

# ARROCHAR, TARBET & ARDLUI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 15 December 2016 Three Villages Hall

### Present:

Ronald Ross	Chairman	Dawn Gourlay	Projects
Ronnie MacDonald	Vice Chair	Cllr Robert McIntyre	Argyll and Bute Council
Mary Haggarty	Secretary	Cllr George Freeman	Argyll and Bute Council
Jean Mustarde	Minute Sec	Robert McLachlan	Dunbritton
Tim Kinvig	School	Callum Smith	Dunbritton
Bill Lowe	Environment	Craig Borland	Helensburgh Advertiser
Ellen Greenwood	Treasurer		

### Item 1 - Apologies

Apologies were received from Ian Kay, Ian Hunter, Iain Wilkinson - Luss Estates, David Robertson - Forestry Commission, David McKenzie – National Park and Gregor Cameron - Dunbritton

### Item 2 – Declaration of Interest

None declared.

### Item 3 - Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were agreed by the Community Council (CC). Proposed by Ronnie McDonald and seconded by Bill Lowe.

### Item 4 – Treasurers Report

The current balance stands at £3,670.66 which includes £800 being held for the DFIB machine for Ardlui which is match funding for other funds being secured. The extra funds are being sought by the CC and an update on this will be forthcoming.

**Action:** CC to check the extra funding for the DFIB machine.

**Item 5 – Police Update** No Police present and no update received

### Item 6 – National Park

**Planning Applications** – the following planning applications were reviewed:

- The addition of a shed to Firkin Steading has been approved;
- Build of a dwelling house at Garabel Farm has been approved; and

- Councillor Freeman had received confirmation from Planning Officers that a flood risk assessment and bat survey were required to be carried out for the Tarbet toilets planning application.

Councillor Freeman informed the CC that the Park Board met on Monday 12 December and elected David Stuart as the new Convenor who will take up the position as from 1 March 2017 when Linda McKay is due to stand down. The CC was also informed that it appeared that the proposed Park budget for next year has survived any significant cut and will match this year's budget despite the capital programme budget being reduced.

The Local Development Plan is now in force and Live Park Plan is progressing.

No Community Partnership issues were raised.

### **Item 7 – Projects**

**War Memorial** – no confirmed estimate has been received from West Coast Cutters but the rough estimate would put it out with the CCs funding limit. The CC has approached Drimsynie Estate for the work in question. A draft lease for the land required has been received and reviewed by the CC for signature. There is now an urgency to begin the project as soon as possible as the grant money awarded from the National Park will be withdrawn if project not commenced soon.

**Pontoon** – feedback from the pre-planning review requires some more paperwork to be put in place for the project. An otter survey is now required and the option to use the survey details contained within the BAR proposal has been ruled not possible.

Way Ahead Park grants were drafted for both the above projects but only the pontoon application was successful to pass to the next stage. The result of this will be known in January 17.

The CC thanked Dawn for her hard work on the projects and the table was asked if someone would take the place of Jim Proctor in relation to the Pontoon project. Bill will continue to help in the interim with Tim joining the project later in the New Year.

### **Item 8 – Regeneration Forum**

Head of Loch Long. The CC noted that Cllr Maurice Corry will raise this issue in the Scottish Parliament.

A&BC in the past have conducted a survey in conjunction with Aberdeen University on the material found on the shoreline and it has been identified as not locally produced, leading to a conclusion this rubbish is dumped far out at sea and works its way to our shore.

The CC has completed some research into possible uses of seaweed in bio fuels. The type in Loch Long is not the type widely used but could still be used in for gas type biofuel. A licence would be required if the seaweed was cultivated and harvested by machine but for our area this would not be required as the seaweed is freely washed up on the tide. More research would be required to progress this subject.

Cllr Freeman stated he was still investigating with a number of authorities, the reason given for CC not qualifying for a grant towards clearing the Head of the Loch.

The CC stated that it found it disappointing that all the agencies and landowners in the area could not pull together to find £8K a year to fund the clean-up. This would cover the cost of the hire of local contractors and landfill costs. This £8K amount would cover the lifting of wind and tide-borne rubbish, plus hire and removal of the skips twice a year. The CC again stated the revenue collected from the two car parks could be reinvested in the cleaning of the area. Cllr Freeman would provide details of the income generated at the Arrochar Car Park. He also reminded the CC that legislation in the Road Traffic Act stipulated that income from car parks must be reinvested in specific Road Traffic / Car Parking issues.

