

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 22 January 2015 at 7.30pm in Appin Village Hall

Present: Alison MacCorquodale, David Craig, Paul Zvegintzov, Linda MacLeod, Jane Parkin, Lorraine Drysdale, Elaine Venters, Councillor Elaine Robertson, and 28 members of the public.

1. Superfast Broadband for Appin

Local resident Bob Cornish introduced Stuart Robertson, Director of Digital, HIE and Campbell Cameron, Advisor to Community Broadband Scotland (CBS) who made presentations on Superfast Broadband for Appin. Key points are:

The plan for fibre based broadband has been changed in Appin's favour. Major parts of Appin will be in BT's Next Generation Broadband Plan for Argyll & Bute. Solutions are being explored for the parts not included. Fibre will be available in Appin by mid 2016, when installation of the fibre-to-the-cabinet network can then be installed. This is being made available by extending the fibre access cable from Oban further than was originally planned. During 2015, BT/HIE will work up a detailed plan of where the cabinets which provide the service will be located and which properties will be serviced. More background info at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/superfast-broadband

CBS works with communities not covered by BT's Next Generation Broadband Plan by providing a support mechanism to help find alternative solutions. The GigaPlus Argyll programme is an example of a wireless solution which could be rolled out to other communities. This wireless network is already planned to provide coverage on Lismore. Up to 89% of the funding for community projects will be available from CBS, though the communities do need to take responsibility for seeking the remainder. CBS provide support to communities to develop a plan and prepare a business case. More background on CBS at www.communitybroadbandscotland.org.

HIE and CBS will provide an update to an Appin Community Council meeting at the end of 2015.

2. Apologies: Charles Stuart Fotheringham, PC Stuart Johnston, Cllr. Duncan MacIntyre, Cllr. Iain Stewart MacLean, Cllr. Iain MacDonald

3. Minutes of the last meeting (13 Nov 2014) were approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 A828 Trunk Road

>Trunk Roads are yet to finalise plans for speed limits in the sections of the A828 around Appin. Trunk Roads have stated that the current positions of the 40mph signs at Achnacone are perfectly okay where they are and are fully visible; they also do not wish to install flashing signs. ACC to continue to follow-up with Trunk Roads.

>Flooding of road at both churches. Drains cleared by Bear at Kirk and Portnacroish to try to reduce levels of surface water on A828. Solution still being sought re: water flowing on to A828 from hillside beside Appin Village Hall.

>Non-existence of white lines at 'Give Way' at Gunn's Garage where Port Appin road joins A828. It appears that the white lines were not reinstated after road repairs at the junction. Cllr. Robertson to confirm who is responsible – A&B Roads Dept or Bear. Once clarified, ACC to raise the issue with the relevant body.

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: Cllr. Robertson confirmed that the issue is in hand and is likely to be dealt with in the spring. A&B Roads Dept in negotiation with landowner to install gabions.

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

>The road surface in the area around Port Appin Surgery and two residential houses: Cllr. Robertson confirmed that A&B Roads Dept will carry out the work.

>Flooding on road from Appin to Port Appin in area between Appin and the British Telecom building: ditch now cleared.

>It was confirmed that all grit boxes on the roads and housing areas have recently been re-filled and grit heaps have been left at roadside on the back road.

4.4 Port Appin Water

ACC reported that the views of local craft users have been sought re: putting a perch on the headwall. It was concluded that the headwall is modest in size and surrounded by larger natural rock hazards which indicates that a warning perch would not be required. No further action therefore proposed re perch. As an aside, once a forthcoming survey is completed for the Moorings Association, the headwall could be marked if thought in any way relevant.

4.5 Safer Routes to School

Cllr. Robertson confirmed that negotiations are still taking place re. the footpath reinstatement and associated drainage improvement works. Sustrans attended a recent site meeting. The project is still going ahead when the weather improves, funding will not be lost.

