

**LOCHGOIL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING**  
**HELD IN THE LIBRARY OF THE VILLAGE HALL**  
**ON MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Iain MacInnes (Chair), Tom Murray, Zak Gillian, Dianne Paton (Secretary)

**ATTENDING:** 8 members of the community

**NON ATTENDING:** Ian Prescott, Councillor Gordon Blair (Cowal Ward, A&B Council)

1. **Convenors opening remarks:** Iain welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Apologies** - Elizabeth Bain, PC Stephen Carr, Sue Morris (FCS), Councillor Alan Reid, (Cowal Ward) Councillor Yvonne McNeilly, (Cowal Ward)
3. **Declaration of Interest:** None
4. **Minutes of the last meeting.** IMAcl stated that for record he had requested that DP include updates received from Councillor Reid via email that had arrived after the meeting as he felt that the community should have those updates as they had been discussed at a previous meeting. In the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 (item 6(f)) read - *They advised that there was to be a meeting on 16/11/17 between Frederick Hart of A&B Council, Tithill and Carrick Estate when it is hoped that the issue is resolved this should have read - They advised that there was to be a meeting on 16/11/17 between Frederick Hart of A&B Council, Tilhill and Carrick Estate when it is hoped that the issue is resolved.* As there were no other corrections the acceptance of the minutes was approved by Tom Murray and seconded by Zak Gillan.
5. **Treasurers Report:** In EB's absence, IMAcl reported that the balance was £2,602.07.
6. **Matters arising:**
  - a. **Broadband at Carrick Castle:** No further update
  - b. **Japanese Knotweed:** Awaiting response from Estates Department re ownership of land.
  - c. **Potholes on the road adjacent to the Caravan & Chalet Park:** Although the road surfacing work had been carried out, signage was required urgently to ensure motorists are aware of the passing places on the road. TM thanked the council for tarring the road at the Carrick side of the war memorial.
  - d. **Mud On Road At Carrick Castle:** Residents from Carrick Castle advised that the road was better now that "type 1" had been laid on the access road and that the timber operation would be coming to an end in January 2018.
  - e. **Bus Service 484 from Dunoon:** new timetable should be up and running for March 2018.
  - f. **Bus Service 302 From Helensburgh:** new timetable should be up and running for March 2018.
  - g. **Charging Electric Vehicles:** IMAcl reported that Douglas Blades was taking this issue through the proper channels.

**7. General Update:**

**50/50 Draw:** IMAcl requested that as in previous years, the 50/50 draw should be held at the Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch, this way the community has a chance to be involved.

1.	200	Cathy Boyd
2.	34	Iain Hopkins
3.	8	Liz Munro
4.	140	Sadie MacKenzie
5.	5	Iona Ross

**A83 Rest & Be Thankful Road & Bus Stop:** IMAcl reported that he was very disappointed to discover at the recent Cowal Transport Forum (CTF) meeting that due to illness the TRO had still not be processed. Supported by the CTF Chair and the other community councillors around the table, IMAcl raised the LCC concerns and disappointment. It was agreed that the department responsible would endeavour to move the TRO through the system and then on to Lochgilphead before the council offices closed for Christmas. Thereafter the TRO would go out for consultation to the public for a period of 6 weeks in early January, if there were no objections or concerns raised, the next step would be Scottish Office approval and back to A&B Council which would take up till mid-May. At a previous CTF meeting, the agreement had been that it was hoped to have the TRO in place for beginning of March when the bus service would recommence. IMAcl also reported that no agreement had been reached between A&B Council, Transport Scotland and the FC on which agency was responsible for painting and paying for the white lines at the Rest because a trunk road, a B Road and a forestry road (the old Rest road) all come together.

**A83 Unmanned Road Closures:** IMAcl reported that it was agreed at the CTF that Road Closure Signs would be placed in locked cabinets for the different agencies to open and put signs up in the event of a landslide on the Rest - no decision has been taken yet on where to locate the cabinets. The VMS should be up and running at the Cothouse and Strachur end of December.

**Roads:** TM reported that the new gritting procedure was very good.

**Police Report:** IMAcl reported that PC Carr had agreed to supply the report and this would be included in the minutes. From 13/11/17 - 11/12/17 there were 35 incidents - mostly related to adverse weather conditions in the local area and on the A83. 5 Crime Reports = 1 minor road traffic offence, 3 dangerous driving offences and 1 speeding offence. Police Scotland have issued various pieces of safety advice relevant to the festive period which has been launched nationally and will appear in the next edition of the Wee Goil publication.