**Action:** Cllr Freeman to confirm income generated at Arrochar Car Park. **Post Meeting**

**Note:** Cllr Freeman has confirmed that the net income from the Arrochar car Park for 2015/16 was £4,893.

The regeneration of the ground between the A83 and A814 has been highlighted as using some of the spoil from the work at Strone Point. Cllr McIntyre will check progress with this. The CC stated they had still not heard anything as a result of the meeting with Cllr Ellen Morton and Cllr MacIntyre who agreed to assess this project under the A&BC Regeneration Scheme despite lots of encouraging words during the meeting giving the CC false hope. The CC was encouraged by Cllr Freeman to email Fergus Murry to ask for answers urgently and copy the email to all Ward councillors.

**Action:** Cllr McIntyre to check progress on the proposal to use spoil from Strone Point road improvements.

CC to email Fergus Murray; cc'd to councillors regarding the A814 regeneration project

**BAR Site** – no change on the status of this site, hopefully the National Park representative will update the CC at the coming Forum on the 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017. In the meantime the fly tipping continues, no clean-up has been conducted, and fires are still prevalent at night-time.

The CC are looking at producing a booklet to send to the CEO's of the agencies, landowners and organisations who have vested interest in sustaining tourism in one of the most important Gateways to Argyll and Bute. When produced it will also be sent to the Scottish Government to encourage support from the top down. This will hopefully show the element of tourism that Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardlui support and advocate how highly important it is to Scotland.

### **Item 9 – Luss Estates**

The CC has been notified by a number of local residents as to the increase in business advertising signs attached to trees in the area. As stated previously if the CC were to write formally to highlight this problem, Luss Estates will take the appropriate action. The CC have to contend with the difficult position in that the signs should be removed but as they are advertising local business, the CC has a duty to support those businesses also. The CC have had no update on the proposal by the National Park to formalise business advertising signs throughout the Park and will write to Gordon Watson, Head of the Park to seek an update on the proposal.

**Action:** CC to write to Gordon Watson re signage in the Park

### **Item 10 – Forestry Commission**

David Robertson sent apologies and the following update. The tender for use of the Old Forestry Office at Ardgartan will be released in the New Year following the collapse of the

previous lease. The CC will propose that consideration is given to the local residents who applied for the lease in the last tender round as they are more likely to proceed with the lease than someone outwith the area and it would also encourage local investment.

### **Item 11 – Argyll and Bute Council**

A number of outstanding issues were discussed:

- **School Holidays** – Councillor Freeman confirmed that the school holidays for 2017/18 and 2018/19 had been agreed at the Community Services Committee on 8 December 2016. Cllr Freeman confirmed that he had opposed the changes that removed flexibility and now forced a one size fits all across all of Argyll & Bute, even although there was opposition from Parent Councils and many parents in the Helensburgh & Lomond Area to the proposed dates. Unfortunately he only received support from councillors from Bute & Cowal in opposing the new dates which will be advertised in due course. Cllr Freeman had made it clear that his view was that the interests of officers and staff were being put before the interests of parents and children.
- **School Bus** – Councillor Freeman confirmed that the new contract has been awarded to Garelochhead Coaches until July 2021 and will provide the same service for those children outwith the 2 mile radius of the school. The CC asked if those children who do not qualify for free school transport would still be able to pay to use this service as the CC were concerned that, as was proven during the 'walk to school' review, sending young children along the A83 with the additional problem of the narrow pavement at the Railway Bridge was not considered to be safe. Cllr Freeman stated that he would seek confirmation on this point. **Post Meeting Note:** Cllr Freeman had received confirmation that those children out with the two mile limit who do not qualify for free school transport will still be able to pay to use this service.
- **Bin Collection** – the new service has been received with varied results. Comments to the Council are still welcome. Additional blue bin requests have also met with varied comments from next day delivery to having to wait for up to 3 months to receive the bin.
- **Lighting Issues** – although some issues with lighting have been resolved the outstanding R1 and R2 lights, which have been faulty for over a year, remain in need of urgent attention. Cllr Freeman confirmed that he requested that Church Road be added to the list of lights requiring attention and would highlight R1 and R2 specifically to officers. He stated that since the budget cuts that were agreed by the Council earlier in the year had been introduced, the standard of repairs to street lighting throughout his ward had become a disaster and private contractors had now been brought in to resolve these issues.
- **Water, McKenzie Avenue** – this issue remains outstanding.

### **Item 12 – Transport Scotland**

The gullies around the area are still in need of attention. Whilst the local Bear Scotland Team have been in the area making repairs, which is encouraging, there are still a number of areas, as previously reported, that require attention.

