

ARROCHAR, TARBET & ARDLUI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Ronald Ross – Chairman	01301 702286	Ian Kay - Planning	01301 702543
Ronnie MacDonald - Vice Chair	01301 702441	Tim Kinvig - School	01301 702232
Mary Haggarty - Secretary	01301 702553	Bill Lowe – Environment	01301 702481
Ellen Greenwood - Treasurer	01301 702818	Iain Hunter – A82 / Ardlui	07712 677002
Jean Mustarde - Minute Sec	01301 702445	Dawn Gourlay – Projects	07901 753610

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 19 January 2017 Three Villages Hall

Present:

Ronald Ross	Chairman	Iain Hunter	Ardlui
Mary Haggarty	Secretary	Cllr Robert McIntyre	Argyll and Bute Council
Jean Mustarde	Minute Sec	Cllr George Freeman	Argyll and Bute Council
Tim Kinvig	School	Simon Jones	National Park
Bill Lowe	Environment	Inspector Coleen Wylie	Police Scotland
Ian Kay	Planning	Iain Wilkinson	Luss Estates
Dawn Gourlay	Projects	Stephen Gillen	Forestry Commission

Item 1 - Apologies

Apologies were received from Ellen Greenwood, Ronnie McDonald, David Robertson - Forestry Commission and David McKenzie – National Park and Cllr Maurice Corry – Argyll and Bute Council

Item 2 – Declaration of Interest

None declared.

Item 3 - Minutes of Last Meeting

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

Item 4 – Treasurers Report

The current balance stands at £3,670.66 which includes the grant from the National Park, £200 from the Friends of Loch Lomond and £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.

Item 5 – Police Update

Inspector Wylie gave the police update. Since December 2016 there have been 4 crimes reported:

- 22 Dec 16 - a male charged in connection with a Road Traffic Accident;
- 27 Dec 16 – male charged for careless driving at Ballyhennan Crescent;
- 6 Jan 17 – male charged with drink driving offence; and
- 7 Jan 17 – male charged with careless driving.

It was good to note that no violence or disorder crimes had been reported during this period.

Recognising the increase in complaints regarding speeding within the area, the aim is to increase the visibility of traffic operations which will include trying to educate speeding drivers on the consequences of their actions. If any residents have concerns on this or any police matter then they are encouraged to report it to Helensburgh Police Station or via 101. The CC did comment that it was not only speeding that caused a problem but drivers on unlit roads, unfamiliar with those roads would travel at 20mph but speed through areas where street lights existed.

A new Youth Engagement Officer has been appointed for the area, PC Craig Stamp, who will be based at Hermitage Academy and will work with all youth agencies to help guide and educate any children in the area who seem to be taking the wrong path. PC Stamp has already begun this work with an initiative, in conjunction with Ministry of Defence Police colleagues, to give a series of talks to P6/7 children on internet safety. PC Stamp is now looking to supplement this with an evening talk for parents who may not be aware of some internet safety issues or need help with setting safe levels for their children.

Local and wider media has been reporting on the Ministry of Defence Police extending patrols around the Peninsula. This reporting is misleading and untrue. The Ministry of Defence Police regularly patrol the Peninsula and areas around Faslane. This will not change nor widen to areas further afield. It will also not lessen the presence residents receive from Police Scotland. This statement was fully supported by the Ministry of Defence Police Superintendent in Faslane who has spoken to his counterpart in Police Scotland to reinforce this media reporting was wrong and misleading. Security of HMNB Clyde is the first priority of the Ministry of Defence police and remains so. Joint initiatives, such as the internet safety talks above, will continue just as they have in the past. Cllr Freeman confirmed that this story stemmed from a mis-quote at another Community Council that was picked up by local and national media to make a story that was false. Cllr Freeman provided the CC with a copy of a statement from Police Scotland's Area Commander confirming that no changes were planned and it was important to remember that the Chief Constable of Police Scotland has primacy for all aspects of policing within Scotland. From his discussions with communities, the extra pair of eyes the Ministry of Defence Police gave to the area around the Base was very welcome.

Item 6 – Luss Estates

Iain Wilkinson gave the following update:

Tarbet Toilets. This remains ongoing. Surveys required by the National Park are in hand to complete. It is doubtful how much interest will be shown in the site once it is on sale but updates will be forwarded as things progress.

Belmont Plot. This site next to the Chapel is now on the market.

Vegetation on A814. The vegetation along this route will be cut back on Luss Estate land. It is hoped this will encourage neighbouring landowners to do the same.

War Memorial. The lease has been signed and covers the planned extension area. The lease will last for 15 years.

Deer Management. Luss have received a grant from the Scottish Government to improve woodland and improve deer management. The Estate will double the cull of deer over the next 2 years from 200 per year to 400 per year. It is stressed it may take time to see a difference in the herds but it will be noticeable in 2 years' time.

