

# ARROCHAR & TARBET COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Ronald Ross - Chairman	01301 702286	Ian Kay - Planning	01301 702543
Ronnie MacDonald- Vice Chair	01301 702441	Bill Lowe	01301 702481
Mary Haggarty - Secretary	01301 702553	Diana Page - Play Areas	01301 702521
Anne Bax - Treasurer	01301 702344	Jean Mustarde- Minute Sec.	01301 702445
Joan Queen - Transport	01301 702304	Tim Kinvig - School	

## **Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 16 May 2013** **The Village Hall**

### **Present:**

Ronald Ross	Chairman	Jean Mustarde	Minute Sec
Ronnie MacDonald	Vice Chair	Cllr George Freeman	Argyll and Bute Council
Mary Haggarty	Secretary	Jessie Crowe	Forestry Commission
Ian Kay	Planning	Ian Wilkinson	Luss Estates
Bill Lowe			

### **Item 1: Apologies**

Apologies were received from Diana Page, Tim Kinvig, Joan Queen, Anne Bax, PC Andy Crawford, Gregor Cameron, Cllrs Maurice Corry and Robert McIntyre.

### **Item 2: Minutes of Last Meeting**

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

Ian Wilkinson of Luss Estates requested a change to the previous minutes to state that Luss Estates had not found the Hydro Scheme unviable but they already had two further sites with better potential to develop.

### **Item 3: Police Update**

PC Crawford sent the following report:

- One driver reported for speeding at 42mph in a 30mph zone;
- One driver reported for dangerous driving on the A83 which subsequently resulted in causing an accident;
- One driver reported for having no insurance and careless driving on the A83; and
- A theft from a bag at the Tarbet Hotel.

PC Crawford has also attended the Defib training in the hall and will receive his certificate soon.

The CC noted there was another accident at the petrol station over the weekend and this needs to be logged with the Police, as the driver was unknown. Any accident in the village that has not been reported, particularly in the known hot spots for accidents, must be reported to the Police so as the incidents are registered thus providing data on potential accident cluster areas.

#### **Item 4: Treasurers Report**

No change reported.

#### **Item 5: Tarbet Play Area**

Project team now has funding in place to complete the Tarbet play area with Landmark due to begin the ground work imminently. The team has also been successful in its bid for funding to place new swings at the Arrochar site. All the applications for funding currently submitted have now been completed.

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

**Planning Update** - Three applications were reviewed:

- Alterations to Firkin Toll Cottage;
- Erection of a house near Tarbet Cottage – which has subsequently been withdrawn; and
- Ticket office and cycle hire office at Tarbet Pier has been approved;

**Charrette Process.** Stuart Mearns of the National Park wishes to meet with the CC to discuss the land behind the hall earmarked for community use. The Park have designed an idea within the Charrette process for this area which is completely different to the plan that the CC and Oxford Hotels have previously agreed, which was for outdoor recreation. A date for the meeting with Stuart will be agreed but is likely to be in July. Stuart has been asked to provide the CC with a record of the outcomes from the Charrette as this plan will last for 30 years and needs to be handled appropriately.

#### **Item 7: Community Action Plan**

During the last CAP meeting, Tom Wallace of the Community Partnership suggested that a sub group be formed to own the CAP Plan and be empowered to report progress and take the actions forward. The majority of the CAP actions are issues that already have CC involvement and would need liaison with the CC to progress. A view will be sought at the next CAP meeting on 22 May.

#### **Item 8: Dumbritton**

No update from Dumbritton. Cllr Freeman stated that the proposed 26 units at Succoth and the proposed Scottish Government funding for housing will be discussed within a forum in the Council tomorrow. A further update will be given at the next CC meeting. Possible new access into Succoth is also being debated with Scotland Transerv. Cllr Freeman stated that it would not be in the public interest for the public purse to pay for a road and housing development then subsequent extra development by private developers in the area are free to take benefit from the new access road. If private developers have designs to build in the area they will be required to contribute towards the cost of the road if they wish to take their ambitions forward. The CC is also aware of a proposal for sand and gravel to be extracted from the Succoth / Feorlin area.

### **Item 9: Environmental Issues**

Letters have gone out to all authorities and private owners asking them to look at their responsibilities which have an impact on the corridor of the A83 from Tarbet to Arrochar. So far there have been two responses (Luss Estates and the Claymore Hotel??). One company asked for a meeting which has been conducted. The manager was very positive about the issues raised and explained what work would be carried out as and when money became available.

**Old Tarbet toilets** – Cllr Freeman is continuing to chase progress on this issue with Luss Estates.

**Removal of litter bins** – the CC have met with A&CB to discuss the problem of the litter bins at the head of the Loch car park which continue to be abused. A&BC are looking to remove the bins by the end of the month. Commercial waste is being dumped by the bins instead of being taken to the Black Hill rubbish tip. The CC stated that removing these bins will only encourage fly tipping around the area and suggested CCTV be used to catch who is doing it. Environment budget is being severely cut and services evaluated to see what service can be given.

