

ARROCHAR, TARBET & ARDLUI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Ronald Ross – Chairman	01301 702286	Tim Kinvig - School	01301 702232
Ronnie MacDonald - Vice Chair	01301 702441	Bill Lowe – Environment	01301 702481
Mary Haggarty - Secretary	01301 702553	Iain Hunter – A82 / Ardlui	07712 677002
Ellen Greenwood - Treasurer	01301 702818	Vacant	
Jean Mustarde - Minute Sec	01301 702445	Dawn Gourlay – Co-opted	07901 753610
Ian Kay - Planning	01301 702543	Jim Proctor – Co-opted	01301 702650

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 18th August 2016 Three Villages Hall

Present:

Ronald Ross	Chairman	Bill Lowe	Environment
Ronnie MacDonald	Vice Chair	Dawn Gourlay	Co-opted Projects
Mary Haggarty	Secretary	Jim Proctor	Co-opted Projects
Jean Mustarde	Minute Sec	David McKenzie	National Park
Ian Kay	Planning	Inspector Coleen Wylie	Police Scotland
Iain Hunter	A82/Ardlui	Councillor Maurice Corry	Argyll and Bute Council
Tim Kinvig	School	Craig Borland	Helensburgh Advertiser

Item 1 - Apologies

Apologies were received from Ellen Greenwood, Iain Williamson - Luss Estates, David Robertson - Forestry Commission, Councillors Robert McIntyre and George Freeman, Keith Murray – T/S, Callum Smith – Dunbritton, Gregor Cameron.

Item 2 – Declaration of Interest

One declaration of interest noted on Item 14 by Ronnie McDonald.

Item 3 - Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were then agreed by the Community Council (CC). Proposed by Jim Proctor and seconded by Iain Hunter.

Item 4 – Treasurers Report

The current balance stands at £3,003.82 which includes the War Memorial Grant and the Admin Grant with no outstanding invoices to be settled.

Item 5 – Police Update

Inspector Coleen Wylie was welcomed to the meeting and offered apologies for the lack of attendance at previous meetings. Future attendance cannot be guaranteed due to operational requirements but will try as often as possible to make the meetings. Looking at

the police report for June-to date, there were 12 crimes in the area, 5 in June, 5 in July and 2 so far in August.

There has been a spate of bicycle thefts across the central area of Scotland. Thieves are targeting high value bikes usually locked onto vehicles. Two have been taken from the Village Inn, one from outside the Hall and 1 from outside a private dwelling. It is an organised group of thieves conducting these crimes and residents are urged to remain vigilant reporting any suspicious activity to the Police via 101. Residents are also urged to keep any valuable items out of sight as the thieves may not be so picky in what they steal. Patrols through the area have been increased to provide a deterrent.

Looking at road safety, since June five road traffic incidents reported in the area – two for drink driving, two for speeding and one for driving without insurance. Rural Road Safety Week begins on Monday 22 August and will focus on speeding and preventing bad driving in rural communities. Twelve drivers across the area have been charged with various offences – speeding, using mobile phones and irresponsible driving. Residents are urged to report any instances of bad driving to 101.

Crime prevention continues to be a high priority and all residents are urged to be extremely wary of any bogus callers offering cut price repair work and particularly scams asking for any personal details. Real companies do not email or phone asking for any details. Any letters asking for similar details should be avoided. If anyone is in any doubt they are advised to contact the relevant company through their user-known numbers/email address and check if the enquiry is genuine but still avoiding any personal details. Crime prevention advice can be found on the community policing website or by calling into a local police station.

Reporting incidents to 101 can be frustrating due to lack of local knowledge but remains the best way of reporting non-emergency incidents. 999 should be reserved for emergencies only. The CC was given Inspector Wylie's email should they have specific concerns or wish to highlight any local elements.

The CC highlighted the increasing element of very noisy, fast motorbikes speeding on the strait of the A83 between the old Range and Ardgartan. It is only a matter of time before something tragic happens in this area and would like to see some speed checks, deterrent police presence in the area. This would be fed back to the road traffic unit.

