

Craignish Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held in Craignish Village Hall
Wednesday 1st April, 2009
DRAFT

Present

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

Also in attendance were Sergeant Danny McGeachy of Lochgilphead Police and 15 members of the community.

Police issues were taken at the beginning of the meeting to allow Sgt McGeachy to leave promptly. He reported that the area had been quiet over the past months and he reassured the community that the police patrol car was in Ardfern every night checking the area. He also said that if a large event was planned the mobile police office could attend. It is not currently in operation because of staffing issues but given notice it could attend a specific event. There were no police issues from the floor.

1. Apologies for absence

There were apologies for absence from Councillors Dougie Philand, Alison Hay and Donnie MacMillan.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th February were signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

3.01 There is no further news from A and B Council about the introduction of doorstep recycling for tins and glass.

3.02 Sandy MacKilligin and Don Phillips attended a meeting about the review of Community Councils being undertaken by A and B Council. It does not seem that any boundaries are to change, and it is still hoped to hold the elections towards the end of the year. Mary has completed a questionnaire for a research company employed by A and B Council as part of the review.

3.03 Caroline Younger has now received the letter of intent and map of the proposed extension to the graveyard. Mary will ensure that the legalities progress.

3.04 Mary wrote to the Chair of BT about the speed of broadband, having failed to speak to anyone via the advertised routes that could help. A response has been received and the matter is being investigated.

3.05 The collapsed culvert on the B8002 beside the hall has been fixed.

3.06 Following the positive vote in the Salachry ballot the Community Council will write a letter of support for C3.

4. Planning

4.01 Planning Applications

2 planning applications have been discussed by the Community Council via email and it was agreed that no representation would be made.

Erection of 5 low cost houses on land south of Barrichbeyan

Erection of dwelling house on land west of Craobh House in Craobh Haven.

An application for the erection of a dwelling house on Plot 10 Craobh Haven was discussed and it was agreed that no representation would be made.

A complaint has been received by the secretary to the effect that people who have submitted a planning application do not know when the Community Council are to discuss the application and therefore do not know to attend the meeting to put their case. They thought they should be notified in person by the Community Council. It was agreed that the Community Council should not have to notify individuals that their application is to be discussed, and that if anyone was unsure they could telephone the Secretary to ask.

4.02 Planning Users Forum

Mary Smyth attended the recent Planning Users' Forum run by Argyll and Bute Council. The Forum covered the changes to planning procedures brought in by the new Planning (etc) Scotland Act 2006. The regulations under this Act will come into force on 3rd August. The main changes are that planning applications will be able to be made online, there is statutory pre application consultation for all national and major applications, neighbour notification becomes the responsibility of the Council, and there are changes to the Area Committees and Planning Committees which are yet to be finalised. Community Councils are to get more training on the details of the Act over the next few months.

The Forum also covered the Local Plan and the next Local Development Plan. The Emerging Local Plan is expected to be adopted in July, and will dictate what can be done over the next 5 years. The subsequent Local Development Plan and the methodology are set out under the Planning (etc) Scotland Act 2006. The Council has already published the timetable which involves the Development Plan Scheme being developed and published between March 09 and February 10, followed by a 12 week consultation period beginning in March 2010, and the review of consultations which begins in August 2010.

4.03 George Bevan told the meeting that he has checked with the Planning Department and he has been assured that he does not need planning permission for the building he built for Katy.

5. Secretary's Report

- 5.01** There will be a public meeting on the Core Path Consultation in the Community Centre, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead on the 19th May from 11am till 8pm.

6.0 Treasurer's Report

All the Community Council books and papers were handed over to Colin Davidson, the new treasurer. The CC account currently stands at £676.99. There is an outstanding bill for £20 for the hire of the hall which the Treasurer will pay.

7. Chairman's Report

Nothing to report.

8. Report from Craignish Community Company (C3)

Salachry Forest Project.

The main focus of the Salachry group has been on the community ballot. The results of the ballot were announced on March 30th in the Galley. Of 325 ballot papers posted out, 216 were returned (66.5%). Of those returned there were 172 'yes' votes and 44 'no' votes, thus 80% of those who voted, voted in favour of the project. This positive result means that the Salachry group can now apply to the National Forest Land Scheme to purchase the piece of land in question.

