



**DUROR & KENTALLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 12th April 2021**

**Zoom Session
AT 7.00PM**

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

Apologies: Chris Pearman, Dave Chrystal

In Attendance: Geoff Nix, Lis Roberston, Dicky Wyer.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Matters arising

- **Notice Boards** These have now been installed. Sandy thanked Steve and Christian for putting them up and Becky for supply of the header panels.
- **Dog Poo Bins and Bags** These have been put up. Sandy thanked Rob and Becky for helping him to put them in place and those who have volunteered to empty them.
- **Post of Secretary** The post has been advertised but no-one has come forward to date. Sandy will re-advertise the post if no one comes forward in the next week or so.
- **Broadband** Jonathan reported that little progress has been made with this as BT don't respond to his e-mails. Geoff reported that BT have just been given the contract for Reach100 - a project to supply all in the North of Scotland with fast speed Broadband - and BT staff have been allocated to work on this as a priority. He thinks that R100 will be replacing the Community Broadband scheme which Jonathan has applied for and that may be the reason that BT have not responded to e-mails so far. Jonathan thanked him for his input and asked if he could keep the CC up to date.
- **Tracks in Glen Duror Forest** Sandy has contacted John Heaton regarding the state of the track in Glen Duror forest which was raised at the last meeting. John confirmed that all tracks will be re-instated following the completion of the work on the Hydro scheme. Sandy has walked the track in question and found it to be in good condition overall with only 2 minor issues, a slightly tricky burn crossing and a fallen tree at the far end - neither of these could be contributed to the Hydro works.
- **Cycle Track Safety** Sandy has spoken with Paul Cronin regarding the safety of the stretch of track at Achara where it runs close to the road with no barrier. Paul confirmed that a Safety Audit has been done and considers that the white line that has been added to the road-side of the track is sufficient for current safety requirements. Lis had also written to Sustrans on the same matter and received a similar answer. It is still felt however that this stretch is not safe, especially for children and horse-riders and some avoid using it for fear of accidents. Sandy will write again to Sustrans on behalf of the CC expressing concern. Dicky asked if a Safety Report following the Audit has been issued. He suggested we ask to see it as that may give more information.
- **Village Tidy** This will have to be done differently again this year due to Covid restrictions. Jonathan will purchase 6 more tabards and pickers. Sandy will arrange for a box to be put at the Hall containing bags and tabards with the pickers nearby. Rachel will put a form and pen inside the box so folk can jot down which areas they have cleared to avoid duplication. When everything is in place Sandy will put out a Community e-mail to ask folk to go out as they can manage. He suggests that this be restricted to sections of the road with pavements, and Cuil Bay at present. The side of the main road is too dangerous to do unless it is an organised event with traffic warning signs in place.
- **Cuil bay** The CC have received a letter from Liz and Arthur Paul raising many good points. Some have already been discussed at length previously and decided by the CC. Sandy outlined other points including a number which were suggestions on how the Community Hall could be used for visitors, which he has passed on to Alan Young for discussion by the Hall Committee. He detailed some other suggestions and will look into those that may be possible. He stressed that the CC want to ensure all visitors feel welcome, whilst trying to alleviate some of the problems caused by a sudden influx of visitors. Sandy said one remaining matter to resolve is that of signage and asked if wording for

sign(s) could be agreed. There was a lengthy discussion. Liz felt that signs would have no legality and may simply serve to discourage responsible visitors which could cause more problems. It was agreed that passing places and the turning bay should be clearly marked and people should not be allowed to park in those, but beyond that views varied widely both whether or not any signs should be put up and on any wording. It was agreed that, as Jamie had said at the last meeting that he was going to consult his lawyer as to what he could and could not legally say on any sign, the CC should wait to hear the outcome of that before proceeding. Sandy conclude by saying the the role of Warden will be trialled this year. He has asked Dot Ferguson for advice on how the CC can pay a Warden and is waiting to hear back.

Post Covid Resilience

Sandy reported that the villages have had a Covid resilience plan in place since the start of the Pandemic, but that thankfully he has not had to call on the list of volunteers as the villages have worked in a very effective and caring manner in helping any in need. He said that a lot of good things have emerged from this difficult situation, involving all age groups, and said that it would be good if these benefits can be kept going in the future. He invited people to come up with ideas on how some of these caring aspects of community could be retained. For example, he suggested that a Sunday afternoon village walk (once restrictions allow) may be a welcome way of local people meeting many of their neighbours that they have not seen for many months. This was welcomed as a good idea.

Planning

An application for a field shelter at North Acharn has been approved.
There has been an application for a house by the Old Post Office in Kentallen.

Highland Council Correspondence:

Weekly Covid Update
HC Newsletter

AOCB

CD & K CC SCIO

Sandy has now received the paperwork on how to proceed with this, and has asked if someone with experience in this field would be prepared to look over what is involved and perhaps take on the task. Dicky offered to look over it.

Memorial Bench

Jonathan has now had confirmation that Sustrans are willing to pay for a replacement for 'Muriel's Bench' however they are unable to put it in place due to work restrictions. Jonathan will order the bench and carry out the installation, subject to necessary risk assessment.

British Legion Tommy

Becky has received details from the RBLI regarding the purchase of a Tommy (a silhouette statue of a soldier) for the village which could be displayed on VE and Remembrance Day. Everyone was in favour, Becky will forward an e-mail link and a decision will be made which model to opt for.

Plaque in Notice Board

Steve noted that a small plaque in the old notice board at the school, commemorating the gifting of the land for the board by Elspeth Malcolm, was in poor condition. He has placed it in the new noticeboard, but asked if a new brass plaque could be purchased. It was agreed that it should be and Steve will follow up.

The meeting was closed at 8.10pm.

Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will on 10th May 2021 at 7pm.