

**Craignish Community Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held in Craignish Village Hall**  
**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2008**

**Present**

Don Phillips (Vice Chair)

Colin Smith (Treasurer)

Mary Smyth (Secretary)

Sandy MacKilligin

Also in attendance were Councillor Dougie Philand, PC Tom Campbell and 15 members of the community.

**Police Visit**

PC Tom Campbell from Lochgilphead Police Station was present to answer any questions about local police issues. He reported that there had been thefts of heating oil in Ford and everyone should be vigilant and note the number of and report any suspicious vehicles.

Colin Smith pointed out that there had been a few incidents in the village recently and asked if the police would increase their presence in the village during December.

PC Campbell said that because of staffing issues the mobile police office was unable to maintain a regular schedule at the moment.

In response to a question from the floor he stated that there are currently no plans to use Special Constables in the Craignish area.

PC Campbell was thanked for attending.

**1. Apologies for absence**

There were apologies for absence from George Bevan and Councillors Alison Hay and Donnie Macmillan.

**2. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> October were signed as a true record.

**3. Matters Arising**

**3.01** The Community Council has received a reply from Jim Mather about the neighbour notification issue, enclosing copy letters from the Scottish Government and Argyll and Bute Council which offered conflicting comments on interpretation. Despite this it is apparent that new legislation, to come into force next year, will clarify and improve the situation. A and B Council and not the applicant will be responsible for neighbour notification, the definition of neighbours to be notified will become wider, and the distance from the development plot increased from 4 metres to 20 metres. Colin Smith has written to Jim Mather to thank him for his response and recommended no further action at this time.

**3.02** Argyll and Bute Council has reported Health and Safety concerns about the knotweed spraying project using trained local volunteers. Alison Hay feels this could be overcome and is dealing with it.

3.03 The Community Council has taken advice from A and B Council about setting up a Working Party to feed the wishes of the community in to the next edition of the Local Plan. We have been advised to wait until the current local plan has been signed off and take this as a basis for moving forward. Fergus Murray has indicated that he welcomes this approach and would like to be involved in the process. The Working Party must be set up by and report in to the Community Council as the statutory consultee on planning. This will be taken forward at the next meeting.

3.04 There was a site meeting at Kilvaree Graveyard attended by Mary Smyth, Caroline Younger, John Downie from Argyll and Bute Council and Alastair MacLachlan and Ishbel MacNicol from the church. It was agreed that Argyll and Bute would accept the gift of land for a graveyard extension from Caroline Younger and the legalities are being progressed. Mary will keep pressure on the council and ensure that it goes through this time.

#### 4. Planning

##### 4.01 Planning Applications

3 planning applications have been dealt with by the Planning sub-committee and there have been no representation made on any:

Non material amendment at site west of Ardlarach chalets

Non material amendment at Rockside, Craignish

Plan for extension at Bluebell Cottage, Ardfern

#### 5. Secretary's Report

5.01 The North Strathclyde Community Justice Authority Annual Report and 3 year Plan has been received and will be left in the hall for public information.

5.02 Information has been received about the new Leader programme, which offers grants for community projects. So far £1.7 million has been allocated to projects in Argyll and Bute. Details of the sort of projects supported and how to apply can be found at [www.argyllandtheislesleader.org.uk](http://www.argyllandtheislesleader.org.uk)

#### 6.0 Treasurer's Report

General Fund account balance is £ 676.52

Movements since last meeting are

Expenditure

Village Hall	£10.00
--------------	--------

Income

Interest	£0.49
----------	-------

#### 7. Chairman's Report

In the absence of the Chairman there was no report from the Chair

#### 8. Lagoon Moorings Association Potential New Moorings

Alan White, representing the Lagoon Moorings Association informed the meeting that the Association was in negotiation with the Crown Estate over a proposal to put 5 new moorings in an area to the south of the existing lagoon moorings and 5 new ones in the existing area. He stressed that the Moorings Association members were environmentally conscious, park considerately and the extra moorings would not have a negative impact. He also pointed out that there was a waiting list of 55 people for moorings and it was likely that the 10 new moorings would all go to local people.

Jo Leslie objected on the grounds that for any building on land it was necessary to have planning permission but there was no such requirement for development on the water.