**Tide and wind borne litter at the Head of Loch Long shoreline** - The CC have received a quote from Drimsynie Construction for carrying out the same process that is used at Lochgoilhead to clear this type of debris. Funding will need to be found to cover this work for this year but the CC will actively see grant funding to meet the on-going annual process. The quote is active for 60 days so confirmation to use the service needs to be arranged quickly. Cllr Freeman agreed to speak to Stuart McCracken to seek a way forward to help with funding. The CEO of the National Park, Fiona Logan, also agreed that it may be possible for the Park to put up 50% of the funding if the other 50% could be found, as the appearance at the head of the Loch does affect tourism. Cllr Freeman also stated that there is debate progressing within A&BC at the moment on the ownership of the shoreline. It is thought this is Crown Estate land but to what distance from the waterline does this extend needs to be confirmed.

The repairs requested to the play park sign next to the Fire Station still remains outstanding. The Fire Brigade have agreed to do what is necessary to fix this, as it is taking too long for A&BC to make it safe and readable.

#### **Item 10: Luss Estates**

Luss Estates have written to Transerv requesting removal of signs along the A83 but apart from 2 causing safety concern Transerv have no authority to remove the others, which remains the responsibility of the landowners. Luss has agreed to write to all the businesses concerned to formally request they apply for planning permission or the sign will be removed. The CC stated that it is disappointing that the National Park, as planning authority, do not seem interested in addressing this unsightly problem. The issue was also raised within the CAP discussions which could be used to endorse the removal of the signs. The CC again suggested that one sign could be placed on Luss ground paid for by the businesses involved to advertise their services allowing them to advertise legitimately in a tidy manner.

The drainage problem opposite Ballyhennan has been addressed but still requires further work.

The walls adjacent to the A83 which are crumbling are the responsibility of the landowner. This is a problem for all boundary walls within the villages and landowners should be reviewing them and repairing where necessary. Luss Estates are looking at a possible grant for training an apprentice to build the walls with both the National Park and SNH giving training days on this subject.

The deer population within the village has reached 'pest' proportions now. Luss have recently employed a new gamekeeper who will increase the stalking activity and the potential to plan a cull on its land. An additional farm manager also recently employed will mean that more sheep will be placed in the area, a practice that deters deer from the area around sheep. The deer commission keep a register of accidents and any known incident involving a deer should be reported to them. Luss are talking to other landowners in the area to co-ordinate an approach across a large area of land to enable a healthy and sustainable herd.

#### **Item 11: Forestry Commission**

Work to decide the future of the visitor centre at Ardgartan is on-going. Remedial work on the building is being conducted with a view to leasing at some point in the future.

The water on the road at Inveruglus needs to be addressed by Transerv and possibly due to the lack of cleared ditches to divert the water. There have been no changes on Forestry Commission ground to increase the water on the road, nor any felling. The land in the area has been reviewed to confirm this.

Felling in Glen Croe has been delayed till August/September pending discussions with Transerv.

Luss Estates asked if there were any traps for grey squirrels on Forestry ground. Jessie confirmed there were and some had been caught but would confirm numbers and report back to the CC.

A red deer cull is not planned by the Commission but agreed the problem was increasing and needs addressing. The CC's concerns will be reported back to the commission.

#### **Item 11: Any Other Council Business**

- The CC agreed that some funds from its bank account should be used to replant the tubs at the War Memorial. Grants are currently available for renovations from a fund set up to commemorate the beginning of World War I. At present the Roll of Honour of those who served from Arrochar, Tarbet & Ardlui is undergoing restoration, when this is complete the Roll will again be hung in the Arrochar Parish Church.
- The Feasibility Study Group for the Visitor Centre requires a representative from the CC to attend. The CC will be asked for volunteers.
- Pulpit Rock road work update paper has been circulated to the CC for review.
- A meeting to debate the Lomond Area LAG is forthcoming. At a recent Community Partnership meeting held in Lochgoilhead local area representatives informed the CEO of the National Park that the LAG should remain with A&BC. There was an overwhelming feeling that if the National Park gained the LAG that it would favour applications for tourism based schemes over more basic community requirements.
- The outline plan that CC's will reduce in size from 10 to 8 members only relates to certain CCs and is based on the population ratio they represent. The CC agreed this seems a little pointless as the CC members are volunteers so it costs A&BC nothing. Cllr Freeman stated that A&BC are charged with reviewing the scheme and making proposals for change.

Correspondence:

- SNH booklet; and
- Jackie Baillie letter regarding the Bus Regulation Consultation Bill.

#### **Item 12: Date of Next Meeting**

The next Community Council Meeting will take place on 20 June at 1900 in the Village Hall.