

## DUROR & KENTALLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES FOR MEETING Monday November 8th 2021 at 7pm Duror and Kentallen Community Centre

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**Present:** Alex Smith, Jonathan Baxter (acting Chairman), Chris Pearman, Pat Young, Geoff Nix, Lis Robertson, Claire Howell, Richard Wilkie, Sara McNeill, Jeannie Macleod, Steve Bignell, Willie Burke, Karen Ezard, Kay Duffy, and Lea Thomson (secretary)

**Apologies:** Dicky Weir, Sandy Stoddart, and Stephen Softley.

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#### 1. Minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2021

- Amendment requested to section 9 by Steve: a co-opted member may be chairman and can vote as a full member, including voting new members into the committee. However, the number of full members must be at least 4. Otherwise, minutes are accurate. (Note: adjustments have been made and posted to the website).
- Minutes approved by Steve, seconded by Pat.

#### 2. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

- Duror Diggers - Alex has the receipt and will drop it round to Jonathan this week.
- Playground equipment. Alan Young from the Hall Committee and Jonathan drafted a letter to request the "Developer Contribution" from the Kirkside houses be used for a swing set positioned at the hall. This has been sent to Susan McMillan from the Highland Council. Andrew Baxter, our local representative, has seen the letter and agreed to support it.
- Cuil Bay turning spaces. Geoff has written a letter to the Highland Council requesting that they adopt at least one passing place on the route and mark it with a sign. No response or acknowledgement of the letter as yet.
- Main Road Bench Refurbishment - Jonathan and Dicky researched hardwood and discovered it would cost around £400 to repair the bench. They will research other options. Chris expressed concern about who actually owns the bench. Jonathan will draft an email to the Highland Council to determine ownership of the bench.
- Broadband - Geoff has completed further research. Based on the current schedule, Cuil Bay should receive superfast broadband by the second half of 2022. Full fibre-to-the-door is specified on the site. Geoff supplied the R100 Address Checker site, which is here: <https://www.scotlandsuperfast.com/>

- Fish Farm - there has been no further action on this. Steve pointed out that the Salmon Conservation Trust no longer approves open net systems (although the Government is still approving farms using this method) and Willie stated that Canada has requested all fish farms to be removed by 2025, so the attitude towards fish farming is changing internationally. This item will be removed from the agenda going forward unless we have reason to reopen the discussion.
- Road Safety: Discussed in agenda item below
- No other matters

### 3. Treasurer's Report

- Monthly Treasurer's Report is in abeyance until new Chairman is appointed.
- In summary, the current account has a balance of £6,122.66. The deposit account has a balance of £3,795.24. Payments have come in from the annual Highland Council grant and the Sustrans payment for the bench by the school. Payment for the Remembrance Day wreath is to come out.

### 4. Correspondence

- (not discussed in meeting): email from our police representative, Stephen Softley regarding personal safety:
  - a recent incident of phone fraud in the area. Please do not give out personal information over the phone - especially to cold callers. If you are in any doubt about the legitimacy of a caller, end the call and take a note of the number used to phone if possible and make the police aware. If it is someone purporting to be the bank for example, good practice would also be to phone the bank yourself and alert them.
  - Also with the festive period coming up I would like to raise awareness around social media, i.e. be mindful of what you post on social media and have the correct settings so that people other than your friends can not view your activity. (Usually closer to the time Police Scotland will issue guidance around Festive Safety on their internet page, once this is posted I will forward the link)
- letter from the Forestry Commission regarding amendments to the local forestry plan for Duror (Bealach Forest Design Plan) - circulated to attendees after the meeting.
- correspondence from Sandy resigning from the Committee

## 5. Planning

Awaiting Decisions on:

- [Renewal of permission for house on land 60M SE Of Achindarroch Farm Duror](#)
- [Erection of house and erection of 2 chalets for holiday letting purposes | Land 100M West Of Invernahyle Duror](#)
- [Erection of 4 flats and associated works. Cameron Brae. Kentallen](#)

Jonathan highlighted the planning for Invernahyle, Duror and it was discussed in the meeting. Nobody had any objections.

Jonathan has written to the Planning Department regarding what's happening with the flats in Cameron Brae. He was informed of the process: as there have been quite a few objections, it will pass through the Ward Members planning committee for review, if it is approved through the standard process.

## 6. Loch Linnhe Fish Farm

- No further actions. To be removed as an agenda item going forward.

## 7. Road Safety

- Lea sent Richard's presentation to Stephen Softley, our police representative, requesting a response. He stated most of the accidents are driver error, although there have been complaints about diesel (or similar) spillage consistently around the area of the cemetery. He has spoken to the area manager of BEAR who is aware of the crashes and the complaints, and has ordered more tests (including skid testing). However, this section of road is not currently on the priority scheme. Richard is drafting a formal letter to Transport Scotland regarding this matter.

## 8. COVID

- Strict COVID procedures were followed throughout the meeting, which was held at the Hall. All attendees confirmed they were satisfied as to the arrangements. No further updates in the area. This item may be removed from the agenda going forward.

## 9. Community Council Membership

- Sandy has resigned, so we now have the minimum number of full, elected members: Jonathan, Steve, Pat and Chris.
- We should have 8 members (co-opted and full) on the committee. Current co-opted members are: Alex, Claire and Dickie.

- Steve proposed Sara McNeill as another co-opted member. This was seconded by Alex.Kay kindly deferred to Sara as Sara would represent the southern part of the villages.
- Current associate members: Kay Duffy, Becky Coope, Jeannie MacLeod.
- Lea to confirm by next meeting when the co-opted members can be voted in as full members, and the process for this.
- As previously discussed, Jonathan resigned from his role as acting Chairman at the end of the meeting. We urgently need a Chair and Vice-Chair in place by the next meeting. Jonathan agreed to send out details of the role and what is required to all members and co-opted members by the end of the week so that people can make an informed decision about whether or not they could commit to the role.

## **10. Any Other Business**

- No questions from committee Members and Ex-Officio Committee Members
- No questions from the Public

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

- Monday 13th December 2021