ARROCHAR & TARBET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Ronald Ross - Chairman 01301 702286  Jean Mustarde - Minute Sec. 01301 702445
Ronnie MacDonald - Vice Chair 01301 702441  Tim Kinvig – School Issues 01301 702232
Mary Haggarty - Secretary 01301 702553  Bill Lowe - Environment 01301 702481
Treasurer - Vacant  Joan Queen – A82 01301 702304
Ian Kay - Planning 01301 702543  Ellen Greenwood – A83 / A814 01301 702818

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 19 February 2015
Three Villages Hall

Present:

Ronnie MacDonald Vice Chair
Mary Haggarty Secretary
Tim Kinvig School
Jean Mustarde Minute Sec
Ian Kay Planning
Ellen Greenwood A83 / A814
Bill Lowe Environment
Iain Wilkinson Cllr George Freeman Luss Estates
Cllr Robert MacIntyre Argyll and Bute Council
Chief /Ins Bob Argyll and Bute Council
Kennedy Police Scotland
Sgt Bob McGee Police Scotland

Item 1: Apologies

Apologies were received from Ronald Ross, Joan Queen, PC Andy Crawford (Police Scotland), David Robertson (Forestry Commission), David McKenzie (National Park) and Councillor Maurice Corry.

Item 2: Declaration of Interest

None were received.

Item 3: Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were agreed by the Community Council (CC). Proposed by Ronnie McDonald and seconded by Tim Kinvig.

Item 4: Treasurer’s Report

The current balance for the CC account stands at £1,455 which includes £535.80 for the Christmas Lights Fund. There are no outstanding bills.

Item 5: Police Update

Chief Inspector Bob Kennedy and Sergeant Bob McGee outlined the proposed changes to the senior structure at Divisional Command with the merger of L and K Divisions of Police Scotland. Given the stringent financial cuts that Police Scotland face over the coming years, a proposal has been put forward for the Chief Constable’s consideration to merge the two local divisions currently centred in Dumbarton and Paisley. It is stressed that this
will **not** reduce the front line response or officer numbers. It will in fact lead to an increase in officers if the proposal is accepted as the merger will reduce the number of senior officers at Chief Inspector and above required in the area allowing this funding to be used for police constables.

Another issue to be clarified is that Dumbarton Police Office will not close nor will Helensburgh. There is a possibility that the office in Dumbarton will relocate within the area but there will be a police office in Dumbarton. Helensburgh will not close nor will officers be removed. The proposal is focussing on reducing senior rank structures in the area by amalgamation of the two Divisional Command Teams in the area. The resulting single Divisional Command Team for the area will remain responsible for this area whether it is sited in Paisley or Dumbarton. It is the Area Commander – Chief Inspector Gary Stitt at Helensburgh - who will continue to inform the policing requirements for the area at the morning briefing sessions that happen presently and will continue if the proposal is accepted.

From the recent consultation period which started in December, there has been no adverse reaction from within Police Scotland or from the Police Federation which represents police officers. The consultation is to ensure that members of the public understand the proposed changes and how it will mean no change to the services they currently receive. With the upcoming election, this proposal is being distorted by varied individuals wishing to use it to highlight their agendas. Police Scotland is keen to ensure that by speaking to local groups like the CC ensures the correct message is understood.

The CC raised the concern that this proposal could increase the lack of local knowledge which has caused instances where response times have been extended. It was agreed that response times are regularly monitored and will be provided to the CC for review. Should those response times suffer they will be questioned by the Chief Constable. Communication will be the vital ingredient in this consultation and ensuring that residents feel they have continued access to all the services they currently have, including specialist services engaged in any incident as appropriate, eg rape investigation, scenes of crime investigation and family operations.

Turning to the local monthly statistics, Sgt McGee gave the following update in PC Crawford’s absence. In the past month, 33 calls were received of which 18 were of note, with the remainder being related to weather, wide loads and environmental (fallen trees etc) in the area:

- 5 non-locals reported to the Procurator Fiscal for possession of drugs during routine stops along the A82;

- 2 thefts reported – 1 of camping equipment which was left on a local hillside for 3 days and had been removed when the owner returned to his camp; a theft of 2 stihl saws from the road works at Pulpit Rock;
• 1 driver reported for careless driving;
• 1 driver reported to the Procurator Fiscal for driving at 55mph in a 30mph area;
• 5 fix penalty notices served on drivers speeding in the 20mph area close to the school;
• 2 road traffic accidents;
• 2 incidents of flares being reported on the hillsides which related to local military exercises;

The CC wished PC Crawford a speedy recovery.