Church Road Pavement. It was suggested that the pavement running up the left hand side of Church Road which over the years has been non existing could be improved utilising the services of the Community Payback Scheme, but warned that care would need to be given to avoid disturbing the Knotweed contained there. The CC will approach the Community Payback Scheme for their assistance.

Action: CC to approach Community Payback Scheme for help with pavement on Church Road.

Luss Housing Plan. Following the Housing Plan review, there are no plans to develop any Luss Estate's land in Arrochar for housing, other than the one Belmont Plot above.

Co-op. The CC asked if Luss Estates would be willing for an area of their ground to be considered for a new build Co-op. Iain confirmed the Estate would be willing to discuss any proposals should the Co-op look at Arrochar as a potential area to build.

Tourist Information Office. Luss confirmed it does not own the Office or the land it occupies. The building is owned by Visit Scotland and will be demolished once the utilities have been disconnected.

Item 7 – National Park

Simon Jones from the Park gave an overview of the Your Park Plan and the latest developments.

The Camping Development Strategy details the new camping zones, byelaws etc. This document is on the Park website and local residents are encouraged to read how this affects the local area. If there are local concerns or interest, the Park is planning to hold some local 'roadshows' for Stakeholder on the new byelaws before the 'go live' date (1st March 2017). A Stakeholder Forum has also been set up. The Camping Development Strategy covers the provision for camping, use of caravans and motorhomes, need for permits to camp and how this will all be managed. There are 4 new management zones across the National Park, including West Loch Lomond, an area from Luss, north to the top of Loch Lomond and west to Coileissan. This zone includes over 200 pitches on existing privately run camping and caravanning sites, and will also have a new provision for 39 tents and 9 motorhomes. These zones will be permanent areas which will encourage campers to act responsibly and restrict wild camping to permitted areas from March to September. The document will govern the construction of formal camping areas with facilities, signage and usage rules. These signs will appear on sites in the next few weeks. There will be 3 types

of signs. Firstly, signs will be used on entering the camping management zone which will be large and used on roads operated by Transport Scotland. Secondly, signs will be used on boundaries of the zones to identify the areas, provide information and outline the camping byelaws. Lastly, signs within the camping sites will again detail the boundaries of the area.

The CC questioned if there will be opportunities to add local business details to the signs to outline local services and shops. This hasn't been considered yet but certainly it was an area that could be discussed.

The booking system to use the sites will be online only. It's appreciated that there are many areas within the Park where connectivity is not the greatest and improvement needed. This will be developed to enable those that need to book whilst on the move. Camping and fishing permits will join up on this booking system and both will be required in some zones.

Charges will be £3 per tent permit; £7 per adult per tent on a serviced site which has toilet/shower facilities. Children will be free. Organised groups and Duke of Edinburgh schemes will be exempt from having to pay. The CC questioned how non-paying visitors will be handled and recommended the Rangers do shifts to ensure anyone arriving late has the relevant permit in place. The Rangers core time will be 0800-2000 for patrolling the zones.

The Park are working with Police Scotland and the Park Rangers to determine enforcement procedures within in the zones. This will work alongside Op IRONWORKS. 50-60 paid Rangers will patrol during the first year, 20 permanent will be permanent with additional high season staff a mix of paid and volunteer staff. Rangers will be trained and heavily involved in promoting understanding of the new byelaws and where necessary enforcing the new byelaws. It is acknowledged that this process will not go completely smoothly but it will be reviewed as the tourist season develops with a review by the Scottish Government after 3 years. Wild camping is still permitted out with the zones

Motorhomes will be encouraged to use zoned laybys. The introduction of the byelaws will also help when dealing with those motorhomes that take up permanent residency of a layby over summer months. The zones will allow 3 nights only before they have to move on and also look to encourage businesses to allow their car parks to be used overnight. These could be incorporated into the zones and allows businesses to make some profit from an under used resource overnight. The Park are keen to discuss with anyone who may wish to consider providing new camping or motorhome sites.

Landowners who are not involved in offering campsites but have land covered by the zones and do not wish to have permitted camping is currently a contentious issue in one or two areas but the Park are willing to discuss to find a solution for both sides.

The CC questioned if there would be any additional resources committed to litter collection in the new zones as too often the cheap tents and sleeping bags now on offer from varied locations are left behind at the end of stay for others to clear up the area. It was confirmed that the Rangers patrolling the Park owned areas will be responsible for litter collection and it is hoped that the more the zones are enforced and Rangers available to advise on the use of the zones, the education of taking litter home will be reinforced. The Rangers will also have new enforcement powers to issue fixed penalty notices to anyone found littering the zones. The CC stated that often the litter is bagged for collection but just left at the

roadside or other location again for 'someone else' to deal with. If enforcement fines are going to be issued, these should be for a larger sum – eg £400 – to make it a deterrent and it has to be enforced rigidly. This should be enforced by signs in all zones and laybys along the A82/A83.

