

DUROR & KENTALLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR STATUS UPDATE MEETING Monday April 11th 2022 at 7:00pm Kentallen and Duror Community Centre

Present: Geoff Nix (Chair), Jonathan Baxter (Treasurer), Janice Murray, Lis Robertson, Dicky Weir, Neil Malcolm, Jeannie Macleod, Lea Thomson (Minutes Secretary), Sarah Fanet.

Apologies: Pat Young (Vice Chair), Audrey Godfrey (Co-opted Member), Chris Pearman (Member), Kay Duffy (Co-opted Member)

1. Apologies

- As there were so many members missing from the meeting we did not have a quorum. This OGM was then amended to be a status update, and no voting took place.

2. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

- **Playground Equipment:** this has been installed and paid for. It seems to be well used.
- **Correction:** In the minutes it stated that Lea would arrange booking the hall for Sarah Fanet's surgeries. This is managed by the hall booking secretary, and Lea forwarded his details to Sarah before the previous meeting.
- **Funding Opportunities and Ideas for Village Projects:** Lea suggested this should not be dropped from the agenda as there seems to be quite a few opportunities to apply for further funding for the village available at the moment. Lea to put a message up on the Facebook page and website asking for suggestions from the community.
- **Cuill Bay road parking and surface complaint:** Sarah Fanet has arranged for Colin Howell of the Roads and Infrastructure team to visit on May 11th, although the worst of the potholes have already been fixed.
- **A828 road safety:** there was another accident on this stretch recently. Geoff read out the Council response to our request for improvements, promising to resurface the road in the current financial year but not to reduce the speed limits. Geoff suggested the next step is to improve enforcement of the current speed limits, and once we get a new police liaison officer this process can get underway.
- **Main Road bench:** Dicky is awaiting a response before progressing. The Highland Council have agreed to do the concrete pad and fit and maintain the benches if the Community Council supplies them.
- **Broadband:** no further updates - although Appin is currently being upgraded.
- **Digital Banking:** Jonathan has sent the forms into the bank and once it is approved will transfer Rachel's signing authority over to Geoff.
- **Platinum Jubilee celebrations:** a sub-committee in conjunction with the Hall committee met recently to plan the event, and a message has been sent out to the

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community. This will be a street-party style event starting at 3pm with BYO picnics and barbecues. Games and tea, coffee, and children's drinks will be supplied by the Hall Committee and Community Council - with a suggested donation of £100 from each.

- **Village tidy-up:** there was a great turnout for this last weekend and a fantastic cleanup. The roadsides in particular were badly littered. Most people came to the hall for their brunch event afterwards. Thanks to the two Janices in Cuill Bay who do regular litter picks throughout the year in their area. Lea noted that the bollards on the roadside had been replaced, but the old bollards with their concrete bases had been thrown in the ditches along the side of the road, and these needed to be picked up.
- **Missing access bridge:** Geoff has contacted Caroline Fyfe of Nature Scotland to progress this. Apparently work started on clearing the path this week, but there is no further word on the bridge as yet.
- **Kirkside Road sign:** Jonathan has been in touch with Dot Ferguson again regarding the missing road signs, but they are still to be replaced.
- **Defibrillator:** Jonathan to research first aid training and report back to the next meeting.

3. Treasurer's Report

- The balances are the same as reported for last month. There is no further movement on the outstanding payment from H2O ii. Jonathan will speak to the Forestry Commission, who are the landlord for the project.

4. Fundraising and Donation for Ukraine

- A donation has been made to the Disasters and Emergencies Committee on behalf of Duror and Kentallen from the Community Council. Some people are taking in refugees locally and Mrs Burns of the local school is supportive of accepting refugee children into the school.

5. Correspondence

- Resilience Group briefings have been circulated by Geoff. It was agreed that these no longer need to be circulated. Geoff will scan them and, if there is anything relevant, he will report to the next meeting.

6. Bus Partnership Fund

- Geoff has distributed notes on this to the committee members. There is no revenue to increase existing bus routes in our area.

7. Communication with the Community

- Geoff has sent out an email with a discussion document suggesting a way forward to improve communication between the Community Council and the community, based on suggestions from the previous meeting.

- Geoff has set up a draft (i.e. not published yet) Community Council-specific Facebook page, which will hold all minutes, meetings, etc, and when relevant will post to the general community group. Lea expressed concern at dispersing the information over multiple facebook pages, but this will be discussed further outside of the meeting, e.g. with a working group.
- Geoff has been in contact with Alan Young of the Community Centre as there is much common ground regarding communication (such as the website) and Geoff's suggestion is that with support from this meeting he will progress a way forward with a small group including someone from the Hall Committee (a "tech savvy" person). Jonathan requested that he and Lea are included in these meetings.
- Geoff has posted the agendas and minutes on the noticeboards, but missed two so will do those this week. The four noticeboards are at the Fort William end of Kentallen, the Hall, by the play park in Achindarroch, and at Cuill Bay by the school.
- Janice had queried the security of the website and its use. Lea pointed out that as there is only one administrator, no forums, no payment taken, and we don't hold anyone's personal information, there is no need for it to be a https site.
- Janice asked that the images be updated, as they are very old and some of the people in the photos are no longer alive.

8. Committee Membership

- Steve resigned last month and Geoff explained the reasons he had provided for resigning to the group. Dickie stepped down as co-opted member to ensure there was a balanced number of elected and co-opted members, as per the regulations. Jonathan suggested he is asked to be an associate member at the next meeting.
- The next interim election is in September and we need to encourage members of the community to actively participate in the community council and perhaps join the committee. Janice suggested we need to remind the community of all the different activities we do. Geoff to find out the process for the next election to ensure we are prepared.

9. Planning

- No updates

10. COVID - Area updates and meeting changes

- Awaiting final decisions re wearing of masks by the government.

11. Any Other Business

- **Duror multi-use path**

- plans were distributed earlier this week to realign the cycle path to make it safer for cyclists, as previously there was a considerable drop from the path to the road. Jonathan is to ask for clarification on these plans, as the description doesn't match the diagrams.
- Dickie commented that it is quite common to see motorbikes, quad bikes and utility vehicles using the cycle path, and requested we request a sign to be put up to say it's not suitable for motorized vehicles. Geoff will discuss this with Sustrans.
- Janice noted that someone has added trees to the original planting beside the cycle path near the wooden bridge on the main road in Duror. These are pine trees and other potentially large trees, and they're planted within a metre of the cycle path, so they need to be removed.
- **Corrugated Hall in Duror:** Lea was contacted by someone who is keen to ensure this hall is looked after. Neil provided a background of its history and offered to communicate this to the interested parties. Lea to forward the email to Neil and Jonathan to progress.
- **Humpback Bridge in Cuill Bay** - Neil stated that this bridge has a great historical significance for the area, but is falling into disrepair. He is keen for some maintenance to be done on it. Dickie suggested this could be one of the community funding projects. Neil and Geoff to establish owners and progress.

12. Date of Next Meeting

- Monday 9th May 2022