**Item 6: Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park**

The current planning application list for this month contained:

• An application to install air source heat pumps at ACHA properties in Kirkfield Place;
• An application for tree works at Invereoch House;
• Retrospective planning approval for the erection of a chalet style holiday property in the grounds of Ardmay House;
• An application for formation of a private forestry road to extract timber from private land bordering Sloy Power Station;
• An application for placement of a CCTV mast on the B828 at the Rest and Be Thankful;
• Approval of changes to garden use at Garristuck House, Ardlui; and
• Approval of replacement extension at Oakbank, Arrochar.

The CC agreed to monitor the proposed use of the static caravan now sited in the car park at Slanj in Tarbet.
There is no update on the Ben Arthur Resort despite the National Park commenting in December that there would be developments on this proposal within 3 months.

As yet the CC has not heard any result from the National Park relating to the joint Community grant application which was submitted from the Trust and the CC. Park representative David McKenzie has told the CC that review of the grants took place at the beginning of Feb.
Post meeting note: The CC received notification that they were not successful in their bit to the National Park for a grant towards the village’s Christmas Lights project.

**Item 7: Luss Estate**

Ian Wilkinson apologised for the delays to the drainage works at Tarbet but expected this work to begin within the next few weeks. Work to investigate the flooding in Invereoch Court has been conducted and it is hoped that diverting the water running off the hill via a ditch into the burn may be sufficient.

Work has begun on the Access Trust footpath near the play park which will incorporate pipework issues on the top perimeter of the play area.

The CC questioned progress on the removal of the old toilet block in Tarbet. This has been a longstanding request by the CC and it was believed that Luss Estates and A&BC had agreed a way forward on the removal. The toilets were last used over 20 years ago and are deteriorating posing safety concerns as well as an eyesore in the middle of the village of Tarbet. Cllr Freeman agreed to chase progress.

**Action:** Cllr Freeman to chase progress on the removal of the toilet block at Tarbet

**Item 8: Forestry Commission**

The water running from the hill above the houses behind Lower Belview and Rowantree Bank has been addressed by the Forestry Commission by clearing blocked ditches which will now be added to the routine maintenance for the area in question.

**Item 9: Argyll and Bute Council**

An update on the outstanding issues was received:

- Brambles overhanging the sea wall – this is still outstanding and due to be carried out in the next two weeks.
- Signs for Graveyard – These have been ordered and as soon as they are delivered will be put up.
- Litter Picking – The A83 and A814 footways have been cleaned by a machine that we have on hire at present and the road channels have been brushed by mechanical sweeper. With regards regular clean-up, this has been reinforced to the staff that when they empty litter bins that they have to litter pick/brush the roads within Arrochar and Tarbet on each visit (twice per week).
- The CC noted that Tarbet has not seen evidence of the sweeper or litter picking.
• Tarbet Burn Grating at Play Area – This has been cleaned out over the last couple of days. There will be a monthly inspection carried out on the last week of each month to overcome problems of the drain getting blocked in the autumn months. October to December this will be increased to fortnightly.

• Letter from Youth – this has been responded to on the basis that the equipment meets British and European standards and there are no faults with the skate park equipment at present. It cannot be modified as this would make manufacturers warranty nil and void.

• Japanese Knotweed – this will be carried out in May on A814, Church Road and the ground next to the Junction of the A814 and A83.

• Debris at the head of the Loch – This work has started and will be on going over next week. As requested the paths are being cleared first.

The CC was grateful for this update and will monitor the progress on each issue, particularly the twice-weekly litter pick.

Unfortunately there was no update received on the roads issues raised previously Cllr. MacIntyre said he would chase this up.

Action – Cllr MacIntyre.

The CC will write to Dave Clark, the officer in charge of Sea Defences regarding the repairs now require to the seawall in front of the Arrochar Hotel and the complete removal of the tree, rather than merely the trimming of the branches. Litter accumulating at the corner of the Orchard / Cobbler View access path could be the responsibility of Luss Estates along with the land adjacent to the sub-station on Church Road. Luss Estates will be notified.

Post meeting note. The above litter problem appears to have been addressed.

**Item 10: Environmental Issues**

Cllr Freeman has again emailed Scottish Water to suggest they forward dates when they would be available to meet with the CC to discuss the ongoing sewage problems and suggested that the CC write to the Chairman of Scottish Water to express their disappointment at the lack of progress on this issue. The CC agreed that when sewage overflow happens in the village the engineers are on site quickly to address the problem but this is like a sticking plaster masking the underlying major issue with the system in the village.

