



**DUROR & KENTALLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019  
HELD IN KENTALLEN AND DUROR COMMUNITY CENTRE  
AT 7.00PM**

**Present:** Sandy Stoddart (*Chairman*), Chris Clay (*Treasurer*), Jonathan Baxter, Malcolm Knowlson, Jeannie Macleod (*ex officio*), Rachel Shepton, Pat Young, Cllr Andrew Baxter, Becky Coope (*Secretary*)

**In attendance:** Neill Malcolm, Sara McNeill

**Apologies for absence:** Chris Pearman, PC Stephen Softly, Dave Shepton

**Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising**

- **Nursery & Primary School.** A recent surgery with Kate Forbes MSP at the Community Centre had become a public meeting and over 50 people attended to voice concerns about the future of Duror School. Although Ms Forbes made conciliatory noises, she said that there was not much that the government could do as this was a matter for Highland Council. The Parent Council and some others then met with Norma Young and Don Esson at the school. At this meeting Norma Young confirmed that the appointment of Ainsley Burns as Head Teacher for Glencoe and St Brides was a temporary appointment and that the post would be advertised within the next couple of days - but to date that hasn't happened. Andrew pointed out that this may not be the fault of the Education Department as the department of HC in charge of placing adverts for jobs is notoriously slow. Sandy said he believes that schools cannot be closed, but can be mothballed but Norma Young said that this categorically couldn't happen unless parents have requested it. Andrew confirmed that this was a very rare occurrence and usually only happened in cases where there were no pupils left on a school role. Rachel was concerned that, if the teaching situation doesn't improve at the school, parents may opt to send their children to other schools and the role will drop below a sustainable level. Sara gave details of action that some of the other schools in the South Lochaber group are planning, including a strike at Glencoe School where parents plan to keep their children away for certain days - she confirmed that this was not a route that Duror parents favoured. Andy McNeill is to write to the Opposition Education minister at Holyrood. The HC Chief Executive is to be in the area on Friday and Andrew will suggest a meeting with parents of the South Lochaber Schools.
- **War Memorial Handrail.** The wooden handrail is now in place. Grateful thanks was given to all who donated materials and assisted with the build. The metal rail should be in place in the next couple of weeks. Jonathan will visit HC roads department to choose the stone for the replacement steps on the top corner.
- **Community Council Elections**

Notice for the CC Elections will be given on September 23rd. Nomination papers should be submitted by 8th October at the latest. Malcolm Knowlson and Chris Clay have indicated that they will be standing down - Sandy gave grateful thanks for all that they have done as members of D&KCC and all Chris has done in his role as Treasurer. Chris confirmed that he will be happy to help the new Treasurer to understand the system. Sandy urged everyone to approach people they think would be good members of the CC.
- **Planning**

There were no relevant Planning matters.
- **Updates on Highland Council Matters**

Sandy gave updates on various matters:

  - **Highland Council Top-up Grants** Top-up grants are now available for Community Councils to help with admin costs. It wasn't felt that D&KCC need these at present.
  - **Police Mobile Working** Summer 2019 will see Police using mobile devices to carry out their duties, the public may start to see evidence of this in the coming months. This is a new approved admin procedure.

- **Community Development Alliance Scotland.** There will be a meeting of the CDAS in Edinburgh tomorrow. No one was available to attend.

## **AOCB**

### **Glen Duror Hydro Update**

Sandy has received an e-mail from Ewan at H2O. They have met with some difficulties at planning stage and are still at least 2 months away from starting the project, but will keep the community informed of progress.

### **Fly Tipping at Cuil Bay**

Sandy has been in touch with PC Stephen Softly re fly-tipping and general waste at Cuil Bay. PC Softly confirmed that they can only deal with contraventions of law, and witnesses have to be available in order for them to act. It is not illegal for people to stay overnight by the roadside and it would be difficult for the landowner to take any action. PC Softly suggested that, if this is of ongoing concern, a register of incidents be started and submitted to him.

### **Community Support for Duror School**

Sara thanked all of the community who had turned out in support of the school.

### **PO Outreach at Community Centre**

Andrew would like to move this from Mondays to Tuesdays to coincide with visits from RBS, the fish van and Pilates classes. This was widely supported and it was agreed that this will start on 24th September. The PO will be available from 9.30am to 11.30am weekly.

### **Seasonal Car Parking Charges in Fort William**

HC have agreed to allow free car parking for 2 hours in Fort William through the Christmas/New Year period.

### **Corran Ferry Passenger and Cyclist Fares**

Andrew confirmed that fares are to be introduced for passengers and cyclists on the Corran Ferry.

### **Keil Chapel and Burial Ground**

Neill Malcolm reported that, following a generous donation from an American gentleman, the south wall of the chapel and 2 damaged memorial stones have been repaired. Having strimmed the burial ground for many years, he now feels unable to take this task on and asked for volunteers to do this job. There is some doubt as to the owners on the Burial Ground, but Andrew confirmed that he believes this to be HC and he will look into it. Should this be the case, then HC should undertake to strim the site once a year. Once the situation has been confirmed, any necessary further work parties can be arranged.

Neill also gave details of a recent visit to James of the Glens' bothy in Glen Duror with a team of Archaeologists and some of the school pupils. The purpose of the visit was to see if footings of an older bothy could be found, as the current building is too young to be James' bothy. He was happy to report that footings of an older building were found and that he plans to present the findings to the Community Heritage Conference in Birnam in early November.

He also gave details of a NTS meeting at Duror Hall on Saturday on the West Highland Line and a meeting planned for the hall in March about the Campbells of Canna.

### **Travellers' Homes in Kentallen**

Jonathan raised concerns about a rising number of vehicles parked at the travellers' homes in Kentallen.

### **Newsletter**

Becky confirmed that Highland Titles have generously donated £100 towards the cost of producing the next edition of the newsletter.

The meeting was closed at 7.53pm

**Date of Next Meeting:** The next meeting will on 14th October 2019 at 7pm.