Planning Applications – the following planning application was reviewed:

- Installation of a cabin in the grounds of Goldberry Cottage at Ardgartan has been approved.

No Community Partnership issues were raised.

Item 8 – Projects

War Memorial. Cllr Corry has informed the CC that 71st Engineering Regiment has been approached to help with the work on the war memorial and he will respond more fully once more was known.

Pontoon. Pre-planning advice received highlighted the need for an otter survey and not one that had been used in previous planning applications for the area, and additional plans would need to be drawn. Iain Wilkinson of Luss Estates offered to help provide a contact for the otter survey who might provide a cheaper survey than the one Dawn Gourley has obtained a quote for. A quote has also been obtained for the additional drawings from the architect involved in the Lochgoilhead pontoon. It was proposed that the otter survey and plans could potentially be funded by the 'Moving Forward' grant if we were successful in our application. An Expression of interest.

Item 9 – Regeneration Forum

The CC referred to the publication of the recent Forum minutes which cover the regeneration issues highlighted by the CC. It was noted that large gates have now been placed at the entrance to the old Torpedo Range to deter access.

Turning to the Regeneration Fund outlined in a previous meeting with Cllr Ellen Morton the CC debated the terms of the Fund and that Lorna Price of A&BC has stated in an e-mail that she is unaware of such a Fund. The CC needs clarity on this funding as they have been asked to prepare a list of projects to be considered for the fund by their Cllrs. One project outlined was the refurbishment of a piece of council land at the junction of the A83 and A814. If the said fund is not in existence the piece of ground still requires to be tidied up before the new tourist season starts. This clearing was promised 2 years ago by A&BC but has never been realised. It was recommended by Cllr MacIntyre that the CC request a face to face meeting with Fergus Murray of A&BC to understand the rules of a Rural Regeneration initiative which appears to only fund feasibility studies for projects. It was debated whether this was the Rural Regeneration initiative or the Economic Development budget that was being talked about. Cllr McIntyre agreed to check the process and report back to the CC at the beginning of the week. Cllr Freeman reminded the CC that he had been informed last year by the Council's senior Finance Officer that there was no money in the proposed fund. He also reminded the CC that the proposal the Council had approved only applied to Garelochhead and the Rosneath Peninsula. He had refused to support this proposal as it did not include all the communities within his ward. He agreed to provide the CC with details relating to this decision.

Action: Cllr McIntyre to check on Economic Development budget procedure.

A brochure to highlight the issues our three villages are facing has been produced by Dawn and CC members were given a draft copy and asked to review/comment by Monday 23 January so it can be finalised and sent to all involved agencies, MPs, MSPs and interested parties.

Item 10 – Forestry Commission

Steve Gillen, Education Officer, gave David Robertson's apologies and an update for the Commission.

Visitor Centre. While it was acknowledged that utilising local resident initiatives would be ideal, government procurement processes does not allow this. The lease has to be open and fair to all. The site will be re-advertised in February as a café. It should be recognised that the lease is not always based on the highest bid; many factors are taken into account. Equally it is hoped that any leaseholder would look to employ from the local community.

Burger Van Lease at Rest. This lease will run out in January and be re-advertised. The CC stated how pleased they were that the current leaseholder keeps the area clear of litter and maintains his pitch.

Larch Disease. This has been found in trees in the Cowal area only so far but as it is an airborne disease it has the ability to travel over distance in a short time. Leaflets are available on what to look out for in mature trees. The needles will be orange in colour rather than green. Anyone spotting anything unusual are urged to contact the Forestry Commission on 0300 067 6600.

Item 10 – Argyll and Bute Council

Dog Fouling Banner. The CC are disappointed that this sign has been forcibly removed from the railings opposite the Hall. It was proving its worth as there had been a marked drop in dog fouling. The CC would look to replacing the sign to continue effort.

30mph Sign. It has been requested that 30mph or SLOW signs be painted on the road outside Admiralty Cottages to help reduce the speed of traffic using this road.

Succoth Footbridge. Dunbritton will be approached to repair the bridge as part of their work with the new houses as this will be the only access route into Succoth when the road is shut to be widened. This has been a long running issue with both National Park who use it as a core path and A&BC who had some input into installing the first bridge; subsequent bridge was installed by the army. The National Park is also looking into this issue as it is one of their core paths.

Bemmerside / Still Brae Footbridge. This is also in need of repair but again the bridge was installed by the Army in conjunction with the National Park. The bridge is on SSE / Luss Estates ground but neither had and input into the erecting of the bridge. More information being sought.