IMacl stated that he had the privilege of accompanying Stephen to the Graduation Awards Ceremony at the Police College at Tulliallan on 15<sup>th</sup> November when Stephen was presented with his Sergeants Certificate after two years of study. IMAcl extended his congratulations on behalf of the community to Stephen. TM stated that Stephen had work very hard to achieve his Sergeants certificate.

**Village Signpost:** IMAcl reported that this item had been on the agenda approximately two years ago and was never carried forward. A new signpost would be an asset to the village for visitors and members of the public, with direction arrows pointing to the School, Hall, Medical Centre, Scout Centre and Public Toilets. IMAcl stated that as this would replace the poor signage already in place, he did not foresee a problem if we required planning permission. IMAcl also stated that he was confident that we would get the support from the Scout Centre and hopefully some other interested parties in the community. It was agreed to obtain a quote for a suitable signpost from G.H.Currie, Sandback and Nicol J Slee, Garelochhead. **(Action - IMAcl/DP)**. Question from the floor: Could there be a signpost at Carrick Castle for the Ardnahein to Ardentinny core road with accurate distance noted?

**Community Transfers :** Management of Public Toilets and Grass cutting. Completed form has been submitted by EB/IMacl to Argyll & Bute Council - hope to receive a response early in 2018.

**Entrust:** No update.

**Forestry Commission:** In the absence of SM(FCS) IMAcl reported that SM had informed him that there were diseased larch trees in the Ardentinny area and that a felling programme was ongoing. The FCS were buying in Christmas trees due to 3 accidents involving employees whilst using chainsaws. As a result of the accidents, chainsaw training course had been arranged and had been well attended. IMAcl stated that SM advised that the wooden Eagle in the Arboretum had been cut down because it had rotted. IMAcl has asked SM to replace with another Eagle, not a Squirrel which was offered.

**Planning:** TM reported on the following planning applications:-

- Proposal: Structurally repair, refurbish and modify corrugated iron former church. Location: Former Church, Carrick Castle. Decision: Approve
- Proposal: Conversion of former church to dwelling. Location: Former Church, Carrick Castle. Decision: Approve.

- Proposal: Erection of shelter to be used as nature hide and hut for storage. Location: Cormonachan Community Woodlands, Loch Goil by Carrick Castle. Advertisement Type: Neighbour Notification.
- Proposal: Demolition of existing and erection of replacement dwellinghouse (renewal of 2014/0116/DET) Location: Margowan, Lochgoilhead. Advertisement Type: Neighbour Notification.
- DP reported that an email had been received from the Inverlounin Road Association to inform the LCC of the letter that they intended to submit in relation to the planning application for Margowan, Lochgoilhead.

TM also reported planning and licences applications that he thought would be of interest to the community:-

- a) Proposal: Part change of use of showroom to include a community business hub comprising of office facilities and meetings rooms. Location: Fraser Robb Ltd, Stirling Road, Drymen.
- b) Proposal: Erection and operation of a tourism and leisure led mixed use development with associated infrastructure - Major Development. Location: West Riverside & Woodbank House Balloch.
- c) Proposal: Installation of floating pontoon and alterations to public access ramp. Location: Shoreline Opposite Planetree Cottage, Arrochar. Decision: Approve.
- d) Proposal: Removal of double garage and erection of holiday let unit. Location: Land to the rear of the Village Store, St Fillans, Perth & Kinross. Decision: Called in by the Scottish Government - Refused.
- e) Applicant: Drimsynie Estates Ltd. Premises: Drimsynie House Hotel & Caravan Shop. Variation to License: To show movies in the new conference room periodically to locals and guests.

**Donich Hydro Water Scheme:** TM reported that the monies would be distributed when they were received and that there had been 3 applications for grants. Question from the floor: What were the grants for? TM replied that the grants were for any community body. Question from the floor: What was the criteria for the grants available and could the application forms and criteria information being available for all to read via the Lochgoil Community Website? IMAcl asked TM to take this issue to the Lochgoil Community Development Trust (LCDT) TM replied that there were grants up to £1,000 and grants over £1,000. TM agreed to take the issue of availability of application forms and criteria information to the LCDT. (Action - TM) Question from the floor: who was responsible for the distribution of funds. TM replied that this was as per agreement at the LCDT AGM, minutes which had been circulated.

Question from the floor: With reference to the article by Ian Smart published in The Wee Goil would the LCDT be responding to him? IMAcl suggested that if Ian Smart wrote to the LCDT they would respond, TM agreed. IMAcl reported that SM confirmed that Ian Smart had contacted her and that she had advised that an Army vehicle had damaged the path and that she was speaking to the Army about this.

