



**DUROR & KENTALLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 8th February 2021**

**Zoom Session
AT 7.00PM**

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

In Attendance: Dave Chrystal, Sandra Jamieson, Charlotte Mair, Geoff Nix, Liz Robertson, Dicky Wyer

Apologies: Rachel Shepton

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Matters arising

- **Cuil Bay Tourism** Sandy has spoken with PC Stephen Softley at some length about the appointment of a Warden and he is in broad support of this. He is willing to talk to whoever takes up the post and give guidance on what they can do/say legally. As both Highland Council and Jamie Malcolm are also in favour of a Warden, Sandy suggested that the CC now take this forward and draw up a 'job' description and look at potential remuneration for the post. He suggested that the members of the CC should have a discussion - by e-mail or Zoom - about what should be offered and asked Jonathan, as Treasurer, to look into what regular annual income the CC can reasonably expect from the Hydro Scheme and HC grant in order to help in decision making. PC Softley repeated to Sandy that anyone experiencing unacceptable behaviour by visitors to Cuil Bay should continue to phone 101. Whilst he appreciates this often involves a lengthy wait to get through to an operator, it is still the only way to ensure that all incidents are logged and therefore vital if an official record is to be kept of the scale of the problem. A broad-ranging discussion followed regarding the scope of the role of Warden and obstacles that may be met. Following this, the meeting agreed unanimously to take this forward. The possibility of arranging signs for the Cuil Bay road was also discussed, however the wording has to be carefully thought out. The Cuil Bay road is a public road and therefore cannot be considered 'private' and whereas signs saying 'No Overnight Parking' can be put up, this cannot be enforced under law.
- **Post of Secretary** Becky confirmed that she will stand down as Secretary at the AGM in June. Sandy thanked her for her work and for what has been a very good working relationship between the Chair and Secretary, and asked her to draw up a brief job description so the post can be advertised. Remuneration had been offered for this post in the past (though not taken up by the current secretary) and he suggested the CC discuss this along with the role of Warden.
- **Dog Poo Bins and Bags** Sandy has heard from Lisa Higham that the section of cycle track running from The Holly Tree Hotel to Lettermore is a problem as well as the section from Achindarroch Road to Lagnaha. Sandy proposed ordering 4 bins and bag dispensers, plus notices - 2 for each of these sections. He has checked out reports of problems on the section above Cameron Brae but felt the 'droppings' found here were from Pinemartens and Foxes, not dogs. As Lisa, Dicky & Ann have kindly offered to look after the bins on their respective sections, it was agreed that they should be ordered. It was noted that the failure to clean up after dogs cannot be a visitor problem, as it is still happening during this lockdown phase. Sandy will word a notice to go out on the community e-mail and Facebook page pointing out that it is a fineable offence not to clean up after your dog in a public open space.
- **Broadband Speeds** Jonathan has heard from around 50 people who have expressed an interest in improved Broadband for the area. He confirmed that logging the problem on the OpenReach site is frustratingly slow, but that he will attempt to upload the addresses that have come forward. He stressed however that people should also enter requests with OpenReach individually to help the campaign. Many people think that they are already on Fibre, but this is not the case, as currently the Fibre only goes to the exchange and the further you are from it the worse your broadband speed is. Sandy thanked Jonathan for his work on this.
- **Road Surfaces** As the A828 through Duror is currently being resurfaced, Sandy approached BEAR to see if the potholes on Achindarroch Road could be patched at the same time, however he was told that this could not be done as it is Highland Council not BEAR who are responsible for Achindarroch Road.

Memorial Bench Jonathan has identified a suitable bench to replace the broken one on the cycle track by the new bridge over the River Duror opposite the school. Sustrans had offered to pay for a replacement as their workers dam-

aged the original one - Jonathan is waiting for final confirmation of this from Paul Cronin before ordering the new bench.

- **Planning** Although there are no new applications to discuss, concern has been expressed by a number of people about the extent and scale of earthworks on the development at Achara House. In recent weeks, large earth embankments have appeared running alongside the cycle track and what seems to be a gravel quarry in the field to the south. Dave expressed concern - what had been a fine house and estate now resembles a builder's yard with a lot of commercial material stored. Some of the embankments now obscure the historic Achara stone which has always been a landmark in the village. Steve voiced concern that these workings don't appear to be on the plans that were passed for the house. It was agreed that Sandy should contact Niall MacLean to let him know that the matter has been raised with the CC and that he has been instructed by the meeting to contact Highland Council regarding the works. Dave further raised the matter of 2 other Planning issues: firstly he has concerns that the plans for the new Glen Duror Hydro Scheme were passed without the inclusion of any due diligence for the environment and had mud not been noticed in the river by a resident and reported, serious environmental damage could have gone unnoticed. He also has concerns regarding the implementation of plans to construct of a private garage in Kentallen. He feels that HC Planning Department should be asked to comment on these matters. Sandy was unaware of the garage development but will look into it and decide any further action.

Highland Council Correspondence

There have been 3 matters raised by Highland Council - **The National Planning Framework 4** (discussion workshop on Tuesday 16th Feb); **Police Scotland** - consultation on Body Worn issues; **Community Resilience** matters - Vaccine Communications, Time to Talk and Worrying About Money. Details and links for all of these can be found at the end of these minutes.