TV Reception. Varied excuses have been used for the poor reception within the villages from atmospheric, trees obstructing signal and electricity supplies. It is believed that areas of Succoth also have a deficit of terrestrial signal. The aerial installed on the hillside

opposite Arrochar does not support Freeview. A local survey will be completed amongst those affected and the results sent to the supplier under a covering letter from the Community Council.

Broadband. Connected with the above which could help improve TV connection, fibre optic broadband is now available but it has not been advertised. Users are encouraged to contact their providers to check.

Licensing. Both the Loch Long Hotel and Braeside Stores have applied to change their licensing hours and operations. These were reviewed, but the CC had no objections.

Item 12 – Transport Scotland

The CC will compile a letter detailing the problems on the A82/A83 from the top of the Rest to Ardlui and down to Inverbeg, which will be sent to Transport Scotland. There are numerous stretches of the trunk roads within our area of responsibility needing attention, especially areas affected by flooding.

The list of issues raised by a local resident at the last CC meeting has received a response from Transport Scotland, which the CC will pass to the resident to review.

BL reported that a local resident had questioned the feasibility of installing bus shelters by Braeside Store. This has been already looked into but it will be added to the above letter for further consideration.

Item 13 – Dunbritton

No update but a reminder that the open meeting in the Hall on Thursday 26 January between 1500-1900.

Item 14 – Development Trust

No minutes available. The Trust gave the following update:

The Trust are working at updating development plans along with those of the Hall and Café. The Directors will be participating in training provided by the Community Partnership in February, covering various aspect of Trust business.

There has been some extraordinary effort put into setting up and running the Post Office, especially over the Christmas period. It wasn't without challenges but with new staff hired for the Post Office the Trust hopes the local service will be successful and continue to be a much valued asset to our community.

The Trust AGM is planned for the 4 February in the 3 villages Hall.

Item 15 – Any Other Council Business

240V Sockets. The CC asked A&BC how this could be done to allow the Christmas lights to be plugged in to lamp post supplies next Christmas. The question will be taken back to A&BC to answer. Connected (no pun intended) to this was how to access the £300K fund

A&BC have for Christmas Lights recently agreed by the Area Committee. Cllr Freeman agreed to seek an answer.

Action Cllr Freeman to seek answer on accessing Christmas Lights Fund

Rubbish Bins. The service is still erratic with pick up times not as scheduled and lack of delivery of extra bins although in some areas of our villages the pickups seem to be working okay.

The Parent Council raised two issues for urgent attention. Firstly the path between the Tarbet Car Park and School Gates needs cleaning as the fallen leaves are now mulching into a slippery surface. Clarification on wither this problem lies with the National Park or Transport Scotland will be looked into.

Also clarification on the parking charges at the Tarbet Car Park are sought to ensure that school staff and visitors to the school are exempt from the charges.

The CC has seen an increase in questions and complaints about the service providers to the villages. These are routinely addressed between meetings and at the monthly meetings. Residents are encouraged to speak to their local CC representative who may be able to give a quicker response. CC area representatives are:

Ronald Ross – Chairman	Tarbet	Ian Kay - Planning	Tarbet
Ronnie MacDonald - Vice Chair	Tighness	Tim Kinvig - School	Tarbet
Mary Haggarty - Secretary	Arrochar village	Bill Lowe – Environment	Tighness
Ellen Greenwood - Treasurer	Arrochar village	Iain Hunter – A82 / Ardlui	Ardlui
Jean Mustarde - Minute Sec	Succoth	Dawn Gourlay – Projects	Tighness

Contact numbers are listed at the top of the minutes.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Community Council Meeting will take place on Thursday 16 February 2017 at 1900 in the Village Hall.

Summary of outstanding issues from August 2016 to date

Date of Meeting	Action Point	Actionee
	Water on McKenzie Avenue remains outstanding	A&BC
	Weeds outside of the play park wall in Church Road	A&BC
	Litter – Both on the pathway between Church Road and Cobbler View, the edges of Church Road and the adjacent field	A&BC
	Litter along the path from the hotel to the station in Ardlui	A&BC
	CC will check if the installation of Broadband in the area is extended to Ardlui	CC
15 Dec 16	CC to check the extra funding for the DFIB machine	CC
	Cllr Freeman to seek approval to use car park revenue for the clean-up	A&BC
	Cllr McIntyre to check progress on the proposal to use spoil from Strone Point road improvements	
	CC to email Fergus Murry re regeneration of A814 area	A&BC
19 Jan 17	CC to approach Payback Scheme for help with pavement on Church Road	CC
	Cllr McIntyre to check on Economic Development budget procedure	A&BC
	Cllr Freeman to seek answer on accessing Christmas Lights Fund	A&BC