

Minutes of meeting of Colintrave
& Glendaruel Community Council
Held at Colintrave Village Hall on
Thursday 20 March 2014 at 7.30pm

Community Council Members present: Cathleen Russell, chair, with Danuta Steedman, Anne Lamb, Fiona Hamilton, Martin McFarlane, John Sutton and Tom Mowat

Apologies for absence from Mrs Danielle Clark

Also present Councillor McNaughton, two Police and six members of the public

In the absence of the Secretary Tom Mowat agreed to take minutes..

The Chair asked the police to make their report at the start of the meeting. The only incident to report was the theft of a quantity of copper cable. The new speed restrictions were proving effective. Advance warning of any shooting activity was now required. After giving this report they left the meeting.

Arising from the minutes Alex McNaughton reported that the local authority did not have the man power to clean the local beaches. Local people and organisations and school children would get assistance from the local authority to remove the rubbish, if they could collect it and bag it. Mr Mowat reminded the meeting that as Easter and the start of the Tourist season were now only a month away, we would need to get organised quickly.

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2014 were distributed. Their adoption was moved by Martin McFarlane and seconded by Tom Mowat.

Charles Dixon Spain reported on the Development Trust's progress. The Forest Master plan would be presented at a public meeting on 21st March illustrating all the proposed developments within the forest from forest crofts, a wind turbine, access roads and paths, to archaeology. Problems were currently being encountered with Land reform regulations which were limiting the total amount of funding available under "de minimus" rules and stopping many development plans. The Cowal way hoped for financial help from the Coastal Communities Fund. The Orchard fund and Community Food Fund were also mentioned.

The AGM of the Development Trust would probably take place in June.

Mr McNaughton in his report mentioned the scheme for the care of adults and children using the Council's Social work department and NHS nurses. Argyll and Bute Council had just approved this but comment was made from the public that this would not work and where tried in other parts of Scotland had failed. A recent meeting to discuss the re-drawing of school catchment boundaries had refused to make any changes. A complaint was made about the dreadful state of the west Glen road and of the severe damage being done to local roads by timber trucks. Work on the worst stretches of the road from the Glen to Dunoon particularly around the head of Loch Striven, was to start next month

Sara McLean reported on Greener Col Glen that a programme of events had started today with First Aid Training. Other events included training to operate the shredder, recycling, the re-establishment of a local newsletter and the establishment of the two Poly Tunnels. These had now been delivered but problems of drainage continued at both sites. Scottish water was involved in locating and repairing a collapsed or blocked drain at the Shinty field in Glendaruel and the ground at Colintrave was wetter than expected. The Poly tunnel group had 32 members and 25 growers who were keen to make a start.

A community emergency plan had been drawn up and circulated on the internet. This document would be added to and would evolve with time. To provide power in an emergency two generators had been purchased, one for each hall. A focus group was established to co ordinate local efforts. In an emergency it would be important to know where and to whom we should turn for advice. A list of skills, abilities and assets in the community should be made. It was decided a questionnaire about this should go to every house in the community.

We were reminded that if power was off and phone lines down we could not use mobile phones everywhere. Areas of poor or no reception should be identified.

Under any other business attention was drawn to the very large wind farm proposed for the hilltop west of Dunoon. We should co operate with other Cowal wind farms in being aware of this development as it progressed. A new web site www.glenoftheredriver.com was drawn to our attention.

The April meeting date was Easter Monday and the meeting agreed that the April meeting should be missed and that the next meeting would be on 19th May which would be the AGM, followed by an ordinary meeting.

This was all the business