

# Duror & Kentallen

## DUROR & KENTALLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING Monday September 6th 2021 at 7pm via Zoom Meeting

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**Attendees:** Jonathan Baxter (Acting Vice Chairman and Treasurer), Steve Bignell, Pat Young, Chris Pearman, Lea Thomson (Secretary), Claire Howell, Alex Smith, Kay Duffy, Dicky Weir, Charlotte Mair, Willie Burke.

**Apologies:** Sandy Stoddart (Chairman)

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#### 1. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th July 2021

- Minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2021 were approved without amendment by Alex and seconded by Steve.

#### 2. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

- **Duror Diggers:** Jonathan confirmed that payment has been made for village flowers to Rachel, which included payment for Lottie. Jonathan is still awaiting receipt for Lottie's purchases.
- **Playground equipment:** Jonathan confirmed that Andrew Baxter would support us if the CC and Hall send a joint letter asking for the grant from the builders of the houses in Duror to be made available for play equipment at the Hall. Alan Young and Jonathan to write the letter and send it to Andrew this month.
- **Cuil Bay Ranger visits:** Nothing further to report on this.
- **Public Benches:** Muriel's Seat is now all finished. Sustrans says money has been sent to the CC account to pay for it. The Main Road bench is still waiting for slats to be replaced. Chris commented that there was an array of hardwood planks for sale on FB Marketplace today, which he will look into further, and Dickie advised that Rembrandt Timber in Oban sell hardwood.
- **Response to planning:** In relation to the 4 flats and house off Cameron Brae, Kentallen, a letter from the CC has been added to the planning details online formally objecting to the planning for the 4 flats. It is now awaiting a decision by the Highland Council. The planning permission for a single house next to the old post office in Kentallen is also awaiting a planning decision from the Highland Council..
- **Broadband:** There has been no action on this since the last meeting, but Geoff Nix, Jonathan and Steve have agreed to progress it. Dickie pointed out he has a superfast broadband contract - but as the fibre is only available to the box, with copper to the house, the internet connection is still not very fast. Chris Pearman has switched from Vodafone to Zen and says this has improved his connection. Willie Burke commented that aluminium cabling in Duror has caused many of the issues with slower than usual broadband connections in the area.
- There were no other matters arising.

### 3. Treasurer's Report

- The annual accounts have now been checked by Lisa Higham and, as they were provisionally agreed by the CC at a previous meeting, they can now be sent off to the Highland Council so that we can receive our annual grant. Jonathan will send them off this month.
- Monthly Treasurer's Report: Under the CC rules, Jonathan can't be acting chairman and treasurer, so the treasurer role will be put on hold until the chairman's role is permanently filled.

### 4. Correspondence

- Jonathan read out an email from Moira, sent on behalf of Sandy, which included his wish to resign from the Community Council. Everyone expressed their sympathy for Sandy and would like to pass on their wishes for his speedy recovery. Jonathan agreed to write to Moira directly to pass on our regards, thanks for all his work and offer support if it is required.

### 5. Planning

No new applications, but awaiting decisions on:

- [Erection of 4 flats and associated works, Cameron Brae, Kentallen](#)
- [Erection of house next to Old Post Office, Cameron Brae, Kentallen](#)

### 6. Loch Linnhe Fish Farm Presentation

- Mark Shotter (Project Manager) and Stewart Hawthorne (Director) presented a proposal for two new semi-closed containment salmon farms to be run by Loch Long Salmon, which is a conglomerate of Simply Blue Aquaculture, Trimara Services and Golden Acre. These two fish farms would be located just off Lurignish farm (which Appin Community Council would be dealing with) and Balmagowan, with a shorebase near Dalnatrat (which is in our area of responsibility). If there is reasonable support and permission then both will be developed.
- Loch Long Salmon are currently working on site selection and feasibility, aiming for construction 2023/24 and operations 2024/25.
- Any questions or feedback can be submitted at [info@lochlongsalmon.com](mailto:info@lochlongsalmon.com) and further information can be found at <https://www.lochlongsalmon-planning.com/>.
- Questions and Comments
  - Steve B pointed out the floating umbilical would be obtrusive to shore users, such as kayakers, who frequently use the area. There are also lots of local fishermen who will want to know more about how this will impact their businesses. Mark Shotter responded that he can't comment on those right now, but each impact will be assessed individually and shore users will be given the chance to provide their input and feedback. Stewart commented that it will reduce the workable area substantially for trawlers, but won't have a massive impact on creel fishing.

- Jonathan queried the ownership of the land for the suggested sites. Mark confirmed both are owned by Forestry Scotland and that each shore site will cover between 1 and 2 acres of land.
- Dickie wanted more detail on logistics as it could have a big impact on traffic levels through the villages. Stewart commented that the majority of traffic would come from the south, but it is still to be decided.
- Chris queried the level of odour from the farms. Mark indicated that a lot of work is going into minimizing the odours emanating from the farms.
- Willie would like more evidence about fish farms in Norway. Also would like to know that the money will go back into Scotland, and would like community and consultant feedback from the company's first fish farm, in Loch Long, to be made available.
- Jonathan and Steve both expressed reservations about the aesthetic impact of the farms.

## 7. COVID

- Following advice from the Highland Council, meetings will continue to be held by Zoom for the foreseeable future. No further comments at this stage.

## 8. Community Council Membership

- Sandy has resigned as Chairman. We need a new Chairman and Jonathan, as vice chair and acting chairman, has requested all members think about a new chairman from November onwards.
- Steve has resigned as Vice-Chair.
- We currently have only 4 committee members, and we can have up to 8 members. As we have a quorum in this meeting, we were able to co-opt two new members onto the Community Council: Claire Howell and Alex Smith. Claire and Alex are both resident in the parish and are on the electoral register for this parish. They were nominated by Jonathan and seconded by Steve.
- Kay Duffy and Dickie Weir also expressed an interest in joining the community council, and will contact Jonathan to discuss what is required of the role. Willie also expressed a wish to support the CC in future work.
- Anyone else who was interested was also urged by Jonathan to contact him to discuss it further.

## 9. Any Other Business

- Committee Members and Ex-Officio Committee Members
  - Chris pointed out that he had visited Cuil Bay last week and there was no space for turning and difficult driving conditions at the bay due to all the camper vans. He queried whether we can enforce no parking in the turning circle as signposted. Steve noted that turning and parking spaces are owned by the Council, so are legitimate and can be enforceable by the council. Jonathan to check with the local police on this.
- No Questions from the Public

## 10. Date of the Next Meeting: Monday 4th October 2021