Item 6 – National Park

David McKenzie outlined a number of Park issues:

- **Charging for Car Parking within the Park** – No update on this issue and no proposals has been received. The CC noted that no ticket machines have been installed at Tarbet although there is a ticket machine at Inveruglus but not yet operational. The question was raised as to how the tour buses which park overnight at Inveruglus will be charged? The CC has raised questions on these and other issues which are being considered by the NP. SSE staff may be exempt from any charges at Inveruglus through the terms of the lease.
- **Your Park** – this plan is still rolling out and on schedule.

- **Live Park** – this plan remains with the Scottish Reporters and awaiting decisions on outstanding issues.
- **Other items:**
 - Head the Loch Project – Scottish Water met with residents of Kilmun and the surrounding communities regarding the upgrade of the sewage system / septic tanks on their system that flow into the Holy Loch and Loch Long. This action has been instructed to Scottish Water by SEPA. ATACC was at the meeting where the officer and contractor for the work due to be carried out and were surprised to hear just how much bigger the problem of untreated sewage being discharged into Loch Long is. Most of the houses in the villages of Blairmore, Kilmun, Strone and Ardentinnay are not connected to a formal SW treatment system. Although there are plans to install septic tanks for properties on the Holy Loch. SEPA will be informed and hopefully they will keep the pressure on SW to address the issue of properties on Loch Long. It is of interest to ATACC as most of the discharges into the bottom of Loch Long have the potential of land up at the Head of Loch Long. Updates to this work will be included in the Forum meetings.
 - National Park Partnership Plan – A new plan is being developed. One area of focus is a joint policy with all four local authority areas to have a common approach to tackling litter with all the agencies around the Park. This will include outlining who is responsible for emptying bins and how regularly etc. The CC would like this to include deterrent signs within laybys and reminders to visitors to bag it and take it home. This is very pertinent to the West side of Loch Lomond.
 - BAR Site – in conjunction with the above the CC highlighted that fly-tipping has increased substantially at the BAR Site. An Amenity Notice has been served on the developers. No planning application to extend the granted permission has been submitted, no tidying up nor addressing the asbestos on site has been done. The CC expressed their disappointment that the developers have not yet done anything to start tidying the area which is getting worse as people have now started disposing of old vehicles by burning them on the site which results in the emergency services being called out.
- **Planning Applications** – the following planning applications were reviewed:
 - The application by the Arrochar Hotel to change the field adjacent to the hotel to mixed use has been approved. The CC was concerned that this may become another site where work begins but is not completed and becomes an eyesore at the entrance to the village.
 - The Tree Preservation Order on the tree at the Orchards has been approved.
 - CCTV installation at Ardlui Railway Station has been approved.

- Retrospective approval has been given to the increase of static caravans, shower block and new wall at Loch Lomond Caravan Park.

Item 7 – Projects

War Memorial – No update received from the Park on this project and the CC are still awaiting a response. The worry is that if there is no movement soon, the grant may expire and will be subject to agreement for an extension. The CC expressed disappointment that any progress is out of their hands at present.

Post meeting update. *All paperwork required in support of the planning application and the NP will be displaying a notice in the local paper.*

Pontoon – A similar situation exists with this project where the CC is awaiting a response from the Park. The proposal has been on display in the Hall, with initial feedback centring on parking and traffic increase. An application for funding wrote up by Dawn Gourlay was reviewed by the Community Partnership Development Officer and found to be okay. The application has been submitted to the Coastal Communities Fund.

The robustness of the pontoon cubes being buffered at low tide on the sea bed has been questioned and it has been assured that the cubes are substantial enough to withstand the weather of Loch Long.

Item 8 – Regeneration Forum

It was agreed that a copy of the Forum minutes will be attached to the CC minutes when issued.

The main items of the Forum have been covered under the Park report above but the CC did express concern that time is running out to use the remainder of the clean-up grant and would consider other areas along the shoreline where a mechanical clean-up could be undertaken. If this was not possible due to the nature of the shoreline, the CC will contact the funders and seek guidance.

