

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 5 June 2014 at 7.50pm in Appin Village Hall

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

1. Apologies: PC Stuart Johnston

2. Minutes of the last meeting (24/4/14) were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 A828 Trunk Road

The pothole at the white line of the junction at Gunns Garage onto the A828 has been patched.

Concern was also raised about the water flowing over the A828 outside the Village Hall to the Community Car Park and the need for warning signs at the crossing. In response to the issues being raised, Bear Scotland confirmed that drainage ditches were dug when re-surfacing work was completed but the issue would be included in the next safety inspection. Bear Scotland also confirmed that warning signs at the crossing would be reviewed. The issue of water running from across the road was discussed at the Meeting – it was agreed that the likely source of the water is the bank running off the back of the hall car park which could perhaps be alleviated by some trench work to channel the water coming off the hill into a nearby stream.

Chair to raise with the land owner and the Hall Committee.

Appin House Lay-by – Bear Scotland have reviewed the issues raised and do not think that additional signage is required. Councillor Robertson confirmed that she will go back to the Roads Dept/Trunk Road Liaison Group to re-state that the issue is the narrow entrance to the lay-by and if the length of the island were reduced at both ends, large trucks could enter/leave the lay-by more easily without churning up the island. The issue of volume of litter and the frequency of bin emptying is still not resolved.

3.2 School Transport/Public Transport

Nothing to report

3.3 Port Appin and other Council roads

>On-going flooding of the road in front of Fairfield, near the Surgery in Port Appin – no action. It was noted that action is unlikely to take place until the Scottish Water replacement septic tank work is complete. (Scottish Water contractor Corrie Construction commence work on site 9 June 2014 for up to 15 weeks).

>It was reported that large potholes are emerging at the corner of Shuna View at the Surgery in Port Appin. As this is in the same location as the Scottish Water work that is commencing, it was agreed to review the situation at the next meeting.

>The road surface up Glen Creran (before Invercreran House) is breaking up possibly due to the number of forestry lorries using the road causing the road surface to deteriorate and potholes are emerging. Letter to go to Roads Department (action carried forward from last meeting). Communication to also include the request that the condition of the entire road around Loch Creran is regularly monitored as there is concern about potential subsidence.

>Parking at Creagan Bridge roundabout – further to issue raised at previous meetings, ownership of the land in question needs to be established – Chair to follow up with Cnoc Lodge (action carried forward from last meeting)

>It was reported that there is subsidence on the road above Laich House, Tyneribbie – marked with cones and white paint. Letter to go to Roads Dept.

3.4 Port Appin Water

Scottish Water's contractor, Corrie Construction, is due to start work in Port Appin on the extended outfall w/c 9 June 2014 (approx 9 weeks work). Work will commence on construction of the septic tank once planning permission has been granted. (approx 6 weeks work).

3.5 Broadband

Bob Cornish gave an update on the Broadband Project. There are significant high level meetings taking place over the next 2 months between the Scottish Government & BT and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) & BT. The Appin & Lismore report has been submitted to heads at BT and to Scottish Government (latter via Mike Russell). Bob expects to receive feedback in due course via HIE and Community Broadband Scotland.

Bob has attended meetings of the Argyll & Island project group and is monitoring correspondence. Bob reported that progress is slow as groups apply for funding. Appin households not included in the BT Plan form Phase 3 of this group's work.

3.6 Safer Routes to School

Cllr Robertson reported that work on the Kirkton route is expected to be underway by the end of the summer. Land owner agreement is required, an electricity pole requires moving and checks are being done to see if extra planning permission is needed.

3.7 Recycling

Nothing further to report at present.

4. Correspondence

March 16th – Funding alert update

March 16th – Armed forces day funding

March 17th – Funding alert and info update

March 18th – Argyll voluntary action volunteer of the year 2014

March 19th – Minutes Oban Lorn and Isles community planning

April 3rd – Agenda Oban Lorn and Isles committee

April 4th – Funding alert and questionnaire

April 8th – Scottish Government Streamlining planning

April 13th – The Big Lunch 2014

April 13th – Community resilience project

April 13th – OLI Community planning group

April 13th – Minutes Oban Lorn and Isles Committee

April 16th – Amenity services service provision meeting

April 22nd – A boat of musicians

April 23rd – Funding update newsflash

April 24th – Scottish rural parliament update

April 28th – Achieving impact with community impact

April 28th – Community empowerment

April 29th – Strengthening local democracy

April 29th – Population summit invitation

April 30th – Effective engagement

April 30th – Decentralized parking enforcement

May 13th – Commemorating the Great War

May 19th – TIF Lorn Arc presentation to community council

May 19th – Mediation and negotiation skills

May 19th – Agenda Oban Lorn and Isles Community council

May 19th – Queen's baton relay request for volunteers

May 19th – Funding alert

May 19th – LAFD 2014
May 19th – Achieving impact with community benefit
May 19th – Family Mediation service post
May 19th – Achieving impact with community benefit
May 19th – Job vacancy at MECOPP
May 20th – TIF Lorn Arc presentation to community councils
May 21st – Community resilience project
May 21st - Minutes Oban Lorn and Isles area committee
May 27th – Households in council tax arrears increasing
May 28th – 5th Review of local government electoral arrangements
June 2nd – Funding Alert

5. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer reported that the Community Council account balance is £3000. The Treasurer raised the issue of whether it was worthwhile continuing to have both a Savings Account and a Current Account stating that it would be more practical and efficient to simply have the one (Current) Account. The proposal to close the Savings Account was proposed by Linda MacLeod and seconded by Jane Parkin. Treasurer therefore to take steps to close Savings Account.

6. Any Other Competent Business

6.1 Dangerous Tree at Portnacraish (on-going)

Cllr Robertson reported that A&B Legal Dept have written to Mr Wallace to explain his responsibility to remove the tree and his liability regarding the dangerous tree causing potential damage to nearby properties/injury to persons should the tree fall.

6.2 Emergency Plan (on-going)

An outline plan was submitted to the Community Resilience Project in May.
An emergency kit bag has been allocated to Appin - Cllr Robertson to supply at earliest opportunity. Chair to speak to the Fire Brigade about keeping the kit bag at the fire station. The next stage is to further develop the Emergency Plan with input from the general public. Committee to discuss at next Committee meeting.

6.4 Debris on shore near Creagan Inn (on-going)

The original debris on the shore near Creagan Inn is currently being cleared. Under instructions from the Crown Estate, an extensive area on the Loch Creran shoreline has also been cleared with the debris being collected at the shore near the Inn ready for removal by road.

6.5 Queens Baton in Appin

Final information about the baton relay in Appin is due to be confirmed soon and will be publicised locally. Key info is that on Sunday 13 July, the baton's journey through Argyll & Bute starts in Appin early (around 7am) and will stop briefly at the school. It is hoped that despite the early time slot, local people will come out to cheer on the baton carriers, enjoy a breakfast in the school and take part in the Fun Day activities to follow.

6.6 Jubilee Bridge

In response to a query at the last meeting regarding why some of the wooden upright posts (with metal caps) on the Jubilee Bridge had not been replaced as the wood underneath the metal caps showed signs of rot, Mike Rayworth gave the following report:

The majority of the posts being referred to are green heart and have been in place for 50-60 years. As the posts form part of the piles, it was cost prohibitive to replace the green heart posts in full. The top sections of the posts with rot have therefore been treated and topped with metal caps which will arrest any further deterioration. The wood below the top sections of rotten wood is sound. The contractor will replace a number of missing caps.

Mike also reported that the lightening conductor has now been installed on the bridge, the information boards are in place and a traffic counter is available and will be installed soon. A cycle rack which was part of the project is due to be installed at Port Appin Stores in the near future and plant troughs at the bridge are due to be planted.

6.7 Re-shaping Care for Older People

A presentation and Q&A session for the Scottish Government's new model of care in the community called 'Re-shaping Care for Older People' will take place at the next Appin Community Council meeting in September. The session will be an opportunity for Appin residents to find out more about future plans for care in the community and to ask questions.

7. Public Questions

7.1 Road Surface

It was reported that there is an area of road surface requiring attention outside the houses at Kirkton on the A828. Letter to go to Bear Scotland.

7.2 Speed in excess of 40mph

The issue of vehicle speed through Appin was also raised. Many cars and lorries appear to exceed the 40 mph speed limit which is a cause for concern for pedestrians, especially with children. Cllr Robertson commented that A&B Council are reviewing speed limits in residential areas to make the limit 20mph.

A letter is to go to Transport Scotland asking whether the speed limit in Appin has been reviewed and what are the options for additional speed warning signage and/or the possibility of installing a flashing speed limit sign.

It was also stated at the meeting that other communities have flashing speed limit signs – Taynuilt, Connel, Duror for example. It was thought that some communities paid for the flashing signs themselves. Paul is to ask these other community councils for information on how they tackled the issue.

7.3 Information from Cllr Robertson.

Cllr Robertson reported that parking fees due to come back into force in Oban in May will now be enforced from 16 June 2014 with 'polite warnings' up until then.

Fir tree in Port Appin Car Park (beside the toilet block). Following concerns raised about the size of the tree and the possible damage to other buildings by the roots, the tree has been inspected and quotes are being requested for its removal. Removal is likely to be in the autumn.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is on 11 September 2014 at 7.30pm in Appin Village Hall.