

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 19 April 2015 at 7.30pm in Appin Village Hall

Present: Alison MacCorquodale, David Craig, Paul Zvegintzov, Linda MacLeod, Lorraine Drysdale, Charles Steuart Fotheringham, Elaine Venters, Councillor Elaine Robertson and 7 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Jane Parkin, PC Stuart Johnston, Cllr. Duncan MacIntyre,

2. Minutes of the last meeting (22 January 2015) were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 A828 Trunk Road

>No update from Trunk Roads re: finalising plans for speed limits in the sections of the A828 around Appin. ACC to continue to follow-up with Trunk Roads.

>Water flowing on to A828 from hillside beside Appin Village Hall: Hall Committee has asked a local contractor to assist.

>Non-existence of white lines at 'Give Way' at Gunn's Garage where Port Appin road joins A828. Confirmed to be responsibility of Bear - ACC to follow up and also report potholes emerging near the junction.

3.2 School Transport/Public Transport

Cllr. Robertson reported that discussions are underway about the provision of extra bus services between Oban-Fort William. More info when confirmed.

3.3 Port Appin and other Council roads

>Subsidence on the road above Laich House, Tyneribbie: Work by A&B Roads Dept has commenced.

>Possible car parking at Creagan Bridge roundabout: Penny Cousins reported that enquiries have been made to identify who owns the land in question. It has been confirmed that is not part of the property of adjacent landowner or owned by A&B. Letters written to Bear and Transport Scotland to enquire.

>The road surface in the area around Port Appin Surgery and two residential houses: no update.

>Local resident reported deep potholes in passing place on road to Port Appin – NGR NM 917461 (coming from Appin, passing place on left, on corner before hill, before Ardtur turnoff). Cllr Robertson to report to A&B Roads Dept.

3.4 Port Appin Water

Nothing to report – remove from Agenda at present.

3.5 Broadband

Bob Cornish reported that there's not too much to report since the January meeting. BT's detailed plans for the Appin area are due to be worked on by end of June which would mean the community may see them in Sept/Oct (previously expected a few months later). There is a possibility that smaller cabinets may be deployed for smaller clusters of properties (20 properties instead of the 200 served by larger cabinets). This is a welcomed development more suited to rural locations such as Appin.

3.6 Safer Routes to School

Cllr Robertson reported that work has started on the path.

Community Councillor Paul Zvegintzov and local resident Mr D Colthart (on behalf of the landowner Mr A Colthart) said that there are unresolved issues regarding the land for the path which has been designated a Core Path and the subsequent conditions being placed on planning permission for the development of land adjacent to the path. It was reiterated that whilst Mr A Colthart was very much in favour of the Safer Routes to School project, he is calling for a site meeting with the parties involved to clarify and resolve the outstanding issues. A letter to this effect has been prepared by Mr A Colthart.

The Community Council meeting agreed that a speedy resolution on this matter for all parties is to be encouraged.

Cllr Robertson suggested that the best course of action was for Mr A Colthart to submit his letter requesting a site meeting to A&B Planning Department and to Iain McInnes at Safer Routes to School with a copy to Appin Community Council.

Cllr Robertson agreed to contact Iain McInnes and Core Paths to ask them to negotiate a solution with the landowner.

3.7 Recycling

>Cllr Robertson confirmed that 3 large general waste bins have been replaced at Elleric car park (Invercreran). A communal blue bin (recycling) is also due to be delivered. Stickers were supplied at meeting to be placed on the big bins to encourage people to safely dispose of dog waste bags.

A discussion took place regarding the volume of litter and bin provision at Appin House layby. It was agreed that:

Cllr Robertson to enquire if a large 4 wheel lockable bin can be supplied in addition to the existing bins to be emptied in the normal fortnightly general household collection run.

The new bin would be used for overflow rubbish bags left beside the existing bins when they become full (which in spring/summer is only a couple of days after being emptied). Paul Zvegintzov has offered to be keyholder for the bin and to clear the excess bags.

If the above is not possible, Cllr Robertson to make further enquiries to see whether a large 4 wheel bin can be provided under the weekly commercial bin collection run and confirm what rate would be charged for this.

Commercial bin collection costs could potentially be covered by Appin Community Council and Bob Cornish said Appin Community Trust could also potentially assist.

4. Correspondence

February

Funding Alert, Survey on availability of alcohol, Supplementary pack to Agenda Oban Lorn and Isles Area Committee, Agenda Oban Lorn and Isles Area Committee, Community empowerment, Community council contacts, Argyll and Bute third sector partnership briefing, Consultation Argyll and Bute framework for community benefits, Oban high school, Minutes Oban Lorn and Isles Area Committee, Social media training, Agenda Oban Lorn and Isles Area Committee, Local development plan, digi CC day survey and outcomes, Supplementary pack to Agenda Oban Lorn and Isles Area Committee, digi CC day survey and outcomes, report on environmental services visit to old mink farm site.