The CC questioned the status of the A&BC Regeneration Fund. Cllr Corry outlined that funds will be available for projects and communities are encouraged to submit proposals for projects in the area. A representative from the team is due to meet with the CC to discuss proposals that have been submitted but so far no date has been set. It appears there are a number of different pots of money within A&BC – Regeneration Fund and the Economic Forum – which could be tapped into.

Craig Borland from the Helensburgh Advertiser outlined an upcoming meeting to be held on Monday 22 August at 1900 in the Victoria Halls, Helensburgh, where various groups will outline initiatives to help with items like litter in villages, beach cleans and encouraging communities to take ownership of their areas. Beachwatch Bute will be attending and are a charity which has been successful in highlighting and promoting the keep beaches clean message. The CC will be represented at this meeting.

Councillor Corry agreed to chase up an answer on the BAR site which will include flagging up an answer to the asbestos issue on site. Stuart Mearns from the National Park also has an action from the previous Forum to look into this issue.

Item 9 – Luss Estates

Iain Wilkinson sent his apologies for not attending but sent the following update:

- **Tarbet Toilets** – request received for the CC to write a letter of support in relation to the residential consent currently the subject of a planning application on the basis of the site being a detriment to the local community.
- **Belmont Plot** (Chapel) – this site will likely be offered to the market in the coming weeks.
- **Knotweed** – treatment will commence in the next couple of weeks, this includes several sites in Tarbet and Arrochar, including the Arrochar foreshore. It is hoped the National Park will help with some of these sites.
- **Squirrels** – trapping is now complete for this year, the final session of a 5 year plan. 6 greys caught and it is hoped there will be a successor scheme. Reds sighted as far south as Luss/Aldochlay. It is encouraged that all sightings be reported to the Scottish Wildlife Trust.
- **Pipe Track / Three Lochs Way** – the trackside vegetation has been cut back as it was becoming impassable, spraying will follow.
- **Coastal Communities Fund** – Luss agreed to draft a letter for the CC stating that the Estate were happy with the pontoon sited on their land.
- **Dry Stone Dykes** – as the condition of the village walls is regularly on the CC agenda it was thought prudent to highlight the next statement. “A recent quote to Luss Estates for repairs to walls in Luss was quoted as £110 per square metre which for 600 metres of wall equates to a cost of £20,000 which is deemed to be unfeasible”.

Item 10 – Forestry Commission

No update received. The proposed Rest and Be Thankful Motor attraction has been confirmed as not being on Forestry land but now seems to be gaining momentum. There seems to be big names being bandied about in connection with this project, but to date the CC has not been contacted.

Item 11 – Argyll and Bute Council

A number of outstanding issues were discussed:

- **Street Lights on Church Road** – 5-6 lights are now inoperative between the doctors surgery towards the Village Inn including one on the main road at the junction;
- **Water on McKenzie Avenue** – remains outstanding.

- **Play Park** – it has been reported that workmen have been spraying weed killer in the younger children's area whilst toddlers were playing in the area. Confirmation of this will be asked off the Council. Meanwhile the weeds continue grow along the outside of the play park wall on Church Road.
- **Overhanging Trees** – this issue on MacKenzie Avenue remains outstanding, also trees overhanging the carriageway between the Dr's surgery and Haveloch is causing problems to large vehicles.
- **Litter** – The pathway between Church Road and Cobbler View, the edges of Church Road and the adjacent field are covered with litter.

Item 12 – Transport Scotland

The CC received the following update:

- **Junction of A82/A83** – resurfacing work will commence on 26 September. The works will be carried out at night under a 3-way temporary traffic light and a convoy traffic management system, with a 10mph speed restriction in place throughout.
- **Drains** – all drains between Tarbet and Arrochar have been cleaned and BEAR are monitoring for any further issues. A deep clean of the drains at the Tarbet Hotel has also been carried out with no further issues reported to BEAR. The CC acknowledged that the teams had been present but request that the drains at Bellevue and Rowantreebank be addressed as these have been neglected completely. A number of other gullies are blocked and it seems that just the top layer of water in the drains is being cleaned and the sludge remaining at the bottom is left allowing the blockage to continue. The CC will seek clarification of how Transport Scotland checks the work done.
- **Guithus Cottage ditch** – this work has been completed. The CC expressed concern that the ditch left after the work is deeper than before and is left in what appears to be a dangerous state.
- **Ardgartan** – work to carry out repairs at the Spanish Steps just north of Ardgartan will begin in the next few weeks. Drainage work between Arrochar and Ardgartan has been completed.
- **Arrochar Crossing** – BEAR have reviewed the potential to install an uncontrolled crossing in Arrochar. Whilst it is possible to make the crossing effective some parking space in front of the shop would have to be removed or vehicles will park across the crossing making it unusable. In view of the development issues / suggestions that have been put forward this may be discussed with T/S at the next Forum meeting.
- **Ardlui walls** – a number of areas of wall along the A82 have been damaged with the debris left in the road.

