

# **Minutes of Meeting of Col-Glen Community Council**

## **Thursday 28 March 2013 – 19.30 Glendaruel Village Hall**

### **Community Council members present:**

Michael Kaufmann, Cathleen Russell, Tom Mowat, Danuta Steedman, Anne Lamb, John Sutton, Danielle Clark

### **Community Council members Apologies:**

Suzy Munro  
Martin MacFarlane

### **Public present:**

15 people present

#### **1. Declaration of Interest**

None

#### **2. Minutes 17 January 2013 meeting**

The minutes of meeting were read and accepted (proposed by Michael Kaufmann and seconded by Tom Mowat).

#### **3. Ruel Restoration Study by Andrew Barker**

In 2009, Argyll Fisheries Trust report on migratory fish reported that the habitat and spawning grounds in the River Ruel were deteriorating very fast. The River Ruel Improvement Association, with funding from SEPA, commissioned a geological study to define what could be done how to ameliorate the situation. The major issue is the erosion of the riverbanks. Not only leads this to a widening of the river, but the sediment from the erosion is not being transported down the river as well as it should be, and this leads to a rise in the river bed and an increased risk of flooding.

Main causes are the abstraction from Garvie burn for Loch Striven Power Station which results in less water flowing into the river and the increased erosion of the riverbanks caused by grazing of livestock on the riverbanks.

The first recommended solution is to realigning part of the river just below Dunans, where the effects of abstraction of the Garvie burn have the biggest effect, so that it runs again through the marshy field to stop the flooding. Estimated cost of the realigning is £140.000 with possible funding by SEPA.

Second recommendation is to erect livestock exclusion fencing and replanting of riverbanks. This would result in a quick improvement at an estimated cost of £125.000 with possible funding from various sources.

Significant restocking of river from own stock and the close of the West Kyles fish farms created an improvement in fish stock levels. However, over the last years, the river has not been fished. Three of the main fish-right owners will advertise fishing on the Ruel on a new fishing booking portal on the internet called Fishpal. This will hopefully result in a visitors increase to Colglen.

Michael Kaufmann commented that fencing off 12 meters from the banks of the river and its burns would be a serious financial sacrifice for the farmers and Shone McKellar asked if it has been done before and if yes, would like to hear the results. Further points raised by the public were:

- Who will maintain those 12 meters fenced off banking
- The river shift naturally. Over the years, one side of the river deteriorates, the other side build up new banking
- If the grass grows too high under the electric fencing it will short cut the fencing.
- What about the watering of the livestock?

Michael Kaufmann will contact local farmers willing to meet the Ruel Improvement Association for further discussion.

### **3. Loch Striven fish farm proposals**

Even though Colglen Community Council objected to the proposals, this does not guarantee a public meeting but we will try to get one. Roy Perry pointed out that directors of Scottish Salmon Company we amongst those who supported the fish farm and Danielle Clark highlighted that several of the supporters were from as far away as Stornoway. Alex McNaughton would verify at which stage the application is.

### **4. Kilbridemore wind farm**

Banks did sent a community partnering proposal to be signed before any planning application has been filed which is unacceptable. We are happy to go along to see what the community would get if it would go ahead, but we need proper visuals so we can see the visual impact it will have throughout the community.

The project timeline is well out. Project meeting nr 2 has been delayed several times. Banks already scaled the size of the wind farm back from 95 to 19.

### **5. Development Trust**

Charles Dixon-Spain reported that the CGDT now owns **Stronafian Forest** and recruited a Project Officer, Marc Chambers. The first priority will be to look into the housing need such as woodland crofts and affordable housing.

An event will be organised for early May.

They will look into projects which will generate income such as turbines.

CGDT was approached by the gun club for relocation of traps and shoots to the forest.

Other ideas are a market garden and a network of paths.

**Community Resilience:** Sarah McLean and Charles Dixon-Spain attended an “Are you ready” follow up. The strategy will be based on the suggestions of the people who attended the first “Are you ready” meeting in the Colintrave Village Hall. The Colintrave Resilience Plan could be used as a template for other villages.

**Wind Farm:** Charles Dixon-Spain will take part in an advisory group for wind farms.

**Footpaths:** The paths and bridges for the proposed paths need funding

Rhona Sutherland is employed till December this year.

**6. Councillor’s report**

Alex McNaughton said there was not much to report.

Michael Kaufmann highlighted the community council boundaries which formerly included Glenlean farm but which are now all part of Kilmun Community Council.

Road: Tom Mowat highlighted the state of the road signs.

**7. Glendaruel Village Hall**

The funding is now complete and Fergusons appointed as contractor. Next week will be a site meeting with Fergusons. The work will start within 2 weeks of the date of the site meeting and last for approximately 6 weeks. Will verify if the hall can be used during the evening while work is being carried out.

**8. Wikipedia**

What is reported for Glendaruel and Colintrave on Wikipedia, puts both villages in a bad light. Decision was taken to ask Bridget Patterson to write up a text to replace the present Wikipedia text. Once replaced, we will have to monitor Wikipedia for content change.

**9. AOB**

The Colglen Walking group will attend the Cowal In Patient Casualty meeting in Kames

Progress parking at ferry terminal: Bute Estate manager is difficult to approach.

The Colintrave public toilets do not have disable toilets but it is doubtful A&BC has money for establishing disabled toilets.

**10. Next meeting**

May in Colintrave Village Hall. Date to be announced later.