March

Funding alert, Village hall event Oban, Minutes Oban Lorn and Isles Area Committee, Agenda Oban Lorn and Isles Community Planning, Grant funding annual survey and AGM, Social media training, Weather warning, Funding from SSE, Local government benchmark framework, Community council plans exercise, Community empowerment bill, Minutes Oban Lorn and Isles Community Planning, Local press John Wheelan, Health and social care integration, Local development plan, Health and social care integration newsletter, Funding alert, copy of letter to landowner re dangerous tree Portnacraoish.

April

Community empowerment, OLI Community planning bill, Agenda Oban Lorn and Isles Area Committee, Invitation to participate training survey, Argyll and Bute council care paths plan, Training needs survey, Funding alert

5. Treasurer's Report

A&B annual grant of £440.50 received. Community Council funds are £3450.

6. Any Other Competent Business

6.1 Dangerous Tree at Portnacraoish (on-going)

Cllr. Robertson confirmed that A&B Legal department has sent a second letter to the landowner to advise him of the risks and dangers associated with the condition of the tree and to ask that it is safely removed as a matter of urgency.

6.2 Emergency Plan (on-going)

A final draft of the Emergency Plan has been produced. A meeting in conjunction with the local Fire Brigade team, is to be arranged to identify names for the emergency response team.

Funding: Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution (SSEPD) have launched a new fund to support community resilience projects. ACC to review the fund conditions and consider applying. Example might be to fund generators and associated electrical works for the two village halls.

Medical First Responders: ACC (Charles SF to action) to find out more about MFR training and contact other communities who have been through the MFR training process. Cllr Robertson to provide Charles with a contact on Luing.

6.3 Clach Thoul Path (on-going)

Thanks to donations made by local businesses/landowners, funds are now available to purchase heavier stone to complete the path improvement work.

6.4 Debris/waste at Mink Farm

Further to concerns at the apparent increased level of debris and waste being deposited at the site of the former mink farm, the site was visited by A&B Environmental Services at the end of January 2015. The Officer reported that the site was not found to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance and commented that A&B Council do not have legislation to deal with sites that are aesthetically displeasing.

6.5 Community Empowerment Opportunity

Local resident, Penny Cousins, talked to the meeting about community empowerment opportunities which are a result of the Scottish Government's Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill. In future communities will be (more) empowered to take responsibility for defining and delivering local services. The starting point is to set up a steering group which would sit under the umbrella of Appin Community Council which is the statutory body. Penny has offered to set up and lead the steering group on behalf of the community to identify key issues affecting the Appin community and define the requirements of an

Appin Community Action Plan. The plan would be all-encompassing including the topics of health, social care, transport, public services & amenities and local tourism.

The ACC meeting agreed that the ideas discussed were good and Penny should proceed to form the steering group.

6.6 Police Report

A written report from PC Johnston was read out: Summary: 11 recorded routine incidents (5 of which road traffic) in period from 1 March to 8 April 15. Speed checks carried out within the Appin area along the A828 will remain a priority for Police Scotland. There has been an increase in minor road crashes between Creagan Bridge and Sutherlands Grove. These have been attributed to poor driving and not road conditions.

Police Scotland urge the public to check the security of outlying buildings and property and report any persons or vehicles acting in a suspicious manner. Security advice can be provided by contacting your local officer via "101"

Police Scotland are currently working alongside trading standards in relation to bogus callers and scam phone calls.

Inspector Julie McLeish has now moved to her new post at Lochgilphead and is replaced by Inspector Mark Stephen.

6.7 SSE Priorities Services Register

Residents are reminded that Scottish and Southern Energy have a Priority Services Register for customers who may need extra support if there is a power cut. You can join the Priority Services Register if you are dependent on electricity for home medical care, have certain medical conditions, are disabled or have special communication needs. To find out more, and to apply to join the Register go to: www.ssepd.co.uk/PriorityServices.

6.8 Appin Area Flower Displays.

There is still money available (from the Jubilee Bridge renovation project) for the upkeep of the local flower displays in Appin/Port Appin. Attempts last summer to brighten the tubs up by replacing flowers were difficult to do as the plants in the existing tubs are root-bound and require heavier maintenance work. ACC to consider possible solutions.

7. Public Questions

7.1 Upkeep of Noticeboards

A concern was raised about a possible deterioration in the condition of the community noticeboards if they do not receive annual maintenance. ACC to review the matter.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next Community Council meeting **and AGM** is on 4 June 2015 at 7.30pm in Appin Village Hall.