

ARROCHAR, TARBET & ARDLUI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Ronald Ross – Chairman	01301 702286	Ian Kay - Planning	01301 702543
Ronnie MacDonald - Vice Chair	01301 702441	Tim Kinvig - School	01301 702232
Mary Haggarty - Secretary	01301 702553	Bill Lowe – Environment	01301 702481
Ellen Greenwood - Treasurer	01301 702818	Iain Hunter – A82 / Ardlui	07712 677002
Jean Mustarde - Minute Sec	01301 702445	Dawn Gourlay – Projects	07901 753610

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 17th November 2016 Three Villages Hall

Present:

Ronnie MacDonald	Vice Chair	Cllr George Freeman	A&BC
Mary Haggarty	Secretary	Cllr Robert MacIntyre	A&BC
Ellen Greenwood	Treasurer	David Robertson	Forestry Commission
Ian Kay	Planning	John McMurtrie	Rep. Cllr Corry
Dawn Gourlay	Projects	PC Bob McCaffrey	Police Scotland
David McKenzie	National Park	PC Keiran Cameron	Police Scotland

Item 1 - Apologies

Apologies were received from :- Ronald Ross, Jean Mustarde, Bill Lowe, Tim Kinvig, Iain Hunter, Iain Wilkinson, Luss Estates, Keith Murray, TS. Callum Smith and Gregor Cameron, Dunbritton and Cllr Corry.

Item 2 – Declaration of Interest

None declared.

Item 3 - Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes were then agreed by the Community Council (CC). Proposed by Ellen Greenwood and seconded by Ian Kay.

Item 4 – Treasurers Report

The current balance stands at £2,771.82 which includes the National Park's grant towards the War Memorial project. A few cheques have been written recently.

Item 5 – Police Update

Incidents/Offences:

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There has been a theft on the A82 on 13th October but the police had no more details about this.

Road traffic offences – Local male reported – Station Road.
Female speeding – Ballyhennan.
Male reported A82.
Male reported Ballyhennan.

PC Bob McCaffery reminded us about:

Fraudulent Scams - Local residents are reminded to be wary of any unsolicited contact either via phone calls, texts, emails or written correspondence encouraging them to provide personal/banking information. The criminals involved can be very convincing and provide plausible reasons, persuading unsuspecting victims to provide information leading to the fraudulent withdrawal of large sums of money. Please be mindful of these scams, and look out for elderly relatives/neighbours who may be targeted. If you are concerned at all please call 101, and for more crime prevention advice visit the Keep Safe page of the Police Scotland website or contact Helensburgh Police Office for more info.

Road Safety – as winter approaches Police will be carrying out additional patrols/road checks to prevent/detect irresponsible/and or drink driving. In addition our Road Policing unit will also undertake road vehicle checks to ensure road worthiness. If you are concerned regarding any road safety matters please contact the police.

Your View Counts Survey – the police are looking for people to spare 5-10 minutes of their time to complete the Police Scotland survey via below link, this gives the community the chance to highlight the concerns affecting them most and influence local policing priorities.

<https://scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts>

Ellen Greenwood thanked the Police for their presence at Remembrance Sunday.

Item 6 – National Park

Planning Applications –

Ref – 2016/0289/HAE – Erection of shed, Firkin Steading, Tarbet, Arrochar.

War Memorial Planning Application has been approved.

Water Ski Slalom Course for Ardlui has been approved.

The application pertaining to the old toilets at Tarbet is on hold as a flood risk assessment and a bat survey needs conducted – these have been commissioned but not yet submitted.

National Park Updates:

Your Park – the implementation plan for camping management zones and byelaws have been approved at a Board Meeting on 24th October and will come into force at the beginning of the new season in 2017.

Live Park – the local development plan has been amended to include a new site at Gartmore and the new plan was agreed at the Board Meeting on 24th October – this will now be sent back to Scottish Ministers and there will be a 28 day period for further representation to be received. If none received, this will also come into action.

Community Grants – the closing date for the Capacity Grant is 12th December 2016.

National Park Board – Marcus Kroner has resigned from the park and has not been replaced. Among other items he was to do with the car parking payment schemes.

The Convener, Linda McKay, will be stepping down after 6 years at the end of February. The Board will select a new convener at the December Board Meeting.

In his absence the CC Chair had sent in an update regarding the Your Park Meeting which he had attended. You may remember that the Community Council made representation to the Your Park Consultation some months ago asking for the Orange Zone (West Loch Lomond) be extended from the Head of the Loch to Coilessan. This has been included and any camping within this zone requires a permit, wild camping outwith the zone does not.

During the meeting it was stated that permits would be low cost and administered online. Ronald Ross aired his concerns regarding this, as with hillwalkers, divers and coaching hotels, campers and mobile home owners could bring all they required with them thereby not contributing to our communities but still using all existing infrastructure. He said that he had hoped that the permits could have been administered by the 3V Hall or the Trust enabling funds to be raised for the local community area. This idea wasn't dismissed neither was there any support for the proposal. However, all ideas, questions and feedback are still up for discussion and taken to the next meeting early next year.

