

Craignish Community Council
Minutes of Meeting held in Craignish Village Hall
Wednesday 5th August 2009
DRAFT

Present

George Bevan (Chair)
Don Phillips (Vice Chair)
Colin Davidson
Sandy MacKilligin
Sandy Ritchie

Also in attendance were Councillor Alison Hay, Donnie MacMillan, Constable Tom Campbell of Lochgilphead Police and 8 members of the community.

It was agreed that the minutes of the AGM and EGM will be considered at the AGM in 2010.

The Chairman invited PC Campbell to address the meeting, and members to raise matters with him. The long closure of the A816 following an accident was raised and he promised to report back on the justification for this.

A question was raised about youths trespassing on private property and PC Campbell advised anyone witnessing such behaviour to phone the Station and a car would be sent out. This was important even if the matter subsequently proved to be insignificant. He commented that it was wise to take care of outboard engines and the like as theft was more likely at this time of year. The Chairman thanked him for attending.

1. Apologies for absence

There were apologies for absence from Mary Smyth and Councillor Philand.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2009 were adopted and signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

3.01 There has been no follow up meeting regarding sewage but a letter has been promised from Scottish Water.

3.02 Councillor MacMillan reported that notification regarding the next election should be received soon.

3.03 A preliminary meeting with Fergus Murray is to be arranged in early September (maybe 2nd) to discuss the future process. A working group will be formed on this topic. The Chairman agreed to contact Fergus Murray, and the hall will need to be booked once a date is fixed.

3.04 Sandy MacKilligan and Mary Smyth attended a training session about the new planning process.

3.05 The web site will be updated soon.

4. Planning

4.01 Planning Applications

Sandy MacKilligan reported on the various current applications. A & B Council have applied for planning consent for the graveyard extension which is between the existing site and the road. Some of the other applications were retrospective but there were no application on which the CC needs to comment.

Colin Lindsay-MacDougall's application for affordable housing has been approved and a grant received. It was agreed that the Council should write congratulating Mr Lindsay-MacDougall as this will contribute to the supply of low cost housing for rent.

5. Secretary's Report

5.01 Sandy MacKilligan reported on the Wind Farm meeting and provided information leaflets on this proposal at Raera Forest.

5.02 The Scottish Ambulance Service is conducting a survey on future strategy and would like comments by 14th August.

6.0 Treasurer's Report

Colin Davidson reported that the account signatories have now been updated. The annual grant of £400 has been received from A&BC and this brings our present balance to £1037.19.

7. Chairman's Report

No report (but see later)

8. Report from Craignish Community Company (C3)

The C3 Board discussed fully the suggestion made at the last Community Council meeting that it was not appropriate for a member of the Community Council to serve as the Chair of C3 as well and that this created a conflict of interest. C3 feels that it is to the benefit of both organisations that there is a member of the Community Council on the C3 Board as long as that Councillor leaves the room when planning applications made by C3 are discussed.

Salachry

The main news since the last Community Council meeting is that the National Forest Land Scheme has approved C3's application to buy 120ha of forest up at Salachry. The Salachry committee is now working on an application to the Lottery in order to raise the necessary funds.

Housing:

Sandy Mackilligin, Paul Smyth and Jan Brown from C3, Chris Thornhill from the Kirk Session, Derek Logie from the Rural Housing Service and past Minister Alastair McLachlan met with the secretary to the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland and the secretary to the Church's Glebes committee to discuss development on the Glebe. This week Jan received an e mail from the secretary to the General Trustees stating that they would be very happy to work with C3 to take forward the Glebe project and inviting C3 to put forward a formal proposal.

Since the meeting in Edinburgh, the housing committee has learnt that Colin Lindsay-MacDougall's application to the Rural Homes for Rent scheme, for 10 affordable rented houses, has been successful and C3 would like to congratulate Colin on achieving this and to offer him any support that he might need.

Robin's Field:

Nothing to report. Robin expects to hear from the planners very soon.

Youth Committee

A performance of 'The Witch got on at Anniesland Station' performed by the drama group at the end of term, was very well attended. During the holidays activities have been curtailed, but two weeks of activities for various age groups have been organised from the beginning of August.

Rachel Rogers is currently putting a number of volunteers through disclosure checks with CRBS, so that there will eventually be a pool of helpers who can work in child care positions within the community.

Renewable Energy

Nothing to report.

Website

C3 now has its own website at www.craignishcommunitycompany.org.uk . Members of the community are encouraged to have a look at this and any community groups wanting to have a link to their own website should get in touch.

Fundraising

C3 is participating in an online raffle to win a car. As many people as possible are asked to go to Everyclick.com and to buy tickets online in support of Craignish Community Company. Tickets are £2 each and of that 95% will go to C3. If anyone who would like to participate but who does not want to purchase tickets themselves gives their name and money to Jan, then she will buy the tickets in their name.

9. AOB

John Stannard has been in touch with regard to the successful campaign to keep open Arduaine Gardens for at least one year. A meeting will be held shortly to pursue means of generating funds.

A comment was made about complaints regarding parking on the road during Boat Club training sessions. Tom McCardel has dealt with this.

Sandy MacKilligan raised the matter of the maintenance of the Community Council site next to the Crafty Kitchen – it was felt that some of our funds might be allocated to a local gardener to maintain this. Sandy Ritchie suggested that the maintenance of the road-end should also be included. Sandy agreed to look into these matters and report back on likely costs.

Sandy Ritchie reported that he had met with the Roads Department about the Hillpark section of the A816 and it would be repaired.

Antonia Baird raised the concept of Time-Banking for volunteers to assist others in the community and suggested that it was an ideal concept for Ardfern. Volunteers would need to provide references. Antonia has a leaflet about the system and can be contacted as detailed below.

George Bevan reported that as he and his partner were leaving Ardfern he was resigning as Chairman, but would continue until 1st October. A vote of thanks was carried unanimously

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 7th October 2009 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Public Discussion

Colin Smith referred to matters in the Minutes of the previous meeting. In 3.04 he questioned the phrase “at the edge of acceptability” and suggested that the phrase “a potential environmental disaster” had been used. He stated that he had merely queried the matter of Sandy MacKilligan being Chairman of the Planning group of the Council and also on the Board of C3 and he had not asked him to resign. Colin also suggested that the total number of houses, both affordable and otherwise” was too great in view of the sewage and other problems. Cllr Hay suggested that there was a need for discussion with all interested parties before developments went ahead.

Colin Davidson reported on his discussions with the Roads Dept. about cutting the verges. He has been assured that next year they will be cut twice, in June and August. This year there had been problems with equipment failure.

Sandy Ritchie asked about the policy on knotweed, to which Cllr Hay suggested that the A&BC view was that it had become uncontrollable.

Chris Thornhill said that the meeting on Arduaine would be advertised in the Press.

Jan Brown reported that A&BC now have a Third Sector organiser and Third Sector Groups can now tender of contracts.

Antonia Baird reminded those present of the need to respond to the Ambulance Service consultation.

Rosemary Dalglish raised the matter of the alders growing on the roadside in the vicinity of Creag Dubh and the danger caused by the reduced visibility for traffic. Colin Davidson and Sandy Ritchie agreed to have this cut back.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

These minutes are draft until the next meeting