



DUROR & KENTALLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 13th July 2020
Zoom Session
AT 7.00PM

Present: Sandy Stoddart (*Chairman*), Rachel Shepton (*Vice Chairman*), Jonathan Baxter (*Treasurer*), Chris Pearman, Pat Young, Becky Coope (*Secretary*)

Apologies: Jeannie Macleod

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Matters arising

- **Hand Sanitisers** Claire Hunt from Appin is to drop of hand sanitisers with Sandy. It was planned to put some on the gates on the cycle path above Kentallen Bay, but the gates have since been removed. Sandy will place one at the gate on the Cuil Bay track and the other two at the Community Hall.
- **Litter Picking** The pickers and bags have been placed in a box behind the north end of the Hall. Some people have contacted Rachel to let her know they have been out collecting litter.
- **Co-op Fund** Ballachulish CC had planned to hold an online raffle to build on the donation from the Co-op towards the fund to give local key workers a 'thank you' following lockdown, however this had proved problematic, and they have now approached Sandy and asked for a donation of £80 towards the fund. This was discussed and agreed. Johnathan asked if it would be possible to have a full list of those who would receive the thank yous. This cannot be done as some random gifts of kindness have been distributed and it is not possible to get a list of all the recipients. The thank yous take the form of a modest gift.

Covid Resilience

The resilience group in the villages is working well in an organic way - neighbours and friends helping out as needed. Sandy said that the greatest challenges may still be to come if there is another spike in cases and financial hardship hits some residents over the winter. The CC will continue to advertise the availability of help, and Highland Council have indicated that available support from them will continue until the end of September but will be asked in time to keep the support going until the end of the year. No money has been requested to date from the village Hardship Fund.

Glen Duror Hydro Scheme Monies

Sandy and Jonathan have heard from Ewan at H2O. Work on the enlarged scheme had been held up through lockdown but is now well underway and a donation of £5250.00 will be made over to the CC relatively soon, in line with government guidelines. This will be an annual payment and is very welcome, as it will give the CC a significant opportunity to support local projects. Sandy will write to thank Ewan. A SCIO should be formed to manage these new funds.

Community Minibus

Sandy has been approached by Donald Stewart regarding the community minibus scheme. The local villages had all been approached and a sum of £4k per village requested to fund the pilot project. Ballachulish CC subsequently indicated that they were no longer interested, and Sandy had also written and said that there had been no real voicing of support for such a scheme from Duror or Kentallen. Following this letter, the amount of money requested was reduced to £650, all of which would be donated by HIE. It was felt that D&KCC could agree to progress on this basis, but that any further involvement would require the presentation of a costed business plan for the scheme. It was felt that with the new hydro-scheme money, the D&KCC may be well placed to look at a separate scheme, perhaps in the way of an electric community car.

Tourists

Jeannie has been talking to Viki Sutherland of Glencoe & Glenetive CC. Following serious problems with camper vans parking in passing places and blocking local access in Glen Etive, Viki has started a campaign to make it illegal to park campervans on any area which is not a designated overnight stop. This has received a lot of heated response on Social Media. Whilst everyone welcomes visitors and acknowledges that it is by no means all of these visitors who cause a

problem, the sheer amount of litter being left by visitors since lockdown was eased has caused real problems to local communities in tourist hotspots. The CC will support efforts to publicise the problem, but it seems there is little else that can be done at present, as policing of the litter laws is so problematic. Sandy put notices up at Cuil Bay following the last meeting and thankfully the problem has not seemed too great there to date.

Planning

Sandy reported that during lockdown, planning matters had been delegated to the chairman of the planning committee and one officer. There is concern that proper scrutiny may not have been given to planning applications which were passed during this time. The only local application which was passed through lockdown was the extension of the bothy on Eilean Balnagowan.

Cllr Andrew Baxter

Cllr Andrew Baxter has been expelled from the Independent Group of councillors, who hold overall control of Highland Council, for repeatedly raising difficult issues and questioning HC actions in areas such as education and planning. The effect of this is that he can no longer sit on certain committees, or vote on certain issues. He continues to be a member of the Planning Committee. Both Ballachuilish and Onich CC have written in his support, and Sandy suggested that D&KCC do likewise. It was unanimously agreed to do so, and Sandy will draft a letter and circulate it for approval.

AOB

AGM

Jonathan asked if there is any indication from HC of when the AGM may be held, and, if it is delayed, if the CC allowance will be extended. As nothing has been heard, he will contact Dot Ferguson for advice.

Public participation at CC Meetings

Becky asked if there was any indication of when public CC meetings may take place. Sandy said that he is able to host meetings of up to 100 through Zoom sessions, and it was proposed that Rachel publicises the next meeting on Facebook to ensure that anyone who has a matter to raise can join in. The Zoom link can't be widely shared, but people could contact Rachel to express an interest and then be forwarded a link for the day.

The meeting was closed at 8.10pm.

Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will on 14th September 2020 at 7pm.