Item 13 – Dunbritton Housing

The following update was sent by email:

“We have now received revised tender documents from the preferred contractor. These are currently being assessed to ensure we have everything included in the revised price. This process is due to be finished by the end of the week. Once this tender review stage is complete, we will revert to the Community Council and Dunbritton Housing Association about organising meetings in August to advise the community of programme and timescales for the development. We are glad that this is progressing again though overall, in this stage we have lost around two weeks due to contractor’s and our own holidays.”

In the interest of the next Item (14) Ronnie MacDonald left the meeting.

Item 14 – Relocation of the Post Office.

The CC discussed the proposed move of the Arrochar Post Office from Braeside Stores to potentially the building of the 3V Café. The move has been prompted by the lease of the current Post Office site being terminated. The Trust is keen to site the Post Office in the 3V Cafe which will not detract any customer space. A number of questions were raised which the CC will seek answers to before submitting their response to the Post Office:

- What is the impact of the Post Office being sited in a Community owned building?
- What responsibility will the Post Office keep over the resited facility?
- What is the legal position regarding the Post Master/Mistress / Responsible person?
- If no named person in charge, what is the position of the staff employed to carry out the services of the Post Office? How is the Data Protection Act upheld?
- If there is a shortfall in the accounts of the Post Office occurs, who is liable? As the Pitstop is part of the Trust, is the Trust accountable? If so, this is of concern as it could potentially put the future of the 3V Cafe and the Hall at risk.
- What checks are the Post Office performing to ensure the move meets their standards?

Post Meeting update. *It has been confirmed by the ATCDT that they own the building of the 3VCafe but the day today running of the business carried out in the premises is the responsibility of the Pit Stop Trading Co. and it is the Pit Stop Trading Co. who are taking on the running of the Post Office.*

Item 15 – Any Other Council Business

Ardlui

- Question asked if the installation currently taking place in Argyll of Broadband services be extended to Ardlui.
- A large amount of litter is now accumulating along the path from the hotel to the station, so much so the road in this area is being used instead of the path.

- Extra funding is required to complete the purchase of the Defib machine for Ardlui and more funders are being approached. The CC will see what comes from the current funding round and look to see if CC funds could help.

Vale of Leven Hospital – discussions remain ongoing regarding the services available. Supporters of the hospital are continuing to press for the return of A&E services which will enable these services to be available to the Argyll communities. The CC questioned if the vital 'golden hour' can be maintained. It is widely acknowledged that once an ambulance gets to the RAH in Paisley or the Southern General, it is very difficult for them to return to their home station as they get sucked into being the nearest ambulance to an incident, leaving their home area lacking in coverage.

WW1 – Next event will be held in Dunoon but all items used for individual commemorations should be held for use in the final event in 2018.

Arrochar 10K – This event will take place on 17 September. 120 competitors will take part in what is hoped to be a fun event with prize giving and refreshments available in the Hall. The CC offered its thanks on a job well done to Dawn.

Observation – Mr Illingsworth, who attended as an observer, reported that one of his guests had stated their shock at the amount of litter along the shoreline. This was a guest who was walking the coastline of Britain and had seen how the litter increased in the area. Mr Illingsworth takes part in regular beach cleans and would encourage residents to help. He was thanked by the CC for his efforts.

Craigard Stores – Not sold at a recent auction.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Community Council Meeting will take place on 15 September 2016 at 1900 in the Village Hall.