



**DUROR & KENTALLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2019  
HELD IN KENTALLEN AND DUROR COMMUNITY CENTRE  
AT 7.00PM**

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

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr Andrew Baxter, Joanne Baxter

**In Attendance:** Connie Anderson, Sandra Jamieson, Janice Murray

**Sustrans:** This item had been put on the Agenda at the start of the meeting as it was hoped that a representative from Sustrans could attend with an update, however they had had to cancel at the last minute. Sandy reported that following a delay, construction was now underway again, and he hopes to hear a completion date soon. The 2 new bridges are under construction.

**Minutes of previous meeting**

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

**Matters Arising**

- **Nursery & Primary School.** The situation regarding the future of the Primary School had been confirmed at a meeting earlier in the day. The Option of 2 clusters was adopted and Duror will be clustered with Ballachulish, sharing a head teacher.

After the last CC meeting, Rachel, Sara MacNeill and Sandy had met with Andrew Baxter to see what could be done to address the decision not to reinstate Nursery provision at Duror. As a result, Sandy had written to Sandra Campbell to ask if the decision could be reviewed. She had replied confirming that HC have no plans to review the decision, however this was at odds with what Andrew and others had been told by Norma Young – that the decision was to be reviewed. Andrew and Sandy raised this with Sandra and she confirmed that a review was indeed being conducted and apologising for any confusion. Sandy had asked that the community be involved in this process. Rachel stated that this is a crucial time for Duror school. There have been no full-time teachers at the school for some time and she feared a recent HMI inspection would prove negative, despite the fact they seemed baffled at the decision not to provide a Nursery at the school where there is clearly room for one. Rachel further stated that the parents are weary after battling for many months to secure the future of the school, and fear that, with staffing uncertainty next year, amalgamation with Ballachulish school may be on the cards. Withdrawal of funding for classroom assistants across the area is creating more problems for smaller schools and there is to be a peaceful demonstration at Charles Kennedy House on June 27<sup>th</sup> for all who oppose these cuts.

There was further discussion about what could be done to try and ensure the future of the school, however with no new head to be appointed until after the summer break it was felt that we could only wait to see what transpires then.

- **Peer to Peer Suicide Prevention.** Sandy attended a meeting hosted by Lochaber Hope who are trying to encourage the formation of mens' and womens' groups in the area which would aim to provide weekly informal group meetings which vulnerable people can attend to talk about their problems. Lochaber Hope are looking for facilitators in Lochaber to host similar meetings on a rota basis, and for volunteers who may like to help. Successful groups are currently working in Oban and Ardgour and appear to be having a very positive impact. Sandy has approached the Church of Scotland to see if they may be willing to participate.
- **War Memorial Handrail.** Sandy has received one quote of £395 +VAT for installing a metal handrail on the stone steps at the start of the memorial path. It was unanimously decided to proceed with this. Sandy had also checked the position regarding insurance of the proposed wooden handrail which D&KCC plan to install on the path beyond the steps. HC have confirmed that they will inspect the handrail once constructed and if they approve it, it will be covered by HC insurance.

**Planning**

There were no new planning applications in the area. The decision on the Eilean Balnagowan application is due soon.

### **Lochaber Geopark Donation Request**

Jonathan presented a request for funding from Jim Blair of Lochaber Geopark. Their Council funding has been cut and consequently they are looking for support from local groups. As they provided free maps for the notice board on the cycle track in Kentallen in the past it was thought to be a worthwhile cause and a donation of £200 was agreed.

### **Play Area at Hall**

Sandy has received a request for funding for repairs to the picnic area at the hall from Alan Young. The Hall Committee have received a quote for £780 to carry out the work. It was suggested and approved that a grant of £1000 be given to cover work on the paved path at the same time. The question of the ring-fenced fund for play parks which HC hold from the 6 house scheme was discussed. Becky had confirmation from Andrew Baxter that this money could only be spent on new and existing Council-owned playpark areas. Confirmation on this will be sought.

### **AOCB**

#### **Website upgrade**

Becky has received a quote for £100 + VAT to upgrade the website platform, with a further £100 + VAT per year web hosting cost. She has been working with Maggie MacDonald and Moira Stoddart to update the existing site, but it is on an old platform and requires some fairly major updating. Requests still come through the site for hall bookings and other general enquiries from visitors so it was felt to be a worthwhile thing to have. It was agreed to go ahead with the upgrade and to keep the website as an informative site alongside the Facebook page.

#### **Telephone Directory**

Jeannie has been asked by Kim Malcolm to raise the issue of distribution of phone books in the area. All households in the area currently receive the Oban directory as we have Oban post codes, but, being administered by Highland Region, the Fort William directory is more relevant in many cases. It was suggested that Andrew may be able to exert some influence to rectify this situation.

#### **Community E-mail list**

Rachel asked what the current situation regarding this is. There was a general discussion how to proceed and it was decided that the current list (deemed to be 'owned' by K&DCC) be discontinued and a new 'Community' list be started up which can serve the CC and Hall jointly. This would start afresh with relevant GDPR regulations. Rachel will look into this.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Chris confirmed that there is currently £7315.76 in the current account and £3788.02 in the Deposit Account.

#### **Road Repairs**

Chris Pearman raised the state of the road between Lagnaha and Kentallen and asked when repairs were due to be undertaken. It was thought they are scheduled for later in the year.

He also asked who was liable should a child be hurt on the play equipment at the hall. It was confirmed this is a matter for the hall.

#### **Pavement Clearance**

BEAR are currently clearing the pavement from the School to the old shop. This was widely welcomed..

#### **Cuil Bay road undermining.**

Janice has spotted that a fallen tree in the river where it runs close to the Cuil Bay road is causing a lot of erosion of the road support. She has taken photos which will be forwarded to Sandy.

The meeting was closed at 8.20pm

**Date of Next Meeting:** There will be no July meeting. The next meeting will be on 12th August 2019 at 7pm.