**The Hub:** IMAcl read out a report that he had received from the Hub Team. The team will be setting up 10 raised-bed gardening plots on the old rifle club ground and a composting scheme. The FC had agreed to donate wood for the raised beds. A series of activity days will be held commencing on 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 2.00pm-5.00pm. The garden will be a friendly, welcoming place that gives people another venue to socialise in. It is hoped that with some modest funding, the old curling shed can be refitted and extended to provide a café and shop space. In the meantime, the team will be investigating the use of shipping containers to provide commercial space for rent. The site will evolve when time and budget permit and the team architects, Anna Wynne and Lindy Thomson have an overall plan of how everything will fit together. The team would appreciate help with researching and making funding applications, physical work on the garden and site, sourcing site materials and sharing gardening expertise. Please get in touch with [team@goilhub.com](mailto:team@goilhub.com) if you would like to rent one of the raised beds, help out or provide support/encouragement. Research trip to Kilfinan Community Forest will on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Sign up by contacting [team@goilhub.com](mailto:team@goilhub.com).

## 8. Trust Reports:

**Jetty Trust:** TM reported that there was no feedback yet on availability of a pontoon from Kip Marina. The existing pontoon requires to be pumped out again, however TM stated that he was not keen to do this regularly as this would enlarge the leak. The pontoon would be pumped out before Christmas. TM reported that Leslie Cuthbertson had resigned from his post within the Jetty Trust. TM stated that Leslie was responsible for the introduction and regularising the arrangements for the ten moorings for visiting yachts and was a key member of the Jetty Trust since the inception in 2002. TM stated that Leslie had requested the Jetty Trust send a donation to the Loch Lomond Paddle Steamer, and confirmed that the Trust had sent a donation of £50. TM stated that Leslie will be sadly missed within the Jetty Trust. TM reported that Sheron Hambly had suggested that a “fisherman bin” should be placed on the jetty. TM confirmed that a ½ size wheelie will be mounted on the jetty for fishing tackle etc.

**Carrick Castle Trust:** Question from the floor: Was the correct name Carrick Castle Amenities Association? Jean Murray, Chair, advised that the correct name was Carrick Castle Trust.

JM reported that thanks to ZG, a suitable defibrillator had been sourced at a cost of over £2k. The defibrillator was fully automatic, came with a cabinet and pads which were suitable for both adults and paediatrics alike. The service can be done remotely via wifi. It was recommended that the defibrillator be housed within a heated cabinet and accordingly it was hoped to mount the defibrillator within the village phone box which was on the core road. The phone box cannot be “adopted” by the Trust as the National Park require this for maritime purposes. If funding is not available for purchase of the defibrillator, the CCT has funds and can purchase. JM had been in touch with Jeremy Game re training. IMAcl reported that of the 7 defibrillators at Arrochar, 1 was checked by an ambulance man on a voluntarily basis and the remaining 6 were checked by the hotel and not as originally reported at the last meeting.

Question from the floor: Had the Green at Carrick Castle been sold? JM answered that this matter would be discussed in full at the AGM which would be held early in 2018.

**Hall Trust:** IMAcl reported that all the redecoration of the interior of the hall had been completed. The Christmas tree and Christmas decorations were all in place for the various activities to be held over the festive season. The security alarms would be serviced this week and the oil tank for heating had 15,000 litres which should covers us till the summer. IMAcl also advised that there had been several donations received from people within the community who want to support the village hall and that he had thanked everyone concerned.

**Lochgoil Community Development Trust:** TM reported that the Community Bus had been busy. The AGM would be held early in the new year. Pete Clark reported to the Trust that up to £1m grant could be available for the proposed Community & Asset Land Transfer Scheme (CATS) however the estimated value of the original land included in the proposal was £40m and therefore the proposed application had been cutback to Donich Forest, Inveronich, Arboretum, Cormonachan and Cuilmuich. Question from the floor: Where would the funding come from. TM replied that funding was covered by the Scottish Government and that PC was dealing with this and that the proposed CATS application would be added to the Community Plan. TM intimated the CATS application would take up to a year or more. The Boatyard would no longer be part of the proposed application as the Lochgoil Watersports Club had intimated that they were already pursuing purchase themselves under CATS, TM wished the Club good luck with their application.