AOCB

New Belford Hospital

Sandy gave a progress report on this matter which has been ongoing for a very long time. There had been little progress but the appointment of a new Chief Executive of NHS Highland recently seems to have had an impact and the initiative has been re-launched with a completely new team. There is no confirmed new timescale for the plans - the original aim of 6 years is now a distant hope. There is currently no guarantee of funding from the Scottish Government and while Sandy said that there is nothing hugely positive to report, he has hopes that the new team may re-invigorate what is a hugely important development for this area. Jonathan asked if the CC should write to NHS Highland expressing concern at the timescale. Sandy will do this.

Noticeboards

There have been delays with these as the firm supplying them has had various difficulties due to flooding and the Covid restrictions, however Becky reported that she has now heard from them that the boards should be delivered next week.

Phone Box

Chris raised 3 matters. He has been asked by Alan Young about the possibility of moving the old phone box in the village to the Hall. Becky mentioned that this had been raised some months ago and previous minutes stated that the box had been bought by Tom MacCallum. Chris will check this out. He also mentioned that he has been receiving a growing number of scam phone calls about his internet account and wanted other residents to be aware of these. Finally, it has been reported that 2 dogs have gone missing in the village and may have been stolen. Dog owners should be aware and keep a close eye on their pets.

The meeting was closed at 8pm.

Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will on 8th March 2021 at 7pm.

National Planning Framework 4

4 February 2021

Good afternoon

I am contacting you as we are holding two extra NPF4 Community Discussion workshops due to the initial events being oversubscribed.

I would be very grateful if you could circulate these to your Community Councils/other community group contacts as soon as is convenient for you to do so - we have had great attendance and discussion at the two events held so far.

Both extra events will take place on Tuesday 16 February - 12.30-2.00 pm & 6.30-8.00 pm.

Click here to reserve your place: <http://PASplace.eventbrite.com>

Further details from the original email are below.

Best wishes

David Wood

National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) is currently being prepared by the Scottish Government as the new “national plan” for Scotland. The NPF4 Position Statement sets out their current thinking based on the Call for Ideas consultation that took place in early 2020.

The Scottish Government has asked PAS to run a series of workshops to hear the views of community group representatives on the Position Statement. We will also provide advice about how to respond effectively and next steps in the NPF4 process, and share key findings with the Scottish Government.

NPF4 will:

- be the key document setting Scottish planning policy direction till 2031
- be part of every Local Development Plan in Scotland
- contain planning policies that will apply in Scotland-wide in determining planning application.

Right now is a key opportunity to give your views to help shape the future of NPF4, which will have an impact on planning across Scotland.

Police Scotland seeking views on the use of Body Worn Video

Members of the public are being asked for their views on the use of Body Worn Video (BWV) by armed police officers when interacting with communities in Scotland.

BWV has been shown to have a positive impact on the safety of the public and the officers wearing it, and all other armed police units in the UK are currently deployed with cameras.

The introduction of BWV will bring Police Scotland in line with these other forces and ensure best practice and evidence as well as increased transparency and accountability at incidents.

The online survey, which opened for three weeks from February 1 2021, will allow members of the public to engage and offer their opinions on the deployment of BWV in Scottish policing for the future.

The move follows Chief Constable Iain Livingstone’s support for the deployment of BWV to armed police officers as a “pressing, critical, ethical and operational imperative” and his commitment to focused and concise public engagement prior to rollout.

An initial roll-out of BWV will equip our armed police officers as soon as possible during the course of 2021. This deployment will also provide a valuable basis and learning for the consideration of a broader national plan to roll out BWV to police officers across Scotland in the future.

Assistant Chief Constable Kenny MacDonald, who is leading on the introduction of BWV, said: “The Chief Constable has consistently expressed strong support for the greater deployment of body worn video by Police Scotland officers and staff.

“Armed policing remains an area of high risk and understandable public scrutiny and as such this roll-out will help improve transparency and accountability. The safety of our officers and staff as well as that of the public remains paramount in our decision to introduce this technology.

“While this is not new technology, and every other armed policing unit in the UK uses body worn cameras, it is a significant introduction for Scottish policing and as such our public engagement survey is essential to ensuring people have a voice and it will help us gather and address any ethical and community related concerns where possible.”

Martyn Evans, Chair of the Scottish Police Authority, said: “The use of body worn video is widespread across UK policing and the benefits to effective policing such as improved officer safety, reducing and resolving complaints against officers and an increase in early guilty pleas, have been positively evaluated in the current limited use across Scotland.

“However, it is important that whenever new technology is adopted, that the implications are fully considered through an extensive stakeholder consultation process. We welcome the launch of a public survey and would encourage as many people as possible to register their views. The SPA looks forward to considering all responses as part of our oversight of the implementation of BWV.”

Link to survey: <https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/police-scotlands-use-of-body-worn-video/>

Re Community Resilience

Covid-19 Vaccine Communications

<file:///C:/Users/Lochaber/Downloads/20-21%20-%20Coronavirus%20-%20Vaccines%20-%20Vaccine%20Communications%20Note%20-%20Issue%201%20-%20FINAL%20-%203%20Feb%202021.pdf>

Time to Talk

<file:///C:/Users/Lochaber/Downloads/Community%20Resilience%20Group%20Briefing%205-2-21.pdf>

Worrying About Money

[file:///C:/Users/Lochaber/Downloads/Worrying%20about%20Money%20Highland%20A3%2016.11.20%20\(002\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Lochaber/Downloads/Worrying%20about%20Money%20Highland%20A3%2016.11.20%20(002).pdf)