A local resident has emailed the CC with a list of concerns which need addressing including:

- Lack of traffic calming measures;
- Provision of a flashing 30mph sign for Ballyhennan Crescent;
- Volume of vehicles parking around the school gates;
- Assessment to placement of safety barriers along the A83;
- Risk assessment of the trunk roads within the villages, with larger lorries on the roads, a review should be undertaken to ensure roads are fit for purpose;

There is a growing feeling amongst the residents that it will take 1 or more fatal accidents to prompt any changes. As mentioned above, if the school bus contract ever changes this will impact on the roads in question and put young children at risk.

### **Item 13 – Dunbritton Housing**

Dunbritton have appointed Robert McLachlan as their employer's agent for the project which they are keen to now move forward. It was agreed that Dunbritton would hold a Community Engagement Presentation on 26 January in the Hall between 1500-1900 to encourage local residents to come and view the project and answer questions. Posters, flyers and email notices will be issued to highlight the event. Housing staff will also be on hand to help with queries on how local residents may be eligible to apply to rent the new properties.

The current situation on the project remains the requirement to purchase a piece of land at the Head of the Loch to enable the widening of the A83 to incorporate a turning lane to enter the Succoth road. This is ongoing and has had difficulty contacting the landowner but it is expected to progress to a successful conclusion soon. It is proposed that work on-site will begin in February next year.

Cllr Freeman stated that Dunbritton had the option of a further 10 units on the site and questioned when it was planned to incorporate these units. Dunbritton confirmed that this was an option for the future. The CC reminded the meeting that if this option was undertaken then the whole of the access road has to be widened to a two-way road. Dunbritton stated that this was the case but this option would need private landowner investment as it was not for the public purse to fund access for private gain. Cllr Freeman reminded the meeting that any further units would also require planning permission.

The CC restated that the road has to be completed first before any work on the build project began. It also stated that if the road was closed at any time during the project then work to repair the access bridge on the footpath to the village has to be included as it will not sustain the use that will be needed to allow access to the village. Details of alternate parking arrangements will also need to be incorporated.

### **Item 14 – Development Trust**

No update.

An AGM is planned for 4 February.

## **Item 15 – A O C B**

**Budget Planning Consultation** – the CC will review this A&BC document and respond in due course. The CC will submit Freedom of Information questions regarding how many full time equivalent (FTE) staff are employed within A&BC and National Park and the breakdown of how many are admin officers compared with staff working out on the ground providing services in local areas. Cllr Freeman informed that CC that he had already obtained information from the Council on FTE numbers and had requested further information on earlier years and would share this information with the CC when it became available. Given the number of times the CC alone has approached both agencies on issues affecting our villages with poor to non-existent response times; the CC would like to understand how staffs are apportioned within the agencies.

**Christmas Lights** – The CC would like to express their thanks to Ian Kay and Andy Downs for the display of Christmas lights at various points throughout the villages. Well done.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next Community Council Meeting will take place on Thursday 19 January 2017 at 1900 in the Village Hall.

**Summary of outstanding issues from August 2016 to date**

Date of Meeting	Action Point	Actionee
18 Aug 16	CC to attach minutes of the Arrochar Forum to the CC minutes	CC Complete/ remove
	Cllr Corry to check on the BAR Site Amenity Order and flag the continuing presence of asbestos on the site	A&BC Complete/ remove
	CC to write to Luss Estates to support the removal of the Tabet Toilets	CC Complete/remove
	Street Lights on Church Road – R1 / R2 and the illuminated give way sign at the junction of Church Road / A814 are still not working.	A&BC Amenities
	Water on McKenzie Avenue remains outstanding	A&BC Roads
	Weeds outside of the play park wall in Church Road	A&BC Amenities
	Litter – Both on the pathway between Church Road and Cobbler View, the edges of Church Road and the adjacent field	A&BC Amenities
	Litter along the path adjacent to the A82 from the hotel to the station in Ardlui.	Transport Scotland
	Ditch at Guithus Cottage left in a dangerous state	Transport Scotland
	CC will check if the installation of Broadband in the area is extended to Ardlui	CC Complete/remove
	CC to review reports and information on the introduction of the National Park Byelaw	CC
	CC request A&BC review access to the BAR site	A&BC Roads
	CC to produce newsletter seeking interest to continue the Succoth Fun Day programme	CC Complete/remove
15 Dec 16	CC to check the extra funding for the DFIB machine	CC
	Cllr Freeman to confirm income from Arrochar car park.	Cllr Freeman
	Cllr McIntyre to check progress on the proposal to use spoil from Strone Point road improvements	Cllr MacIntyre
	CC to email Fergus Murry re regeneration of A814 area	Cllr Freeman Complete/remove
	CC to write to Gordon Watson re signage in the Park	CC