

DUROR & KENTALLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING 12th July 2021 at 7pm online via Zoom

Attendees:

Steve Bignell (Vice Chair), Jonathan Baxter (Treasurer), Pat Young, Lea Thomson (Secretary), Claire Howell, Alan Young, Geoff Nix, Alex Smith

Apologies for Absence:

Becky Coope, Sandy Stoddart (Chairman), Chris Pearman

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th May 2021 were approved without amendment by Jonathan and seconded by Steve.

2. Business arising from previous minutes

- **Tommy statue installation:** Jonathan informed the meeting that this is in the hall awaiting installation. A suitable mounting post is required and Steve and Jonathan will meet up once the poppy collection appeal has started to arrange putting the statue up in time for Remembrance Day. No further action is required.
- **Duror Diggers:** Jonathan advised that Duror Diggers have been provided with a cheque to reimburse them for the expenditure so far. He has received a receipt from Rachel but is awaiting a receipt from Lottie, which he will chase before the next meeting.
- **Playground equipment:** Alan advised that this was discussed in the Hall Committee meeting last week and agreed that the Hall would apply to the Ward Discretionary Fund towards the end of 2021 for one third of the £8,000 quoted by Playdale for a fully installed set of 3 swings. There is an agreement in principle that the Community Council will also put forward one third of the funding, with the final third paid by the Hall Committee. Jonathan is going to discuss this further with Andrew Baxter.
- **Cuil Bay Ranger visits:** There was some discussion in previous meetings about the Loch Etive Rangers visiting Cuil Bay as part of their role, and Rachel was going to speak to her contact to make them aware of the legal issues currently relating to overnight camping in the vicinity. Alex had not been informed of any conversations regarding this from Rachel, and Geoff said he was unaware of any Ranger visits. However, Geoff commented that the issues caused by overnight campers and poor parking continue, with paramedics struggling to reach his house last week, and a vehicle ending up in the burn due to poor parking. Steve commented that he was unaware of how the legal issues regarding this were progressing but would try to find out before the next meeting.
- **Muriel's Seat:** This is now in place but as it was put on concrete pads it is slightly too high, so Jonathan has arranged for someone with a digger to build up the ground around the seat to make it more accessible. Jonathan has sent a photo to Muriel's daughter, who was very pleased with it, and once the groundwork is finished he will send a photo and receipt to Sustrans.

- **Litter Pickers:** The Committee agreed to arrange a litter picking session at Cuil Bay at the end of the tourist season (October 2021). Steve suggested the existing litter picking equipment (6 litter-picking forks and vests), which is held at the Hall, is no longer fit for purpose, and Jonathan agreed to look into purchasing a new set of equipment before October.
- **Cycle Track Safety:** Sandy was dealing with this, so we will be updated on his return.
- **Main Road Bench:** Jonathan stated that nothing had been done about this yet apart from checking what needed to be fixed. He will bring costs for replacing the bench slats to the next meeting.

3. Treasurer's Report

Jonathan is awaiting a formal check from Lisa, who is currently on holiday. Once she is back he will ask her to check the accounts and will present them for approval at the next meeting.

4. Correspondence

- **Sandy** - Sandy contacted Steve to say he is unable to attend tonight's meeting and is still quite unwell. The Community Council expressed their support for Sandy and wished him a full recovery.
- **Loch Linnhe Fish Farm** - Steve discussed an email sent to Sandy from Loch Linnhe Fish Farm, requesting a meeting with the Committee to present their proposal for a fish farm nearby in advance of applying for planning permission. Steve will contact them to suggest they present to us at the next meeting via Zoom. He will also ask Neil Ravenscroft, who has a degree in Marine Biology, to sit in on the presentation as an expert to advise us. Jonathan advised that fish farming is an emotive subject, and they should present to the whole community. Geoff agreed, asking if those who might be most affected, such as Sandy McLaughlin (a local fisherman), had been informed. Steve pointed out they are not at that stage yet, and Pat agreed that presenting to us as a small group first might give them good initial feedback.

5. Planning

- **Erection of 4 flats and associated works, Cameron Brae, Kentallen and Erection of house next to Old Post Office, Cameron Brae, Kentallen:** Steve has contacted the Highland Council saying we will respond after this meeting, and reinforced the importance of getting a balanced view on this from local residents. Jonathan stated there is a lot of local concern about these two planning applications, so he volunteered to gather feedback and draft a response, to be sent after approval ex-Committee.
- **Erection of house South East of Achindarroch Farm, Duror :** Steve advised that the Committee previously agreed to remain neutral on this application, but he is not sure if Sandy has responded or not.
- **Erection of Yoga Studio and Extension to House, Cuil Bay, Duror:** Steve advised that the Committee responded on 15th October 2019 to this application, so will not be adding any further comments.

6. Broadband

Jonathan thanked Geoff for his help on this, and advised that he has circulated a list of the 126 properties that have access to superfast broadband, the 86 properties currently in a broadband plan due for delivery post 2021 and the 32 properties eligible for the main voucher scheme, supplied to him from Kate Forbes' office. It was noted that there are some issues with accuracy in relation to this list. There are grants available and Geoff and Jonathan will meet with the BT team to find out what's happening with the R100 scheme to try to move this forward. Jonathan will also try to arrange an action group to push progress on this before the end of July.

7. COVID

Steve noted that the Community appears to be coping well with the pandemic. He also stated that the guidance from the Highland Council about face-to-face Community Council meetings remained unchanged at this time. We will therefore continue to hold our meetings online and we are awaiting further government decisions. There is nothing further to report on this but we should retain it as an agenda item for the next meeting.

8. Community Council Membership

Steve informed that he had received advice from Dot Ferguson regarding the rules relating to Council membership as follows. The Council should consist of up to 8 members, with 4 of those members elected into their positions. The remaining 4 may join through co-opting or election. In order to be eligible to join, individuals must be resident and on the local electoral roll. There are interim elections in Autumn, so we can formally vote in new members in Autumn. This meeting did not have a quorum of elected members, so we can defer co-opting Claire, Alex and Geoff onto the Committee but that they should be associate members until next month's meeting (receiving all relevant correspondence). Sandy is stepping down from his role as Chairman in September, so we will need to consider a replacement, and confirm if he still wants to retain his membership of the committee.

Post meeting note: Further discussions with Dot Ferguson have clarified the rules and as we currently have more than four elected members we are not eligible for the interim elections but we should continue with co-opting additional members up to our maximum 8.

9. Any Other Business

No other business

10. Date of Next Meeting

Agreed to defer August meeting due to people on holidays, etc.

Date of next meeting: Monday September 6th 2021.