9. **Letters:** IMAcl read out a letter received from the Lochgoil Watersports Club seeking the LCC support in their application for the purchase of the Boatyard under the CATS. There being no concerns raised, it was agreed that the LCC would provide a letter of support. (Action - IMAcl/DP). DP reported that an email had been received from a resident regarding the bin within the village green. This had now been addressed, DP to write a letter of thanks to the resident on behalf of LCC. (Action - DP). Email received from Inverlounin Resident Association as noted above under Planning.

## 10. Any Other Competent Business:

TM stated that there had recently been an advertisement in the Dunoon Observer for a charity job for Cowal & Lochgoilhead and asked if the community council could find out more. (Action - IMaCl/DP)

Question from the Floor: Was there a Community Buyers Club for Oil & Gas? Answer from the Table: No, currently there was no such Club.

There being no other competent business, IMaCl thanked everyone for attending and wished all a nice Christmas and a good New Year.

11. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2018.

## ADDENDUM

### EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF MEETING OF COWAL TRANSPORT FORUM HELD IN THE TIMBER PIER BUILDING, DUNOON

ON WEDNESDAY, 6 DECEMBER, 2017

#### 4. TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

##### (a) A83 Closure Procedure

George Fiddes provided the Group with the following update:

- A82 Contingency works went to plan and disruptions were kept to a minimum.
- Improvements are in place for the future and they are looking at key nodes on the network to set up storage boxes on the road with traffic signs in association with Argyll and Bute Council.
- Existing arrangements for this winter are in place.
- A location for the A83 VMS sign at Inveraray is being looked at, at the moment.
- Police Scotland had no update on situation but stated that they don't always have the resources and look to BEAR and Argyll and Bute Council to take traffic management forward in certain situations.

- It was noted if it is a serious incident then situation evolves and agencies react as best they can to the situation. Police Scotland's first priority is always to deal with the incident itself, followed by the traffic management.

Kevin MacIntosh informed the Group that:

- They are trying to better identify locations for diversions kits and the purchase of lockable cabinets is in progress.
- Agencies have limited resources across the board and due to geographic nature of the area it takes time to set diversions and alternative routes up.
- Two VMS signs have been refurbished by BEAR and will be positioned shortly on the A815 at the junctions with the A886 and A880, hopefully in place before Christmas.

Iain McInnes requested that signage better reflects where the actual closures are. It was identified that responsibility for the maintenance of the VMS signs would be with Transport Scotland.

Archie Reid expressed disappointment at the length of time it is taking to put the VMS signs in place. George Fiddes and Kevin MacIntosh agreed to chase this up and email the Chair and the Group on when they will be in place.

Iain McInnes asked why a VMS sign couldn't be put up on a B class road. Kevin MacIntosh responded that the cost and responsibility of the sign would limit getting one, what's in place on the whole does work, that there was no identifiable budget to accommodate this and temporary signage would be used to alert road users so not much would be gained from having a VMS.

## **OUTCOME**

The Group noted that the locked boxes containing temporary signage and two refurbished VMS signs will be in situ early next year and that Iain McInnes was dissatisfied that there was no budget for a VMS sign at Lochgoilhead, a matter which he intended to independently pursue with members of the Bute and Cowal Area Committee.

## **5. FERRIES UPDATE**

### **OUTCOME**

The Group noted that a reliable passenger service is required and requested that George Fiddes invite a suitable representative from Transport Scotland to the next meeting to discuss ferries.

## **6. PUBLIC TRANSPORT UPDATE**

### **(a) Dunoon - Carrick Castle Bus**

The application to change the registration for this bus service has been submitted and the change to the service, allowing it to start at Dunoon Grammar School, not stop at the School Hostel, and then continue onto Carrick, will commence on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

### **(b) Helensburgh - Carrick Castle Bus**

Douglas Blades has chased the operator up about agreeing a revised timetable that he has produced. Once this is agreed then it will be put to SPT for approval.

### **OUTCOME**

Douglas Blades will provide an update to the Group in the New Year.

### **(g) Camera at Rest & Be Thankful Bus Stop**

A funding bid along with a letter of support from Citylink has been submitted to SPT but there is no further update on this at present.

George Fiddes stated that he has asked BEAR to review and rationalise the signage and see if anything is missing. Iain McInnes felt there should be a sign on the main road to point out that there are vehicles turning into junction and bus stop.

It was expressed by Transport Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council that more signage wouldn't be considered and that there was an issue in terms of responsibility for white lining.

## **OUTCOME**

Nigel Potts to send George Fiddes the white lining plan of the junction so it can be cross referenced with Transport Scotland's map to ascertain who is responsible for the white lining.

A letter from the Transport Forum to the Forestry Commission to be drafted to engage them regarding their area of land.