



**DUROR & KENTALLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
FIRST MEETING 10th FEBRUARY 2020
HELD IN KENTALLEN AND DUROR COMMUNITY CENTRE
AT 7.00PM**

Present: Sandy Stoddart (*Chairman*), Rachel Shepton (*Vice Chairman*), Jonathan Baxter (*Treasurer*), Steve Bignell, Jeannie Macleod, Pat Young, Becky Coope.

Apologies for absence: Chris Pearman

In attendance: Cllr Andrew Baxter

Minutes of previous meeting

Steve requested one amendment to the minutes of the previous meeting. Niall McLean had offered to circulate a digital copy of his proposed plans for the land at Achindarroch Junction, and this had not been recorded in the minutes. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman, subject to this amendment. It was noted that the digital plans had not been circulated to date.

Matters Arising

- **Glen Duror Hydro Scheme.** Further to the question of the SEPA objection to the extension of the Glen Duror Hydro scheme which was raised at the previous meeting, Sandy had had a phone call from Ewan at H2O, who had explained that SEPA had objected to some aspects of the scheme, as they felt more information needed to be supplied. Once this had been supplied they withdrew their objection.
- **Forest Plans.** Notice has been received of a change to the proposed Glen Duror Forest Plan. Rob Coope has looked over the change which involved increasing the size of an area of felling at the head of Glen Duror. He has suggested wording for a comment to FLS regarding this change. Steve said that he had been unable to find the Glen Duror plan on the FLS website. Rob will be asked to follow this up.
- **Notice Boards.** Becky had sourced quotes for various types of notice boards. It was decided to proceed with new Aluminium boards for Achindarroch Road, the Primary School and Kentallen sites. Becky will obtain a final price for these and it will be agreed between Sandy and Jonathan.
- **Travellers' Site.** Sandy has been contacted by John Ross with regard to abandoned vehicles at the site in Kentallen. He is working to contact owners in order to tidy up the site, and hopes this will be done soon.

Notices From Highland Council

Letter about National Planning Framework 2050 Sandy has received notice of a workshop which will be held in Mal-laig on March 3rd from 10am -12 regarding the NPF. Should anyone wish more information, it can be found at:

<https://www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/get-involved/>

<https://www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/resources/>

Fort William 2040 There will be a meeting in the Charles Kennedy Building in Fort William on Feb 19th at 10.30am. Andrew stressed the importance of Community Council representation at this meeting. Sandy will attend.

Research on the role of community councils - University of the Highlands and Islands An online survey regarding this has been circulated to all on the CC. It was felt it would be easier for individuals to respond to this rather than to give a single view.

Defibrillator Pads

Jonathan confirmed that new pads have been ordered at a cost of £90 each. These will be paid for by D&KCC. He added that he has spoken to David Doogan with a view to holding a training session on the use of the defibrillator at the Hall. It is hoped this may take place in April or May.

Planning

Eilean Balnagowan. Plans have been submitted to extend the bothy on Eilean Balnagowan and to build a further agricultural shed on the island. Sandy suggested that everyone has a look at the proposals online and lets him know any comments.

Glen Duror Hydro Scheme Extension. Steve noted that the scheme has been passed subject to the completion on an eagle survey by the end of February, along with a new otter and pine marten survey. He noted that the HC summary of the application had stated the K&DCC did not submit a response to it. Sandy will check this as it appears to be misleading.

AOCB

Glen Duror Hydro Scheme Extension

Sandy reported that Ewan of H2O has indicated that a sum of £5,000 per annum will be donated to K&DCC once the scheme is up and running. This will be a very welcome cash boost to the CC, but it was felt that a more robust organisation should be put in place to handle this amount of money. Sandy has discussed this with Dot Ferguson of HC and it was felt that there are 2 options, either for the Community Centre SCIO to change articles so they could handle the money, or for K&DCC to establish a new SCIO to handle the funds. It was agreed that, as both organisations have differing roles in the community, the second option should be pursued. Sandy will look into this further.

Proposed Road Repairs

Jonathan has contacted BEAR regarding the postponed patching works on the A828 at Kentallen brae and the Bal-lachuish Hotel corner. He understands that this work will now take place early in the financial year.

VE Day Celebration

A Bank Holiday has been granted on the 8th May to allow communities to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Becky and Jenny Cameron have had some thoughts on a suitable event to mark this day and will take plans further. The 6-Day Trials take place at the start of that week, so the Hall will be available for an event.

Playpark Funding

Jonathan raised the ring-fenced Playpark funding and asked if it could be used to replace the dilapidated fence around the playpark. He will speak to David Lamont of HC to see if this is possible.

Village Litter Pick

Jeannie raised the annual Litter Pick. It was decided this should be held on Saturday April 4th. She will contact HC re collection of filled bags. More hi-viz tabards and litter pickers are needed - Jonathan will look into this. The question of safety for those gathering on the side of the main road was raised, and Sandy will contact PC Softley to see if it is possible to put up warning road signs on the day. It was noted that a Risk Assessment should be carried out prior to the event.

Scramble Bikes in Forest

A number of scramble bikes have been seen in the forest around Glen Duror on occasion. These travel at great speed along the cycle track and up Achindarroch Road, some without safety helmets. It is illegal for these bikes to use the forest. Andrew said that this has been a problem in other areas and suggested contacting the organisers of the 6-Day Trials as they have helped to address this other areas. It was felt a local approach would be best at first and Jonathan suggested a community e-mail be sent round to try and address the situation.

The meeting was closed at 8.15pm

Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will on 9th March 2020 at 7pm.