



**DUROR & KENTALLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 12th May 2021**

**Zoom Session
AT 7.00PM**

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

In Attendance: Lea Thomson

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Matters arising

- **Post of Secretary** Lea Thomson has agreed to take on the post for now. This was widely welcomed. Becky will liaise with Lea regarding duties prior to her standing down at the AGM.
- **Tommy Statue** Jonathan has ordered the large Tommy statue and is awaiting delivery. A post will need to be put up to fix it to. Jonathan will organise.
- **Cuil bay** Sandy said, that following many conversations regarding the situation with overnight campers at Cuil Bay over the preceding months, there has been a new turn of events which may mean the CC's role in the situation is diminished. A recent encampment in the bay had caused concern as a large amount of human waste and other rubbish had been left and someone had been seen with a chainsaw on the beach, so Sandy had contacted the Police. They made 2 visits. Following this Jamie Malcolm contacted his lawyer to establish his rights as landowner. He was told that he is entitled to charge a fee for overnight stays at the parking area, and if anyone refuses to pay then he can ask them to leave and if they refuse to leave he can call the Police. He is arranging for 3 signs to be made to that effect. Jamie had contacted Environmental Health and had been told that someone would be sent to clear up the waste. Apparently the rubbish around the bins has been lifted but there is still a problem with waste in the gorse bushes. The CC is grateful to Jamie for coming up with this helpful solution and will be happy to help him in any way they can. It was agreed to see how the situation develops as things open up.
- **Village Tidy** Jonathan is to order some litter pickers, then Sandy will put a notice on FaceBook inviting people to help with the litter pick in their own time.
- **Cycle Track Safety** Sandy has spoken with Paul Cronin regarding the safety of the stretch of track at Achara and he has confirmed that Sustrans will not be taking any further action. Jonathan felt that the CC should not accept this situation. Although there are other stretches of the track that run close to the road, in Onich for example, it is felt that the fact that this stretch is raised above the road makes it more dangerous. Steve asked if Sustrans own the land or if it is Niall MacLean. If it is Niall then perhaps he could be approached to put a fence up? Sandy felt perhaps there is not enough room for a fence. It was felt, in general, that poor design of this stretch of track has resulted in a safety hazard. The track could have been placed further from the road at this point. Sandy will contact Paul and let him know that he plans to contact PC Softley to see if the Police have a view on the safety of the stretch of track.
- **Post Covid Resilience** No one has approached Sandy with ideas to take keep this initiative going after lockdown, but it was felt that much that has been put in place through the last few months will continue on an informal basis. The villages have been excellent at looking after those in need and it was felt that this will carry on.

Planning

The Application for 3 houses at Greenfield has been withdrawn.

There has been an application for renewal of Planning for a house to the south-east of Achindarroch Farm. Steve noted that he and Carol will be objecting to this renewal as they had not been notified as neighbours. He further felt that some changes had been made to the original application and that the application had stood for so long with no start to the development that a new application rather than a renewal should be applied for.

Highland Council Correspondence:

There have been various items of correspondence from HC, much relating to Covid and nothing of real note.

AOCB

Stray Sheep in Glen Duror Forest

Steve reported that there are a number of stray ewes and lambs in the forest. Some have been removed recently by the owner, but there are still some left. It is not known who owns these, they may be strays who are now living wild.

Lochaber Transport Forum

Sandy reported that HC have withdrawn funding from the LTF, however LTF still have some funds and will continue to meet. HC has also undertaken to host two public transport related meetings in Lochaber each year.

Financial Matters

Jonathan has paid for the RBL Tommy Statue from his own account and asked if a cheque could be issued to reimburse him. Rachel will arrange. He added that he has ordered the replacement for Muriel's bench and will check with Paul Cronin if the CC have to pay and be reimbursed by Sustrans or if Sustrans will pay direct for it. He further added that he is currently unable to make BACS payments from the CC account and will speak to RBS to see if this can be set up. Jonathan concluded by confirming that D&KCC currently have £5,885.39 in the Current Account and £3795.03 in the Deposit Account.

Duror Diggers

Rachel spoke about the Duror Diggers - a local group who are operating through FaceBook, sharing gardening ideas. They wonder if funds may be available from the CC to help with planters and plants to enhance the two villages. Volunteers have already come forward to help with watering etc. It was unanimously agreed that the group should be supported. Sandy asked Rachel if they could come up with a costed plan for the CC to consider. Chris pointed out that there are already brackets for hanging baskets on some lamp posts on Achindarroch Road.

Bench on Main Road

Chris reported that the bench by the side of the main road between the church and the old shop is in a bad state of repair. It has cast concrete ends and oak slats which have deteriorated. Chris and Jonathan will look into getting replacement oak slats.

Next Meeting

Sandy reminded the meeting that the June meeting will be the AGM. He intends to combine this with an OGM immediately after as last year. The meeting will be Zoom again - however he will check with Dot Ferguson when meetings in person are likely to be allowed again - but he felt this may not be for some time.

The meeting was closed at 7.50pm.

Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will on 14th June 2021 at 7pm.