

Colintraive and Glendaruel Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, 19 May 2014 at 7.30 pm

Colintraive Village Hall

Present: Cathleen Russell, Anne Lamb, Tom Mowat, Martin MacFarlane, John Sutton, Danuta Steedman, Fiona Hamilton

Apologies: Danielle Clark, Moira Donald, Gordon Blair

Public: 22

It was agreed to alter running order of agenda to allow people to make their contribution and leave.

1. Police update (Neil Grant)

Since the last meeting there have been 11 minor incidents, which is down from last meeting. Two crime reports arose from miscellaneous traffic offences revealed by speed checks. Advice was given again to secure oil tanks and garden sheds.

2. Ardentraive Hydro Scheme

Notification about a hydro scheme proposal from Mount Stuart Estate had come in since last meeting. Mr Andrew Nichol, previously factor and now consultant for hydro scheme on behalf of Mount Stuart Renewables, and Mr Bob Baines, current factor, were introduced.

Highland Green Renewables had been asked to give a presentation to community but have been unable to do so.

Mr Nichol offered try to answer any questions. Nobody has been able to open application because of slow broadband. It is not available for viewing elsewhere. Charles Dixon Spain wasn't aware of the application on behalf of CGDT. He suggested it would have been good practice for the community to be consulted. At the moment consultation with various bodies has only been carried out to the letter of the planning regulations.

Mr Nichol offered to print off and send copy to be made available in community. The Landscape and Visual Impact Survey shows that there is no significant impact. A concern was raised that it would be visible from the viewing platform in community garden.

Another concern has been raised about the outflow. The application states that the scheme will never take all of the water when the outflow is low.

A question was raised about the proposals for Community Benefit. This has been at the forefront of discussions between developer and MSR. This hasn't been discussed with the community. £5k per mega watt is the standard. The meeting was reminded that some

years ago when the community proposed a scheme for community benefit, the scheme was refused due to objections. People in community feel peeved.

Mr Nichol pointed out that there is no statutory requirement for community benefit, but it has been at forefront of discussions. He suggested that those discussions should take place after planning permission has been granted. There was general disagreement about this.

Cllr McNaughton had asked planning and had been assured that a hard copy was being sent to the Community Council. Nothing has been received. Mr Baines suggested that it was Argyll & Bute Council who were remiss in ensuring adequate consultation had been carried out.

MSR hope to receive permission by the middle of June. It was pointed out that the community has been treated in a cavalier fashion and that an attempt should be made by MST and MSR to build bridges with the community. Any discussion should be about this project solely. Mr Baines did not agree. He said that the current relationship between the community and MST should be taken into consideration and that MSR & MST be given in the benefit of the doubt for the purposes of this application, if that relationship were to be maintained.

The convenor again requested that Green Highland Renewables give a presentation to the community and discuss community benefit. Mr Nichol agreed and said that he would put that to GHR. He will also send hard copies of the application to the Colintrave Village Hall. It was suggested that the council might want to wait until the outcome of any discussion. The Convenor will write to the council to update them on the feeling of the community. The council have already indicated that they have put the planning application on hold until the community has had the opportunity to consider it.

The question of the noise coming from the power station was raised. No noise study has been carried out. Mr Nichol will confirm the maximum level of decibels. It was pointed out that the noise level would depend on the construction of the building. The construction could also be made more visually attractive since it will be seen from viewing platform.

The desire to work in partnership was expressed. Mr Nichol and Mr Baines were thanked for coming to the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest:

None

4. Minutes of last meeting

Proposed; Anne Lamb Seconded: Martin MacFarlane

5. Development Trust Update (Charles Dixon-Spain)

Stronafian Forest. The Trust has advertised for new Forest Officer and hopes to have someone in post very soon.

Bill Carlaw has taken on the renewables remit. A community consultation will happen on 28th May in Colintrave Hall. Consultants will be making a full presentation. Everyone is encouraged to attend and give input.

Archaeology group; Ros McKenna is leading the group in the absence of a Project Officer. Another important weekend is coming up.

Diminimus and State Aid. Michael Russell has been very helpful. Margaret has been to Scottish Parliament to testify about how projects are severely hampered by Diminimus restrictions.

Cowal Way – feedback due end of June.

Community broadband meeting. It was decided following on from the meeting on to move the project on to second stage.

Climate Challenge Fund. The Board is delighted with Sara and Nikki's energy and commitment and would like to enter third phase of project.

Sandra Wilson, Jim McLuckie and Bill Carlaw were praised for the hard work and high number of voluntary hours they have spent driving forward their remits. More directors are sought. Interested people are requested to attend the AGM on 20th July.

Colintrave car park is progressing.

Membership recruitment drive will progress with next newsletter before AGM. It was suggested a membership form be sent out with newsletter. Website will be updated within the next week or so.

