

ARROCHAR, TARBET & ARDLUI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Ronald Ross – Chairman	01301 702286	Tim Kinvig - School	01301 702232
Ronnie MacDonald - Vice Chair	01301 702441	Bill Lowe – Environment	01301 702481
Mary Haggarty - Secretary	01301 702553	Iain Hunter – A82 / Ardlui	07712 677002
Ellen Greenwood - Treasurer	01301 702818	Vacant	
Jean Mustarde - Minute Sec	01301 702445	Dawn Gourlay – Co-opt Projects	07901 753610
Ian Kay - Planning	01301 702543	Jim Proctor – Co-opt Projects	01301 702650

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 21 April 2016 Three Villages Hall

Present

Ronald Ross	Convener	Cllr Robert MacIntyre	A&BC
Ronnie MacDonald	Vice Convener	Cllr George Freeman	A&BC
Mary Haggarty	Secretary	Cllr Maurice Corry	A&BC
Jean Mustarde	Minute Secretary	David McKenzie	National Park
Ellen Greenwood	Treasurer	David Robertson	Forestry Commission
Ian Kay	Planning	Watson Robinson	Garelochhead CC
Tim Kinvig	School	Margaret Strachan	Garelochhead CC
Iain Hunter	A82 / Ardlui	Colin Smith	Garelochhead CC
Dawn Gourlay	Co-opted / Projects	Adam Rodger	Garelochhead CC
Jim Proctor	Co-opted / Projects		

Item 1 - Apologies

Apologies were received from Bill Lowe and Ian Wilkinson (Luss Estates)

Item 2 – Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Item 3 - Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were agreed by the Community Council (CC). Proposed by Ronnie MacDonald and seconded by Ellen Greenwood.

Item 4 – Treasurers Report

There were no changes to the balance of the CC account but no bank statement had been received so far this month.

Item 5 – Police Update

No report received.

Item 6 – National Park

The CC reviewed the following planning applications:

- Removal of condition 8 from Stronafyne has been approved;
- Extension of the roof to the Ardlui Hotel has been approved; and
- Alterations to the roof of Succoth Cottage have been approved.

David McKenzie updated the meeting on a number of issues from the National Park:

- **Your Park / Live Park** – no update at present;
- **Sewage in Loch Long** – Shore communities along Loch Long have no sewage treatment facilities with many releasing raw sewage into the Loch. In next few months Scottish Water will be installing industrial septic tanks to some communities along the Holy Loch but none on Loch Long. A number of communities have requested a public meeting with Scottish Water, planned for July, to seek explanations on this decision. Involvement from the CC would be welcome to speak about the effects of this decision on Arrochar. Cllr Freeman highlighted that Scottish Water had upgraded the sewage system at Cove and Kilcreggan about 8 years ago but had not extended the system to include Peaton / Ardpeaton areas further up Loch Long even after considerable lobbying by councillors and the local Community Council. This appears to be down to cost of extending the system to include only a small numbers of properties. SEPA state that those not connected to a mains sewage system must have septic tanks which are approved by SEPA. It is unknown as to why Scottish Water has taken this decision now. ATACC are interested in this action because of the amount of sanitary items that have been recorded being among the debris that ends up at the Head of Loch Long.
- **Standards Commission** – the Standards Commission for Scotland held a hearing on a complaint against an ex-National Park Board Member on his failure to make a declaration of interest on a planning issue he was involved with. The Committee found him guilty and had he not already resigned from the National Park would have barred the individual for up to a year from any meetings at the National Park.

The CC was due to meet the Chief Executive of the National Park, Gordon Watson, but this meeting was rearranged for 29 April. The emphasis for this meeting will be the work required to improve the brown field sites around the villages and the Ben Arthur Resort development. Both Cllr Freeman and David McKenzie, currently Park Board Members, expressed an interest in attending the meeting. Cllr McIntyre suggested the CC request a copy of the SEPA report on the BAR site regarding the asbestos which remains on site. The CC reminded Cllr Freeman that at a meeting in April 15 with Stuart Mearns of the National Park, he had agreed to support a proposal to carry out a feasibility study on the Head of Loch Long.

The War Memorial project application had produced some questions from the National Park which it was agreed will be replied to ASAP. The questions on such a small scale application seem heavy-handed by the Park.

The conditions around Tarbet Burn close to the Tarbet Hotel remains under investigation but local knowledge is being ignored.

The temporary repair completed on the pier at Tarbet but repair to the steps in the wall near the older pier has not been completed due to the continual high water at the moment.