Jan Brown thought that years ago the Community Council had agreed that there should be no more than 45 moorings in the lagoon.

It was agreed that the Community Council could not make a decision until the feelings of the community were apparent, and in the first instance this discussion and this minute would serve to inform the community about the plan. There is no official channel for the Community Council to object, however it could write to the Association if the community had strong views one way or the other.

The Moorings Association would like to hear the views of the community and any representation can be made to Alan White, Traigh-Mhor, Ardfern, Lochgilphead, PA31 8QN.

Clive Brown pointed out that the southern end of the lagoon was currently free of boats and all efforts should be made to keep it so.

## **9. Community Councils Boundary Review**

**9.01** Following on from the Scottish Government consultation on Community Councils, to which Craignish responded, Argyll and Bute Council is now carrying out a review of community councils and their boundaries. This has resulted in the elections which are required to take place in April 2009 being postponed until September. There is concern among community councils that they are not being consulted or involved in the review process, however Councillor Walsh has now agreed to meet the Association of Argyll and Bute Community Councils to discuss a way forward.

Colin Smith pointed out that our constitution specifies elections to be held every 4 years on the first Thursday of April and all members of the council retire on that day. He is interested to see how Argyll and Bute Council would manage this.

## **10. C3 Report**

Mark Pottter-Irwin sent apologies for his absence and Mary read the report from C3.

C3 and the Community Council had a meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> November to bring the CC up to speed with developments, and C3 issued a newsletter in November to inform the community of the latest position on various projects.

Since then a decision has been made to delay the application to the National Forest Land Scheme to buy Salachry and to the Big Lottery for funding, to allow more progress to be made on the business plan, particularly meetings with the planners to discuss croft housing. This means that the community ballot will not need to take place until the New Year.

C3 are working closely with the Parent Council on the purchase for the community of an area of the field behind the school owned by Rosemary and Robin Turner. The land would be owned by C3, for exclusive use by the school during term time, but available for community use at other times.

Jan Brown and Paul Smyth have been appointed directors of C3 to assist with the fund-raising for this land and other projects.

In answer to a question by Colin Smith Jan confirmed that this purchase would enable additional accommodation to be provided on the existing land if and when it was needed.

C3 held a very successful and well-attended event at Salachry with Peter Quelch, a local historian, who led a walk through the forest looking at its recent agricultural history.

## **11. AOB**

- 11.01** At the recent Mid Argyll Partnership meeting attended by Mary and Colin it was reported that all the double Shanks lorries on the road are transporting all of Oban's compostable waste to Lochgilphead for processing. It was also reported that all recyclable material is transported by road to Glasgow.
- 11.02** It was reported at the same meeting that A and B Council hopes to start doorstep collection of all recyclables in January. All material, cans, bottles, paper and plastics will go in the same bin, and there will be information given about what is recyclable and on washing and drying cans etc to prevent contamination of the paper.
- 11.03** Since the last meeting the village septic tank has been emptied. Mary has had a meeting with SEPA about the 2 village septic tanks. Scottish Water has been asked to provide details of their capacity in relation to number of properties using them, and the maintenance and emptying schedules for both tanks. It is appears that the tanks are only emptied when there is a specific complaint and Scottish Water must be required to do this on a regular basis.  
SEPA has confirmed that it will not take action against individuals not emptying or maintaining their septic tank.  
Colin Smith pointed out that SEPA has agreed that the Ardfern situation is "a whole mess", and Scottish Water has identified Ardfern as needing first time treatment to resolve the problems: "There are aspirations to improve sewage treatment in Ardfern but there is nothing currently planned in Scottish Water's Quality and Standards programme"  
In Colin's view the situation was totally unacceptable and the Community Council should be saying this loud and clear to all parties concerned.  
It was agreed that the meetings with, and pressure on SEPA and Scottish Water would continue until a solution was arrived at, and it was a long term and on-going process.  
Mary said that the Community Council is developing a communication and education plan to encourage householders and businesses to maintain their septic tanks properly.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

### **Public Discussion**

There was a long discussion about the causes of and solution to the sewage problem in Loch Craignish. It was pointed out that all future development in HLAs or PDAs will have to have appropriate infrastructure in place as part of planning approval.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm