a timescale for starting development work on a similar rhododendron project in Appin.

## 4. Correspondence

By Email: Oban Lorn & Isles Community Planning – agenda and minutes, A&B Strategic Plan, Oban Lorn & Isles Area Committee – agenda and minutes,; A&BC Roads – Taychreggan road upgrade scheme; FCS regulatory etc work, A&B Planning our Future, Merged GP Practices enquiry, A&B CPP Fortnightly Bulletin, Partnership working training, Principle teacher post with Gaelic Oban, Funding Alret, Scottish Civic Trust My Place Award, Answers to Q&A Fairer Scotland, A&B Health And Social Care Partnership Integration, A&B Third Sector Interface, Community Council Development Plan, Broadband News Argyll & Islands. Learn Something New, Third Sector Grant.

By Letter: Appin Community Trust – Donated Port Appin land potential use for car parking; Transport Scotland – A828 Trunk Road speed limit order

## 5. Treasurer's Report

Appin Community Council accounts for 2014/15 which have been independently audited were presented to the meeting and approved.

## 6. Any Other Competent Business

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

No change in the situation – A&B Council and ACC has taken all of the steps within its remit; landowner refuses to cut down tree.

### 6.2 Emergency Response Plan (on-going)

Team Leaders for Port Appin area sought. Contact [convenor@appincommunitycouncil.co.uk](mailto:convenor@appincommunitycouncil.co.uk) if interested.

### 6.3 Community Action Plan

Penny Cousins provided a written update for the meeting. In summary, a second funding application to Awards for All has been rejected. Other potential sources of funding for this type of development work are being explored. Contact is being made with other local communities who have undertaken action plan projects to see what can be learnt from their experience.

In the meantime there may be other possibilities for starting off the process, for example by looking at individual topics such as community health and social care with support from the key stakeholders such as NHS.

Improvements to the project brief have been made reflecting conversations that Penny has had with different

people and advice received. Latest copy of the brief document issued to Members. Penny reiterated that she would be happy to discuss any aspects of the project with people who are interested or have suggestions to offer.

#### 6.4 Police Report

No issues/incidents to report. PC Stuart Johnston reminded the meeting that if any residents have anything they'd like to raise with the police, local officers can be contacted by calling 101.

A discussion took place about a Rural Watch scheme which is in its infancy in the Appin area and is being driven by local community police officers. The aim of the scheme which encompasses farms, rural businesses, domestic and holiday properties within the local area is, in part, to promote continued communication between rural village residents and the Police, helping them share intelligence, heighten awareness of vulnerabilities and work together to prevent crime.

#### 6.5 Appin Area Flower Displays.

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 in time for spring.

#### 6.6 Community Noticeboards

Maintenance work to be scheduled for spring. Volunteers invited to assist by contacting [secretary@appincommunitycouncil.co.uk](mailto:secretary@appincommunitycouncil.co.uk).

#### 6.7 Community Hydro Scheme

Bob Cornish provided the meeting with the following update on the initial feasibility study for Appin Hill Hydro carried out on behalf of the Appin Community Trust.

The feasibility study into the potential community hydro scheme at Appin Hill was completed at the beginning of January. The findings confirm the site is indeed suitable for the construction and operation of a scheme which would generate between 177MWh and 273MWh per year, from a 50KW to 80KW power output generator. However due to removal and reductions in funding support and financial incentives, with effect from 2016, it is unlikely that the community would be able to justify the necessary financial resources for development whilst generating a financial surplus for community benefit.

There is a slight chance that some pressure within the renewable energy arena may improve the incentives specifically for community hydro schemes later in the year. The Community Trust will put the project on hold, maintain a watch, and should the financial landscape again become favourable may proceed to the next step. Thank you to all who participated in the work carried out over the past 12 months. This does come as a disappointment, but highlights the need for communities to be vigilant and smartly engage with opportunities as they become available.

A similar feasibility study carried out by Kirknewton Community Trust into the potential community benefit hydro scheme in Glen Creran appears to come to the same conclusion.

The second scheme in Glen Creran from which some benefit may be offered to the community, is still under investigation. This would be developed by Renewables First of Stroud.

#### 6.8 Improved Car parking at Port Appin pier

A letter regarding the above idea received from Dr Iain McNicol, Appin Community Trust was discussed. Appin Community Council supports the Trust's idea to explore possibilities to develop the land in question with the aim of tidying up the land, improving safety for pedestrians in the approach to the pier and facilitate more parking in the congested part of the village – particularly for day visitors to Port Appin.

#### 6.9 Community Council website 2016 renewal

A discussion took place about the annual renewal of the above website which is primarily used to issue information about Community Council meetings. Members to evaluate the options in more detail.

#### 6.10 Update from Cllr Robertson

Cllr Robertson reminded the meeting that there is a by-election on 18 February to elect a new Councillor for Oban North & Lorn ward.

Cllr Robertson confirmed that A&B Council will clear out the Boathouse so that the lease agreement between A&BC and Appin Skiff community group can be completed.

**7. Public Questions**

There were no public questions.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next Community Council meeting is on Thursday 24 March 2016 at 7.30pm in Appin Village Hall.

Further 2016 meeting dates are: 16 June (incl. AGM), 22 September, 17 November.