4.6 Recycling

>General waste bin for use by day visitors at Elleric car park (Invercreran) has not yet arrived. Cllr. Robertson to follow up.
>Bin collection during adverse weather: It was agreed that the bin lorry teams had a difficult job to do during the recent snowy conditions – most bins were collected a few days later, but access to some tracks/drives was still problematic. The general advice to households is to leave the bin out until uplifted (if wind conditions permit).

5. Correspondence

November 2014: Agenda Oban Lorn and Isles Area Committee, Get involved with text Santa, Supplementary pack to Oban Lorn and Isles Area Committee, Community council engagement meeting, Minutes Oban Lorn and Isles Area Committee, Governance training session

December 2014: Hermitage pack stage 2, Funding alert x 2, Agenda Oban Lorn and Isles Planning Committee, Agenda Oban Lorn and Isles Area Committee, Community empowerment bill, Next generation broadband, Training opportunity, Supplementary pack to Oban Lorn and Isles Planning Committee, Consultation draft integration scheme, Heating fund, Justice of the peace recruitment campaign, Third sector grants, Oban Lorn and Isles stage 3 SOA, Minutes Oban Lorn and Isles Area Committee, Minutes Oban Lorn and Isles Planning Committee, Digital engagement workshop, Broadband and mobile infrastructure

January 2015: Severe weather warning, Planning applications, Funding alert, Grants available charities and community groups, Strengthening local policies, Social media training, Permaculture in North Argyll, Annual Satisfaction survey, Community planning, Community information

>Jubilee Bridge, Historic Bridge Award Competition – an email has been received saying that although the project did not win an award, the community was to be congratulated on its efforts.

>Strengthening Local Policing – letter received on 14 Jan 2015 from Helen Swann, Divisional Commander re. consultation on proposals to restructure policing in W Dunbartonshire, Argyll & Bute, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde. Offer made to attend a Community Council meeting in Jan/Feb to present and discuss their proposals. ACC to respond and invite Police Scotland to the next council meeting in April. (This may be outwith the consultation period).

6. Treasurer's Report

The change to have one bank account instead of two is now complete. Funds standing at around £3000 just now. Application submitted to A&B for community council annual grant.

7. Any Other Competent Business

7.1 Dangerous Tree at Portnacroish (on-going)

Cllr. Robertson confirmed that the only action open to A&B is to issue a further letter from the Legal Dept. to point out that in the event of the tree damaging property and/or causing injury, the landowner will be responsible and will not be covered by insurance as he has been in receipt of previous letters from A&B Legal Dept.

Suggestion made at meeting that ACC writes to landowner to ask if he would be prepared to let a 3rd party fell the tree.

7.2 Emergency Plan (on-going)

The Emergency Plan survey was completed and returned by 28 households giving details of equipment that would be of use to the community in an emergency situation. The next step, in conjunction with the local Fire Brigade team, is to finalise the Plan, using the survey information and identifying the emergency response team and procedures.

7.3 Clach Thoul Path (on-going)

Heavier stone is now required for the path improvement work. ACC to ask the quarry for further assistance. Appeals to be made to local businesses/landowners to contribute to the project.

7.4 Debris/waste at Mink Farm

Cllr. Robertson to request a visit to the site from Environmental Health department re: concerns at the apparent increased level of debris and waste being deposited at the site of the former mink farm.

7.5 Community Hydro Project

Forestry Commission has granted the site to the Kirknewton Trust. Discussions are on-going re Appin Community Trust's potential involvement.

8. Public Questions

8.1 Email Scam

A resident wished to alert the community to an email scam. The email purports to come from British Telecom and asks people to follow links to a website to enter personal/bank account details. Citizens Advice Bureau provides useful advice on email spam/phishing at <http://www.adviceguide.org.uk>

8.2 Appin Coastal Rowing Skiff

The meeting heard that a new community project has begun to build and race a coastal rowing skiff. The Appin Skiffs project is at the very early stages of raising funds to purchase the skiff kit. Volunteers of all ages from the whole community are invited to join in – fundraising events, boat building and eventually rowing on the sea for fun. Contact Tina Scorgie or Rhona Taylor if you'd like to get involved.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next Community Council meeting is on 9 April 2015 at 7.30pm in Appin Village Hall.