There has been no response from the National Park on the issue of the Glen Loin footbridge. The CEO of the NP had said they would look into getting permission from the owners for the CC allowing the CC to move forward with this issue.
**Item 11: Dunbritton Houses - Succoth**

No update received. On a related issue, the application for a MUGA for the Succoth ballpark to the Armed Forces Covenant Grant was not successful this time round, but we have been told to resubmit the bid to the next round.

In connection with this Dunbritton have offered us the use of some days consultancy work from Community Links which we have accepted, this may be helpful in our approach to match funders.

**Item 12: Transport Scotland**

In relation to the issues presented to Transport Scotland the following updates have been received:

- Flooding on the A83 within the village of Arrochar – BEAR are aware of the issues and will continue to inspect and clean the debris from the pipe outfall as it occurs. BEAR are also in discussions with Argyll and Bute Council to see if they can come to a solution that prevent the amount of debris collecting at the outfall pipes each time there is a high tide.

- Flooding between Tarbet and Inveruglus – small scale drainage improvements are programmed to be undertaken during the current financial year on the A82 between Tarbet and Inveranan. These will typically include refurbishment and provision of new filter drains, ditches and drainage grips to improve the flow of water off the carriageway and intercept surface run off from the existing hillside.

- Blocked drain on A82 at Glebe House – BEAR instructed to clean out the road drainage at this location.

- Roadwork debris removal – BEAR are aware and going to clear the redundant signage. Cllr McIntyre agreed to include this in his next meeting with Transport Scotland as there is significantly more than just signage and should be extended to cones, sandbags, excess pipe etc that has been left behind after completion of work.

Cllr McIntyre also agreed to include road cleaning in his discussions as the A82 in particular close to the school and the A83 from Arrochar and Tarbet are being missed from any cleaning routine.

A coping stone at the Tarbet Hotel is in danger of falling onto the A82 due to being lifted by the adjacent tree moving in the wind.
A query from BEAR (Inveraray Depot) regarding the clearing of outlets at the Head of the Loch due to them being blocked by debris has been refuted by the CC due to the work completed by the CC to clean up the Head of the Loch in Dec 14. As stated above the outlets are the responsibility of Transport Scotland to clear and it was suggested by the CC that they should be checked and cleared routinely to maintain the current level of water flow.

**Item 13: Development Trust**

The Trust met on Tuesday 17 Feb when the directors discussed the on-going problems and issues that have been brought to the Trust table.

The hydro application has been forwarded to the National Park but a cautionary response has been received from Scottish National Heritage on any boring work to be completed on the hillside.

**Item 14: Grants**

As mentioned above the application for the Armed Forces Covenant Award has been turned down and the National Park Grant award not successful.

**Item 15: A.O.C.B.**

**Addition to name of CC.**

The CC discussed and agreed by a unanimous vote to add Ardlui into the title of the Community Council. Given the major road issues that are due to come on stream in the near future it is important that all service providers and contractors are aware of the area of responsibility of our CC. The CC will write to A&BC’s Executive Director asking that this change be considered.

**Action- CC**

**Marine Access**

The CC was represented at a meeting on 17 February facilitated by A&BC / Cllr. Corry looking at Marine Access in the area. The meeting was constructive with various issues discussed. Clive Hayward from A&BC will take the lead on this initiative, his first task being to form a steering group of stakeholders who will look at the issues involved. The CC will be represented on the group but will await further notification from A&BC.

**State of villages.**

The CC is becoming increasingly concerned at the state of the villages. Shops are closed/closing and the overall appearance of the villages is one of neglect. There needs to be some initiative to encourage the many tourists who come to the village or transit through the village to spend in the village. This will not happen if there are no shops or reason to stop. The dumping of rubbish along the roads is noticeable where temporary traffic lights are in place throughout the area the amount of rubbish along the roadside increases, no doubt thrown from the windows of the cars as they stop and wait. This should be
discouraged as it is not being cleared by the relevant authorities and making an eyesore and environmental hazard for the villages. It has been noted that the area round the traffic lights at the Pulpit Rock is a disgusting mess caused by the issue mentioned above. Cllr MacIntyre said he would look into this.

**Action:** Cllr. MacIntyre.

**Tide Levels.**
Cllr Freeman had previously agreed to seek information on the potential of tidal level increase in the area. No data is held by A&BC and he would try SEPA for information. It was also suggested to ask the UK Hydrographic Office. Jean Mustarde would also ask the MoD’s Queen’s Harbour Master for any details.

**Action:** Cllr Freeman to request tidal details from SEPA. Jean Mustarde to request the same from the MoD’s Queen’s Harbour Master.

**Date of Next Meeting**
The next Community Council Meeting will take place on 19 March 2015 at 1900 in the Village Hall.