Please read the Your Park Document for further information. Any comments you would like to make can be taken to the next meeting.

David McKenzie added to this that in the future if a community designates and maintains a camping site but have it managed through the National Park then there may be a possibility of getting local revenue for it.

Item 7 – Projects

War Memorial – Now have planning permission to take project forward – planning permission had been granted on the original set of drawings. This has resulted in a delay and extra expense for the CC. Also the timescale has resulted in the loss of the offer from Landmarc offer as the timescale does not fit into their work schedule. Still awaiting quote for work required. David Robertson was expecting someone to come and have a look at the infill that FCS is donating and wondered if this is holding up the quote. He mentioned that the latter part of next week would be a good time to look at the material

The CC has applied again to the Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme.

Friends of Loch Lomond have donated £200 to the project for which the CC are very much appreciative as all local donations become important when looking for match funding. The CC is meeting with Neil Black, the Park's Community Planning Adviser next week re the NP Grant the CC received towards this project.

Pontoon – We have received pre-planning advice and it has been suggested that an Otter Survey should be carried out before the next stages. The CC aware of another two Otter surveys that have been carried out recently on the same stretch of Loch Long CC will ask the NP if they still stand. An expression of interest has been made to the National Park for the Moving Forward Grant and £2000 has been applied for.

Item 8 – Regeneration Forum

- **The BAR Site** – No update since last Forum meeting.
- **Head of Loch Long.** – Lorna Pearce and Audrey Baird are working together to pursue this project. The CC is somewhat confused by this as Audrey Baird is Third Sector and the CC cannot apply for third sector funding. Mhairi Gardner has drawn together a very good background paper in preparation of approaching a consultancy to take forward the feasibility study regarding the Head of Loch Long wind and tide borne litter. It is the CC understanding that A&BC will now move forward to the study stage of the project and seeking funding to address the cost of this.
- A further expression of interest has been submitted to the National Park in this regard as part of their Moving Forward Grant and £5000 has been requested.
- Application was submitted by the CC for funding to cover the mechanical clean-up of the shore line of the Head of Loch Long for 2017 but unfortunately the scheme has changed the criteria and we no longer will receive funding as our area is out with a ten mile radius of an active Land fill site. However, EB Scotland the grant funders have looked at our paperwork over the last number of years and have agreed that we do have an exception problem to cope with and have agreed **as a one off** they will fund a mechanical clean-up of the Head of Loch Long shoreline which requires the funding being spent by the 3rd week in March 2017. We now need confirmation from the Council that they will provide the skips as their part of their Partnership working with Communities. Cllr Freeman highlighted that a request from him for a beach clean at Garelochhead being organised by Garelochhead CC on Monday 21st Nov. 2016 had been refused which does not go well for partnership working.
- **Development Junction A814 / A83.** Cllr MacIntyre told the CC that Cllr Morton has implied that A&BC's Economic Regeneration / Tourism officers are looking at funding in relation to this project. The Head of this department will be invited to attend the next Forum.

Cllr MacIntyre asked DMcK about the Scottish water issues at Blairmore / Ardintinny **which** could be affecting the Head of Loch Long. DMcK gave this update. – People from Blairmore are feeling excluded in the engineering solution arrived at for Strone and Kilmun that doesn't involve the road being closed. No more details about this at present.

Blairmore Trust is exploring options – DMcK will let us know the solution when he hears about it.

Cllr MacIntyre mentioned a house that has been sold and the new owners are with-holding £10,000 as they will need to put in a septic tank.

Apparently since 2006 when selling a house which is not connected to a public sewer you should have consent from SEPA that you have an approved system. If you don't have a septic tank you can either put one in and gain consent or, when selling the house, contract that the house buyer will withhold funds to do this work – they would have five years in which to complete the work. Solicitors do not seem to be enforcing this in every case.

Note Date of next Forum meeting 10th January 2017.

Item 9 – Luss Estates

Belmont Site – The site is cleared and the wood has been taken away. Site is still to be tidied.

Item 10 – Forestry Commission

David Robertson explained the felling in Glencroe went to schedule; most of the timber has been extracted and lifted – there will be a bit more lifted eventually. It will be replanted shortly.

A new area has started to be felled last week over from the Rest and Be Thankful but there are no footpath or traffic issues.

Cruich Tairbeirt – meeting about the snagging list next Tuesday/Wednesday and it is hoped that access will be allowed after that.

Ardgartan Visitors Centre – still reviewing options regarding this.

The CC expressed their thanks to the FCS for the Christmas tree provided for the School. DR mentioned that the FC will be selling Christmas Trees at Glenbranter on the 10th, 11th, 17th and 18th December – he invited anyone to come along.

David mentioned that he is taking early retirement from March next year and in the meantime he will bring other FCS officers along to the CC meeting for continuity. He is not sure what is happening with the FCS as it is being realigned more directly to Scottish Government.

