



**DUROR & KENTALLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 12th AUGUST 2019
HELD IN KENTALLEN AND DUROR COMMUNITY CENTRE
AT 7.00PM**

Present: Sandy Stoddart (*Chairman*), Dave Shepton (*Vice Chairman*), Jonathan Baxter, Malcolm Knowlson, Jeannie Macleod (*ex officio*), Rachel Shepton, Pat Young, Becky Coope (*Secretary*)

Apologies for absence: Chris Pearman

Sustrans: Sandy read out a written update on the last stretch of cycle track from Paul Cronin of Sustrans. A large proportion of the work on this stretch has now been completed, including the new bridge crossings at Salachan and the River Duror. There have been many delays, and although it was originally hoped to have the stretch open for use this summer, it is now expected that the last of the works will be completed in the next few months. Sustrans hope to be able to attend a future meeting of the Community Council to provide a full update and to ask what the community would like to see as part of a launch event.

Minutes of previous meeting

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

Matters Arising

- **Nursery & Primary School.** Rachel outlined the current situation at the Primary School. Despite the adoption of a dual cluster system as outlined in the last minutes, a new Head has been appointed for a tri-cluster of St Brides, Glencoe and Duror. The plan for the area's schools has now been changed time after time and with the adopted decision to go with a dual cluster system now turned on its head, all faith has been lost in the Education Department. A Principal teacher has been appointed for Duror, to cover a period until January, however the provision of pupil support assistants at the school has been cut from 27 hours a week to 2 hours a week. This is a cause of great concern to all as the future of Duror school still seems far from secure, and the level of commitment to the school from Highland Council is far from clear. Rachel said that the Parent Council are to pursue funding from the Early Years programme to try to help fill the gap for the reduction in pupil support. She confirmed that 10 pupils are expected to attend the school next term. The Parent Council are meeting with Kate Forbes MSP on August 26th to voice their concerns. It was confirmed that the HMI report for the school has not been made publicly available to date.
- **Peer to Peer Suicide Prevention.** Sandy reported that the Lochaber Mindfit group is now up and running with meetings for men on Monday evenings and women on Tuesday evenings. The meetings are currently being held in the Crossfit Centre in Ben Nevis Estate.
- **War Memorial Handrail.** With time passing quickly, Sandy stressed the need to move on with this job. He will chase the contractors over the installation of the metal handrail. Jonathan and Becky will price materials for the community installed wooden rail. A date of 31st August has been set for a work party to install the wooden rail. Jonathan will contact the HC to choose stone slabs for the new corner that they are to install on the path.
- **Play Area at Community Centre.** All necessary repair work has now been completed on the play area at the Hall. The invoice for the work came to £900 and has been passed to Chris for payment.
- **Community e-mail list.** It has been agreed that Pat and Sandy will have access to the existing e-mail list. This will operate under the current GDPR agreement.
- **Planning**
The application to remove a condition on the bothy at Eilean Balnagowan has been approved. An application for a pontoon on the island has been lodged. There were no objections to this.

Donation Request

Malcolm outlined plans by local man Joey Gough to sail his boat, Tangle o' the Isles continually round Mull for 6 days in November, with a local crew of 4, to raise money for Children in Need. It was felt that this was a worthwhile cause to support and a donation of £500 was agreed.

Updates on Highland Council Matters

Sandy gave updates on various matters:

- **Core Paths.** Having studied a review of Core Paths, Sandy has written to local access office Stewart Easthaugh regarding the Glen Duror footpath. This is still shown as a Core Path, but, with the loss of the footbridge some years back, can no longer be accessed. The community are keen to see the bridge re-instated so that the Core Path can be used again.
- **Loch Linnhe Stakeholders Meeting.** This will be held on 27th August in the Charles Kennedy Building. Jonathan will attend.
- **Community Council Review.** The final phase of the consultation will end on August 26th. D&KCC have made full comment to date, so no further action is needed at this time.
- **FW2040.** A workshop will be held on 25th September. Sandy has attended previously but felt there was little of interest to this area, apart for the planned new hospital. Progress on this has been disappointingly slow and is thought to now be affecting new housing development in the town.
- **Resilient Communities Conference.** As this is to be held in Cambuslang, it was felt too far away to attend.
- **Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Meeting.** Becky gave a brief resume of the meeting she attended in Fort William in June. It had been well-attended and gave good insight into the workings of the SFRS and their future plans.
- **Small Communities Housing Trust.** Community Elected Directors are being sought. Anyone interested in applying should contact Sandy for details.
- **Land Reform Document.** Sandy outlined a factsheet for Community Councils on Land Reform and how it relates to Community Purchase of land.
- **Highland Council Quality Awards.** Nominations are being sought for any individual or group within Highland Council that people would like receive this award. Please contact Sandy if you have a nomination.
- **Lochaber Housing Association AGM.** This will be held on September 16th should anyone wish to attend.

AOCB

Community Council Elections

Malcolm asked for clarification of when these will be held. Sandy confirmed that HC organise the election which will be held in November.

SCRAPbook website

Becky has received details of this online resource which has detailed rubbish 'hotspots' around the coast of Scotland through use of aerial photos. Happily, the area covered by D&KCC does not feature as a problem area. The site can be accessed at www.scrapbook.org.uk/map/

Newsletter Funding

The second edition of the community newsletter, Connect, is planned for early October. It was agreed that a limited amount of advertising should be offered to local businesses to part-fund the print costs and that the remainder of the cost should be split between the CC and Hall.

The meeting was closed at 8.05pm

Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will on 9th September 2019 at 7pm.