

Craignish Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held in Craignish Village Hall
Wednesday 2nd April, 2008

Present

George Bevan (Chair)
Don Phillips (Vice Chair)
Colin Smith (Treasurer)
Mary Smyth (Secretary)
Sandy MacKilligin

Also in attendance were Councillors Alison Hay, Donnie MacMillan, Dougie Philand and 11 members of the community.

1. **Apologies for absence**
There were apologies for absence from Simon Bevan.
2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**
The minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2008 were signed as a true record.
3. **Matters Arising**
 - 3.01 There has been no appeal to the A and B Council decision for refusal of the application for houses behind the Galley of Lorne. The six month deadline for an appeal expires on 16th July.
 - 3.02 There is a new SEPA representative covering the Ardfern area and he is to visit Ardfern on Friday to discuss the pollution issues with the Mill Burn. George will meet with him.
 - 3.03 Issue with land offered to school by Robin and Rosemary Turner is being dealt with by the school and no action from Community Council needed at the moment. Anne Wilson, Head, reported no progress at the moment.
 - 3.04 Pothole issue on-going, some patching has been done but many pot-holes remain. State of main road also a concern. Alison Hay is meeting Andrew Law tomorrow and will raise the matter.
 - 3.05 George Bevan and Colin Smith met informally with Colin Lindsay-MacDougall and it is hoped that good and regular communication will continue.
 - 3.06 3 planning applications have been approved; the new Barnlaunich entrance on the A816, an extension at 14 The Green, Craobh Haven and the re-roofing at the Galley of Lorne.
 - 3.07 A reply has been received from Scottish and Southern Energy following representations about the number of outages recently, and also about the erratic supply levels. Recent faults are mostly due to trees falling on the lines and they have arranged for a full line patrol to take place to remove any trees likely to cause further problems. They are aware of the problems in the level of supply and new voltage regulators will be installed at Arduaine this spring, which will fix the voltage issues. In the past 5 years there have been 6 pole fires in the area and it is felt that this is caused by inadequate maintenance. There have been 3 further outages since the last meeting and the Secretary will write again.
 - 3.08 Colin Smith and Sandy Mac Killigin attended a Planning Forum for Community Councils run by A and B Council.
 - 3.09 George is re-erecting the ladder sign. It has to be decided if it should be moved closer to the road-end or re-sited in the Kintraw field on the far side of the river.
 - 3.10 Colin has received an email from Anne Wilson, Head Teacher of the school thanking the CC for mentioning graffiti at the last meeting and asking all school users to help keep the area litter free.

3.11 The CC website is now live and many thanks due to Laura Neville for her hard work. The CC will agree an honorarium for Laura which will be discussed at the next meeting.

4. Planning

4.01 The regulations around neighbour notifications have been queried by a member of the community, and Colin Smith has written to Neil MacKay, Development Control Manager of A and B Council for clarification, but has had no reply. The regulations state that anyone adjoining the property or less than 4 metres away, (disregarding roads of less than 20 metres width) should be notified, however the Council interprets this as meaning only neighbours less than 4 metres away from the footprint of the development need be notified. A second letter has been sent, copied to Mr McLellan, Chief Executive of A and B Council, on 27th March. It was agreed that if no reply was received to this letter, a complaint would be made to the Local Government Ombudsman.

4.02 New applications;

Change of use of fish farm off Ardifuir from cod to on-growing of salmon. No representation will be made.

Application for a house on grounds of Tigh-na-Camus. Colin Smith's view was that the application was without merit, as the site was steep and rocky, access was a problem, the proposed property was out of keeping with other properties in the area, and such backland development was not suitable for a rural area. He proposed that an objection was made to the application but in the absence of a seconder it was agreed that no representation would be made.

5. Secretary's Report

5.01 Craignish has a new Police/Community Liaison Officer, Sergeant Danny MacGeachy, who made contact and offered to attend tonight's meeting. He has agreed to attend the next meeting, on 4th June, giving time to advertise his attendance on notice-boards and Website. Anyone with policing issues should attend on the 4th.

5.02 There will be a consultation meeting on the new Forestry Framework Strategic Plan on 30th April in Lochilphead. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Mary.

5.03 The newsletter of the Association of Scottish Community Councils has been received.

5.04 The Scottish Parliament is consulting on the Climate Change Bill. Councillors should look at www.scotland.gov.uk/climatechangebill to decide if we wish to respond. Responses needed by 23rd April.

5.05 A and B Council has sent information on Community Councils and the Data Protection Act. Colin Smith will read and decide if it supports the information we have that we do not need to register.

5.06 A leaflet on the role of Environmental Wardens has been received.

5.07 Information on the Nationwide Community and Heritage Awards has been received. Any nominations, for people or groups who deserve recognition for community or voluntary work, have to be received by 28th April. Details can be found on www.nationwide.co.uk

5.08 A letter has been received from the RAF Community Liaison Officer offering to come to a meeting to explain the need for low flying training. It was agreed that everyone understood the need and a meeting was not necessary.

5.09 Correspondence from Scottish Water indicates that work will begin on upgrading the water treatment plant in June, however performance testing to increased flows cannot take place till CAR (SEPA) licences are available and this takes 5 months. For waste water, Scottish Water has initiated a project to determine the nature of the upgrade and associated costs. This is at an early stage and we will be kept informed of progress.

6.0 Treasurer's Report

General Fund account stands at £619.72. Movements since last time are

Village Hall	£41.20
Interest received	£ 0.79

7. Chairman's Report

7.01 Complaints have been received about the state of the new-build house between O-Fish-Shell and the Shop. It was agreed that it has been in a very untidy and unfinished state for too long and there may be safety issues over the electrics. The CC will write to the owners, and to the Council to see if they have any jurisdiction over this sort of problem.

8. Jim Mather meeting

The meeting with Jim Mather was productive and he has reported back that he has contacted Scottish Water and Fyne Homes on our behalf. Fyne Homes is awaiting confirmation of funding from Communities Scotland in mid April, following which they can proceed with the purchase of the Glebe land. The Community Company has had a more positive meeting with the planners about the Salachry croft project. Mary was thanked for bringing the meeting together successfully.

9. AOB

9.01 There is currently no recycling facility at Craobh, and it is a 10 mile round trip to the facility in Ardfern. Bins were delivered but certain residents asked that they be removed. Don will liaise with Jim Berry to find a suitable location (probably in the lay-by past the cottages) and arrange with John Downie for them to be reinstated.

9.02 Colin Smith informed the meeting that several people on private water supplies have been given substantial grants to upgrade their water supply. Not everyone on private supply has been given these grants so it is unclear what criteria are being applied to their allocation.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 4th June 2008 in the Village Hall. This will be the AGM

There being no further business the meeting closed and opened for public discussion.

Public Discussion

- Jan Brown asked why the CC is involved in the ladder sign as it is owned by the businesses in Ardfern. George explained he was doing it as a business owner but using the CC as a sounding board for its location.
- There was dismay at the time being taken to mend the seat in the Millennium Garden. Val Smith will ask the O-Fish-Shell joiners if they can fix it as a favour, otherwise 2 estimates will be obtained and the CC will pay for it.
- There is currently no dog litter bin in the village. Dog dirt can be put in normal bins. If owners open their doors and let dogs out unaccompanied to foul the village the Environmental Warden can be brought in to speak to them. Opinion will be canvassed to ascertain if villagers want a dog litter bin. There would be an issue over siting.
- There was discussion over siting of big wheelie bin at the mouth of Corranbeag track. Alison Hay advised that the Council should be asked to do a risk assessment on the track. Sandy Mack will talk to John Downie.