



DUROR & KENTALLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 14th September 2020
Zoom Session
AT 7.00PM

Present: Sandy Stoddart (*Chairman*), Rachel Shepton (*Vice Chairman*), Chris Pearman, Pat Young, Jeannie Macleo-Becky Coope (*Secretary*)

In attendance: Charlotte Mair

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Duror Primary School/Nursery

Charlotte outlined some concerns that she has regarding the Primary school and lack of nursery provision in the village. As she had one child at the Primary school and one pre-school age child, she contacted the head teacher (Ainsley Burns) to see if transport could be arranged for her younger child to attend nursery in Ballachulish. She was told this was not possible, so she then had to take the hard decision to remove her other child from the Primary and send her to Ballachulish as arranging transport for the children to different schools would have been extremely difficult. Having spoken to some other parents in the village, she realised that many families were also making this decision and therefore the lack of nursery provision in Duror is resulting in children being sent to nursery in Ballachulish or Appin, then choosing to stay in those villages to go to Primary school, having built up friendships with children at nursery. When Charlotte put this to Mrs Burns, she in turn asked for some evidence, however, despite contacting other parents, she only received written support from one other parent. There are a large number of nursery age children currently in the village, and Mrs Burns seems receptive to some form of nursery provision being made available in Duror, but it needs the support of local families. There is real concern that, if no nursery provision is made, the Primary school numbers will drop further. Currently there are only 5 pupils at the primary school. This has been a subject which has been discussed and pursued often before by many in the village since the moth-balling of the nursery - but it was felt this may be the time to take more action. It was agreed that the CC will contact all parents in the village to ascertain their views. It was suggested that perhaps a parent-led volunteer play group could be formed which may be allowed to be held at times within the Primary School. Sandy will work with Charlotte in the first instance to take things further.

Covid Resilience Group

Sandy gave a round-up of the current situation. Community e-mails from the group have been wound down, but the volunteers are still in place and can be up-and-running at short notice should the need arise. The hardship fund has not been needed to date, but may become necessary in the coming months as many - especially those working in hospitality - may find their incomes affected over the winter. Local villages in the area are in contact and working together and people are ready to step up if needed. Rachel commented that some people had not wanted to take down the 'Thumbs up' notices as suggested as they felt that that gave the impression that the situation was over. Sandy confirmed that it was only a suggestion to remove notices, but there was no harm in leaving them in place if individuals felt more comfortable doing so. Sandy will send an e-mail out in the coming weeks to remind people of the Hardship Fund.

Glen Duror Hydro Scheme

Following a number of complaints from residents regarding the movement of log lorries in and out of the forest in Glen Duror and also the contamination of the water supplies of some homes at the top of Achindarroch road with diesel, Sandy met with representatives of both Forestry and Land Scotland and Glen Hydro. The water pollution issue has been resolved. To address the other matters, FLS have agreed to move the gate into the forest back 200m, so lorries aren't stopping to open gates within earshot of the house. FLS will also ask haulage contractors working on the Hydro scheme and an unrelated felling contract in the glen to observe certain measures. They have been asked not to start work before 7am and to stop and check the loads before exiting the forest gate. The situation in the forest is seen as mayhem, but both FLS and the contractors seem to be taking the situation seriously and this outcome was welcomed. With many tons of timber due to be extracted through the village in the coming years this initial phase is being seen in

some ways as a trail run. FLS have agreed a new protocol - they don't currently include clauses regarding transport of timber into their contracts but will change that in future.

Chris raised concerns about cars parked by the roadside near the Achindarroch junction, which make it difficult for lorries approaching the junction. Sandy will pursue this with the housing association to see if there is a possible solution.

Cuil Bay Tourism

Jeannie again raised concerns about the number of campervans and campers at Cuil Bay. There is often no room for locals to park and, with no facilities, the amount of human waste is appalling. Sandy said that there is a national debate raging about the sheer numbers of campervans visiting Scotland. Whilst it is by no means all of the visitors that are causing a problem, a small minority of thoughtless people are spoiling things for everyone. There is a recognised lack of facilities for visitors of this type in the area, however websites still promote our area widely. It is recognised that we cannot stop people coming to the area, nor should we, but something has to be done to try and improve the situation. Becky outlined a scheme that she was involved in on Loch Tummel some years back, when local wardens were retained by the community to talk to visitors and make them aware of their responsibilities when visiting the area. The scheme was backed by the local Police and made a big difference to problems in that area. Sandy will contact Jamie, as the local landowner, to see if a mutually effective way forward can be found.

Reimbursement for Accounts

Jonathan raised this matter. Some years ago it was agreed to donate a bottle of wine each year to Lisa Higham for preparing the CC Accounts. This matter has been overlooked for 3 years. It was agreed to put this right.

AGM

We haven't been required to hold an AGM as usual, and the HC grant has been paid as normal. However, HC would like us to hold an AGM in the next few months. As face-to-face meetings are currently strictly prohibited, this should be a Zoom meeting. Sandy has the capacity to host a meeting with up to 100 participants, but all who wish to attend must contact him individually, as he has to admit them through a virtual waiting room. The Zoom link should not therefore be shared by anyone as Sandy would not know who to expect on the night. Sandy will prepare for an AGM.

Planning

There were no plan matters to discuss.

AOB

Agendas

It was agreed that Agendas for the CC Meetings should be put on FaceBook. The purchase of new noticeboards has been held up by the Covid situation but this is now in hand again.

The meeting was closed at 8.10pm.

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