Item 11 – Argyll and Bute Council

Street lights along the A814 and parts of Tighness are still not working, although they have repeatedly been reported to A&BC. Some are flashing on and off and others are coming on at the wrong time, and other not working at all – CC will write to A&BC requesting that they rectify the problem as it could eventually lead to a Health and Safety issue. Cllr Freeman highlighted that they were now major problems throughout his ward in getting street lights repaired. He had complained to the Executive Director who has informed him that the cuts in the budget agreed by the Council at the Budget meeting had reduced the resources available and were now impacting on A&BC's ability to repair street lights.

There is still a problem with water from Mackenzie Avenue pooling outside the Dr's surgery. The CC had hoped that this issue would have been rectified before the worse of the winter weather arrives, when the pooled water turns to ice it makes the area in question quite dangerous. This needs to be addressed by A&BC.

There has been a further complaint about the patch of grass at the bottom of MacKenzie Avenue which has been proven to belong to the Council. Cllr MacIntyre has asked about it but he has been told by A&BC that it was that it wasn't on their list for grass cutting. This is very poor excuse from A&BC when they know through solicitors who have done Land Searches that the land in question belongs to them.

It was thought it would be useful also to document how often the same items have been discussed at the CC meetings to no avail and send this also as a formal complaint to A&BC and ask why things have not been fixed.

Item 12 – Ardlui

Ardlui has received £800 from Friends of Loch Lomond towards their defibrillator. Again the CC expressed their gratefulness in this valued donation to the community of Ardlui. Discussion ensued about who is paying the balance and there was some confusion regarding this as the CC rep. that is running with this issue, was not at the meeting. IK mentioned that there could be a funding source at SSE Sloy for cash if necessary. The CC Sec. will email Iain and copy Ian Kay into it.

Item 13 - Transport Scotland –

The following issues requiring attention were discussed.

- Flooding: - Water continuously runs down the A83 from the Cadet Centre down to the village of Arrochar.
- Flooding: - The flooding in front of Braeside Stores still continues to gather into large pools at this point – entrance to local shop and site of two bus stops. Also again outside Lower Belview and Rowantree Bank.
- Flooding: - on the A82 from Tarbet to Inveruglas despite recent work being carried out to elevate this problem appears to be getting worse.
- Street lighting: - problems with lighting from Tarbet PO corner down passed the A82 / A83 junction as far as Auchendarroch not working – could be a timing problem? Also street lighting from the junction down past the school has the same problem.

CC will contact Transport Scotland.

Item 14 - Dunbritton Housing –

The CC had queried planning applications they thought still required to be submitted the answer received from Gregor Cameron representing Dunbritton was that the road widening on the A83 Trunk Road and Succoth Road were included in the initial application for the housing so these already have consent.

SSE have not submitted a planning application yet to move the location of the electric poles that run parallel to the Succoth access road so the widening of the road can take place.

Item 15 – Scottish Water

Ronnie MacDonald met with representatives from Scottish Water regarding the smell of sewage from the area of the War Memorial and Cobbler View.

Initially a SW employee came out to look at the issue and admitted that the smell was dreadful but he could not locate the smell as he couldn't lift any manholes by himself.

At a later date RMacD met with two SW employees who were able to lift manholes:

Outdoor Centre – the septic tank at this site is absolutely full and is piping raw sewage into the burn – the CC has since let the Cadets know that according to SW they are responsible for sorting this. It is thought this was responsible for the smell at the War Memorial site.

Cobbler View – there was no smell when the two men were present but they lifted all manholes to find they were spotless. The smell has not come back. The only thing the men could think of is that it is happening when the pumps are working!

Item 16 - Development Trust –

No update from the Trust.

The Chair of the CC met with the recently appointed Trust Director Stella Segesdy and she has been tasked with finding out a going forward strategy with regard to the Community Action Plan. Many items in the Plan are day-to-day business of the CC, some items have been completed, many are on-going and some will never be achievable. She hopes to provide some detailed approach to the CAP in discussion with others and report back to the Trust. It is hoped the CC will be kept informed.

Item 17 – AOCB

Correspondence:-

Norman Muir from Helensburgh Community Council has been in touch to tell us about a presentation on the 13th December about the Community Empowerment Act.

He has also invited our CC to join them for tea and cake on the 15th December but unfortunately it is the date of the next CC meeting.

CC has received a letter and poster from Jackie Baillie about trying to save the maternity services at the Vale. This letter has been sent out to the residents of Arrochar, Tarbet and Ardlui via the CC's distribution list. Some members of the Community have replied and these comments have been sent on to Jackie.

There was a complaint about the Post Office's opening times and this will be forwarded to the Trust / Pit Stop Trading Co. to deal with.

Cllr Freeman provided a poster that will be put on display in the Village Hall regarding a very good home insulation scheme - Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland Area Based Scheme (HEEPSABS).

MH and others complained about the television reception which seems to be a problem.

The Scots Magazine is canvassing opinion regarding their campaign for more National Parks.

**Date of next meeting
15th December 2016 at 1900 in the Village Hall.**