Housing sub committee.

The Church has appointed Chris Thornhill to the housing sub committee. Alastair MacLachlan has written to the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland enclosing C3's Memorandum & Articles of Association, to ask if they would be happy for C3 to work with the Church in taking forward the Glebe project. To date Alastair has not had a reply from the Trustees.

Robin's Field sub committee.

Robin Turner is still in negotiations with the planners over the piece of land behind his house, so there is nothing further to report at the present time.

Children & Young People sub committee (CHAP)

The group's application to Awards for All was successful and it was awarded just under £10,000. Of this, around £2,000 will be spent on equipment for the Youth Club, which will include a pool table and an air hockey table.

There have been between 12 and 20 young people going to the Youth Club and over the next year they will be participating in various sports, arts and crafts, music and drama workshops.

The drama group has now closed for the Easter holidays, but since the workshops started 33 young people have been involved.

Renewable Energy

The renewable energy sub group has had one meeting at which it showed the film 'The Power of Community', however in order for the group to take forward its ideas, it needs more members. Anyone interested should contact Jane Wilding.

AGM

This will be on April 22nd at 7pm in the hall. If anyone wishes to put their name forward as a director, there are forms in the Village shop which should be completed and returned to Diane Steele by April 17th at the latest.

9. Loch Craignish Water Quality/Sewage

The Secretary wrote to Scottish Water's Operations Team Leader for this area but received no reply. She has followed up with an email to Jane MacKenzie who is responsible for community liaison within Scottish Water who replied that Scottish Water has visited the septic tank and reported that it is working well, though there were problems with some private outfalls in the vicinity. A further visit in conjunction with SEPA is planned and the secretary has asked that the Community Council be notified so that a representative can be present.

10. AOB

Argyll and Bute Council are unable to develop a programme for knotweed control using community volunteers because of health and safety issues, nor have they the budget to do any control themselves. The CC will investigate alternative solutions.

George Bevan reported that a local person who has been given community service would like to do this service in Craignish. George will liaise with the appropriate authority.

There has been a complaint about the state of the Barrananaoil road, and Colin Davidson has written to Alison Hay about the state of the A816. The CC will write to Head of Roads about both.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 3rd June 2009 at 8pm in the Village Hall. This will be the AGM.

Public Discussion

John Stannard outlined the background and current situation in regard to the planned closure of Arduaine Gardens. An Action Group has been formed, and petitions are out in the area and on-line. There is to be a meeting next Monday with the Chair and other senior managers of National Trust Scotland to find out how the gardens are funded, what the shortfall is and what the options are. It was agreed that it would be tragedy if the gardens are to close.

Everyone was urged to write to the National Trust for Scotland and to local MPs, but were urged to be positive and ask what could be done to help. The tone of the campaign is not confrontational; the emphasis is on working together with NTS to come to a solution.

The CC agreed to write in support of the gardens. The on-line petition can be signed at www.ipetitions.com/petitions/arduainegarden. The garden website and contacts can be found at www.arduaine-garden.org.uk or through the Trust's website at www.nts.org.uk

Clive Brown announced that the minister Alastair MacLachlan is to retire in June. A vacancy Committee is to be elected and will begin the process of recruiting a successor.

Peter Richardson asked about the siting of the bins at the bottom of the Corranbeg track. Sandy MacKilligin has spoken to Lady Selby about a piece of her land, which she is willing to let be used, but her wall would need to be reinstated which is a considerable expense. Colin Clark is to start work repairing the damage done by Scottish Water and could make the lay-by at the same time, but there are no funds for the replacement of the wall. Sandy MacKilligin will try to achieve a solution to this problem.

Peter Richardson asked if the Community Council intended to set up a Working Party to prepare a development plan for Craignish to feed into the next local plan. It was confirmed that this was the case. Fergus Murray is on a month's leave but the CC will arrange a meeting with him immediately on his return to discuss the way forward. Fergus Murray has developed a 'Community Toolkit' to help local communities do this exercise and Craignish is thought to be suitable for this procedure. It was pointed out that time was of the essence to ensure Craignish was prepared for the next round of consultation.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

These minutes are draft until the next meeting