Item 7 – Projects

War Memorial – in addition to the note on this project above, Landmarc have agreed to review the project for possible involvement and the CC will contact David Hastings at Landmarc with the likely involvement being contained to the engineering expertise for the extension which will progress the drawing required by the National Park. The Park Planners have stated they wish to put the extension plan before the full Planning Committee. This seems unusual for a small project such as this. It was also confirmed that no funding for the project would be available from the War Memorial Trust. The Forestry Commission access road was making good progress and the same contractor had been retained to progress this work. David stated the offer for utilising the spoil from the construction to be used as infill at the War Memorial still remains and help is available if required to progress the planning application questions and offered a joint site visit to assess quality of the spoil available.

Pontoon – A site meeting with Max Curruthers has been confirmed. An application to LEADR has been submitted. The CC received a letter from a concerned resident who has suggested utilising the existing derelict pier instead. After discussion the CC will now respond to the letter explaining that because of ownership this is not as straight forward as it may be assumed.

Item 8 – Luss Estates

No update received. The CC expressed concern that the work to remove the old toilets appears to have stalled and needs to be reinvigorated urgently. Cllr Freeman agreed to chase an update.

Item 9 – Forestry Commission

David Robertson outlined the work on the new access road. More fencing has been installed on site due to walkers ignoring the warning signs that the site was dangerous with ongoing heavy equipment on site. David requested that it be highlighted within the community that the area is not accessible for walkers and they are endangering both themselves and the workers on site.

The letter received by the CC querying the length of time it was taking to bring to fruition the work at the Ardgartan Visitor Centre. The Forestry Commission has responded to this and no further action is required now the situation has been explained.

The lease at Ardgartan remains ongoing.

The Forestry Commission will investigate the complaint about the dog poo bags being hung on the bushes by people using the Cobbler footpath. It is encouraged that this practice is stopped and dog walkers take their rubbish home with them.

The Forestry Commission has been approached to allow the installation of a memorial bench on a local path. David explained that the Commission has decided country-wide that no more memorial benches will be installed on its land as the issue of future upkeep of the benches has become a major issue.

Item 10 – Argyll and Bute Council

A number of outstanding issues were discussed:

- White lining of Church Road remains outstanding;
- Again the ownership of the patch of uncut grass at the bottom of MacKenzie Avenue has come into question. A&BC and ACHA have both denied ownership of this land and refuse to cut the grass. In order to resolve this issue the CC approached Luss Estates. Their lawyer looked in to issue and found reference to a school in a deed dated 1936 and a note on the plan of 1963 deed stating the land belonged to Dumbarton County Council Education Authority. With this background information it would appear that the land belongs to A&BC. The CC can only assume that a mistake was made during the transfer of the housing stock from A&BC to ACHA.
- The water running down McKenzie Avenue remains outstanding;
- The drain repaired on Church Road outside Silverdale was welcomed but the tarmac was torn out of the repair almost immediately, leaving the repair outstanding;
- Street lights R1 and R2 close to the Church remain outstanding. There is a project to replace Council street lights but more information is required at present to form a decision on the project;

All the above listed items have been on-going for an unacceptable length of time. Cllr Macintyre has spoken with Council officers responsible for these tasks and will do again.

Action Cllr MacIntyre.

- The CC spoke to Craig Hart regarding the fence around the new culvert in Succoth who agreed that the rough carpet type surface at the bottom of the culvert could be easily dislodged and block the drain. It was also asked why the culvert was so big? CH confirmed this was due to the impending houses on the site. CH has stated that the drain will be continued to be monitored by the Council in periods of excess rain. With the news that Dumbrilton will be on site August / September this problem may be eliminated.
- The CC expressed concern at the withdrawal of bin collection services to the houses at Tighloan. This has left a number of residents, including elderly and less able, without any collection as they are not able to take their bins to the end of the road. They are reliant on helpful neighbours, some of which pull the bins almost half a mile to have them emptied. The reason given for the withdrawal is due to the impact on springs and axles of the collection vehicles, yet there are more pot holes on the main road than on the Tighloan road. This withdrawal is also at odds with the fact that the of collection as recycling bin collection continues, delivery of fuel and royal mail

vehicles still utilise the road without incident. This matter needs an urgent response, particularly for those vulnerable residents in the area who face no refuse collection despite paying their council tax for the service. The CC has requested a copy of the report / risk assessment covering this decision from A&BC.