6. Greener Colglan Update (Sara McLean)

Marketing; It was agreed to publish a community newsletter at a recent meeting. All local groups are asked to contribute their dates for the next three months for inclusion in next newsletter. Send to Nikki. It was requested that the letter from the resilience group could also be included. The newsletter is due for publication shortly and the first edition will be free of charge and distributed to all households. Although a Greener ColGlen newsletter it will also contain CGDT news.

Polytunnels. 37 members in Growing Group, inc. 6 associate members. There is a management committee consisting of 6 members & 3 office bearers. Membership for full members is £50 per year and £5 for associates. There is no limit to the number of associate members. A bank account has been set up. Visits are being organised to Kilfinan Allotments and High Craig Market Garden at Ardlamont. (possibly 14th June)

Volunteer days are being arranged to install water supplies to the tunnels, and to set up the raised beds.

Scottish Water have laid pipe at Kilmodan Acre for septic tank run-off. Landscaping has been carried out by the contractors, who have put in additional surface water drainage. New fencing will be positioned once poly-tunnels are erected. Poly-tunnels should be ready by July.

Community Composting. 6 people have passed NPTC Chipper training, 2 people already had the qualification and more people have expressed an interest in being trained if a

course can be found. The chipper has been used twice. A comprehensive risk assessment is in place and all operators are supplied with the correct Personal Protection Equipment. This part of the project will be launched at the Poly-tunnel opening event.

Green Deal Advisor – The Diploma training is on-going and assessments will begin later in the year.

Rhododendron project – eradication is a National priority. Clearing will begin later this year – free of charge, if people let Sara know of any they wish cleared. A demonstration of different methods will be organised. Sara attended a workshop at Glen Creran Estate and hopes that the demonstration of different eradication techniques can be shown here later in the year alongside a charcoal making demonstration.

Are We Ready? The action plan is ready and a letter will be sent to residents inviting them to be part of it and give permission for telephone numbers to be added to 'telephone tree'. A data protection policy is needed. Council won't reveal Electoral roll, but are asking for more information through this action plan. Telephone Tree wouldn't be published. Martin will contact the council to find out how other areas have dealt with establishing Telephone Tree & Data Protection.

Generators have arrived at the Heritage Centre and need to be moved to their village hall locations soon.

Saturday, 7th June. Big Lunch event will be held, celebrating local food and including cookery demonstration by Alison Sykora.

July - Poly-tunnels opening event, with seedling swap, Community Composting launch and demo (Glendaruel)

A traditional harvest festival is planned for later in the year to celebrate all that has been grown.

7. Councillor's report (Alec McNaughton)

First stages of Glen Lean road widening is underway with scrub clearing. West Glen road has also had some attention.

Change of times at Dunoon Grammar School impacts on bus timetable. The understanding is that the timetable will not change meaning local children waiting an hour for the bus home. The council are still to debate before the changes will be passed.

The matter of bins was raised. The last seven houses in Colintrave are served by bins in a lay-by. Four of the bins have been filled with non-household waste and therefore haven't been emptied. Now there are only three bins between the seven houses. Alec will look into the matter.

Michael Russell, MSP, was asked if he had anything he wanted to update the community with.

He will be writing to council regarding Mount Stuart Trust & Renewables. His advice was for the community to exert itself about any renewable applications in general to ensure robust consultation and community benefit.

Broadband: marine cable is being laid. Mr Russell is concerned about BT not clarifying whether certain projects are actually going ahead, as Community Broadband could take these on.

Diminimus was explained and the efforts being made to lessen the negative impact on community projects.

The Land Reform report will be published this week, and The Tenant Farming report in a couple of weeks.

Complaints about the council form a large part of the issues raised with him by constituents.

In response to a question to Cllr McNaughton, Mr Russell explained that new legislation on disabled badges is going through parliament. Councils have right to charge what they like.

8. NHS update. (Robin Creelman)

By April 2015 integration required with Local Authority. Community Health Partnership carries on until April 2015. The post of Health Director of Operations will disappear, a similar one will disappear in Council and one new post created. Proposal still has to be ratified by council. Integrated Programme Board has been set up. Shadow Integration Board will soon be set up (four members each, Health & LA). New services for Alzheimers and MS have been set up. A question was asked if it was exclusively for people with Alzheimers or for wider dementia sufferers.

9. Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) in Argyll and Bute

There will now be eight people responsible for monitoring parking offences. It will now be a civil offence rather than criminal.

10. AOB

Colintraive slipway. Repairs & widening will be needed soon. CMAL will do a community presentation, probably in August. They have been in touch with CGDT. They are aware that car parking has been discussed.

Queen's Baton Relay. Volunteers are being looked for to act as Stewards.

Dunans. Charles has written asking for a letter of support from Community Council. It was suggested that more targeted letters be written rather than issuing a blanket letter of support.

Community benefit. Seminar is being held in Dunoon on 19th June. Charles is delivering a presentation at it, and asked for any feedback from any one which can be added. Charles was asked to represent Community Council.

11. Date of next meeting:

16th June, Glendaruel Village Hall.