- Cllr Freeman stated that a new Chief Executive of the Council has been appointed – Mr Cleland Sneddon – who will take up post on 8 May.
- Head of the Loch Car Parks are in a terrible state with tide and wind borne debris and many visitors are horrified by the rubbish that lies along the shore line, taking to writing and speaking to locals to express their disgust. The CC was approached by local papers for quotes on the subject. The present problems at the Head of the Loch will not encourage any tourism to the village and the CC are now trying to bring together all the agencies who have a stake in this issue and not just A&BC who are left year after year trying to find money from an ever decreasing budget to address the problem. The CC has received information regarding the installation of a boom offshore to protect the shore line from the constant invasion of rubbish. This idea has been debated before, but we have to assume that cost has been the factor not only the installation but the on-going running and maintenance of the boom; also land fill costs are now extortionate.
- Cllr Freeman talked of the Clipperton Project that is currently working in Bowling Harbour and will be looking at projects along the Clyde Sea Lochs to work on the re-identification of plastic in the water and try to solve the problem of rubbish washing up on every tide in the lochs. A&BC Coast and Countryside Trust is another good source and an effort to bring all parties together to work towards an answer is encouraged.
- The CC has received an email from the, Amenity Services Technical officer at A&BC in response to an enquiry on maintenance of the Head of the Loch. It was stated *“We do not clear this area until we are confident the winter storms have passed over as we simply do not have the resources to continually attend to this on a more regular basis. We will not be removing the accumulated debris from the foreshore as there is no budget in place for this works. As with previous years we are about to employ a seasonal Beach cleaner in the Helensburgh and Lomond area and their schedule of work will include Arrochar. I understand that there are plans for a litter pick event at the head of the loch hosted by the National Park in May. If any other local organisation wishes to organise their own event we can supply them with black bags and an uplift of the bagged litter. You also mentioned the sweeper you witnessed in Helensburgh; this is funded by the Helensburgh CHORD project and as such may only be deployed within the project area.”*
- The CC will request from A&BC the schedule for the beach cleaning service to ensure Arrochar is included. The CC are speaking with contractors who will bring machinery in to clear the shoreline at the Head of the Loch, this is likely to take place mid-May.
- The CC queried why a road sweeper was being used to sweep the car parks at the weekend as surely the seaweed will just block the machine. It would be better utilised sweeping the curbs of the village.

- The A&BC Regeneration Fund that has been talked about appears will not be available for Arrochar as the Council minute's state that the decision only relates to Garelochhead and the Rosneath Peninsula. Clarification on this is required. Suggestions for proposed projects are requested for inclusion in the initiative which is due to start in the next 3 months. The CC agreed once clarification is received and amount of funding available to each community then suggested projects can be forwarded.
- Leases for the head of the Loch car parks expire in October 2020 and A&BC are due to start the process to draft new leases for the car parks. A check will be made on the planned access across the Succoth car park for the BAR project. Cllr Freeman had not obtained copies of the leases for the two car parks and would provide copies to the CC when he had received approval to do so from the Council's legal officers.
- Road signs discouraging HGVs and large vehicles from using the A814 between Arrochar and Whistlefield remain outstanding and Cllr Freeman has again raised this problem with senior Council officers.

Item 11 – Transport Scotland

The CC received the following update email:

"A83 - Following Bear Staff visiting Arrochar on 8 April:

1. They have arranged for all gullies between Tarbet and Arrochar to be cleared by the end of April. As well as clearing gullies the operatives will note the locations of any gully lids that they are unable to open. These will be raised as defects and replaced in due course. This will make it easier to have any future problems rectified.
2. There does appear to be a blockage in one of the larger carrier pipes under the carriageway that several of the gullies discharge into. Bear have arranged to have CCTV survey to be undertaken to locate the cause of the blockage. Depending on the findings of the CCTV survey the blockage shall then be removed and/or the pipe replaced.

A82 – Works have taken place between Tarbet and Inveranan including:

- Removal of loose stones from channels and from top of stone walls;
- Clearing of existing drainage system;
- Improve existing drainage system including increasing the diameter of existing crossings;
- Barrier cleaning to remove moss;
- Sweeping of channels;
- Replacement of existing road signs with provision supplemented where required; and
- Landscaping, including tree felling, scrub and branch cutting.

Item 12 – Dunbritton Housing

The CC received the following update email:

“The funding has now been agreed with the Scottish Government and Dunbritton, and contracts exchanged so the Succoth development can now go ahead. We now need to arrange to meet the contractors and agree timescales etc and I will be in touch once I have more concrete details. The Association will continue to meet regularly or provide updates as and when they are available and I look forward to providing more details once the Contractor meeting has taken place”.

Update as at today’s date – it is hoped that contractors will be on site by Aug / September 16. CC will check that this is referring to the access road upgrade and the Succoth entrance from the A83, not the construction of the houses.

Item 13 – Development Trust

The last meeting consisted of just 3 attendees and was cancelled as no quorum present. Director’s positions remain vacant and it was hoped to reschedule the Trust meeting in the next week.

Item 14 – AOCB

Defibrillator training - will be held at the school between 1300-1500 on 28 April. An answer on funding for a defibrillator in Ardlui is still outstanding and it was suggested that an approach to the Friends of Loch Lomond could be made to secure funding.

Battle of Jutland Commemoration - will take place in Helensburgh on 14-15 May including a play on WW1. The Roll of Honour from the Hall will be loaned to the school for display on their stand at the exhibition.

Date of Next Meeting - The next Community Council Meeting will take place on 19 May 2016 at 1900 in the Village Hall and will include the Annual General Meeting.