

DORES & ESSICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 5th July 2010 in Dores Parish Hall 7.30pm

Members Present: Ella MacRae (Chair)
 John Martin (Vice Chair)
 Iain Cameron (Treasurer)
 Ruairidh MacLennan (Secretary)
 Annette Munro
 Duncan Manson
 John Hedger
 Steve Feltham

In Attendance: Cllr Margaret Davidson
 Lorraine Davidson (Childrens Services Manager, Barnardos)
 Harriet Tay (Neath Birches)
 Malcolm Sutherland (Loch Ness Marathon)
 Clare Cuthbertson (Minute Secretary)
 3 members of the public

Apologies: Anna Williams, Iain King, Graham Scott,
 Cllr Fraser Parr, Cllr John Finnie; Cllr David Henderson

Neath Birches - The Chair invited Lorraine Davidson to speak on the project at Neath Birches: This will be a Children's Unit run in partnership by Highland Council and Barnardos and Lorraine will be the Residential Manager. It will improve the children's services and also save the council in the region of £10,000 per week. It will open in August 2010. It will be a home for 5 children aged between 12 and 18 of mixed gender. They will be educated either at their own schools or will enrol at IRA and will mix in the community under the umbrella supervision of the Centre. Neath Birches will be supervised 24/7 and will have an awake supervisor on duty at night. There are plans for an open day - community council to be advised of this date. The Chair thanked Lorraine for her presentation and felt this would help the community have a better understanding of what was happening. (Lorraine and Harriet left the meeting)

Loch Ness Marathon -The Chair invited Malcolm Sutherland to speak on Loch Ness Marathon: This is the 9th year (event is on 3rd October) and has a major change with new start and finish lines for both marathon and 10K run. Road closures will be the same as in 2009 with the Dores to Holm roundabout townbound lane closed (and both directions between Holm roundabout and Torbreck turning closed for 25 minutes). No traffic problems in 2009. Some safety concerns were expressed about the clearance of the signage and cones after 2009 event - Malcolm will look into this and ensure that it is done by a three man team as was intended last year. Council were generally pleased with bottle clear up but requested that runners be encouraged to 'drop' bottles etc in road, not throw into bushes from where they can be difficult to extract. Clear up needs also to be more complete before road returns to normal traffic flow on the Monday. Ella requested that Youth Club be contacted earlier so that they can take a positive and active part in the day. Malcolm expressed his appreciation of the understanding of the local communities and thanked council for their input. (Malcolm left the meeting)

Adoption of Previous Minute:

Minutes of 12th April 2010 were accepted as read

Proposed: John Martin

Seconded: Annette Munro

Matters Arising from Previous Minute:Roads

Possible options to reduce speeding through the village - awaiting feedback from Les Houlker. Response received from Les Houlker about access to Ness Castle Lodges and passed to JM. It was decided to invite Les Houlker to next meeting to clarify the issues.

JM highlighted a recent incident where a vehicle entering Lodges was sticking out into the main road while waiting to get through gates and causing a traffic hazard. Other members of council also cited similar events. Les Houlker has said that current arrangement is 'not safe'. Gates should be either automatically open allowing vehicles to enter immediately or be left open 7am-7pm. Community Council to write to planning department (copied to Cllr Davidson) to complain of non-compliance with planning permission.

Beach Safety

IC to get prices for new lifering/belt etc. Deferred to next meeting.

Fires- several recently and public unsure of where to go to report incident. Use 999 service.

Scottish Water

Ongoing. Scottish water proving elusive to contact.

Village Improvement Project

Revised LEADER application nearly complete - awaiting few quotes for equipment/information boards/bus shelter/bike rack etc.

Housing Needs Survey

Site identified south of Dores Parish Hall - Feasibility Study now being completed by high;and Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT).

EM 'declared a non financial interest' in this development as Chair of Albyn Housing. Legal advice allows her to take part in these discussions as land is to be bought and developed by HSCHT.

DM expressed concern that it was quite a large site. IC/JM said this gives planners better leeway to develop site well with buffers. It is likely to be a phased project of affordable houses with mix of rented, first time buyers and possibly self build.

HSCHT will hold a surgery in the village for local consultation.

Flooding at Millcroft

Concern about Health and Safety aspect of flood channel across amenity area which had been agreed by Highland Council and Albyn engineer. There is also a hole in the bank to be looked at further in discussion with Albyn Housing.

Concern about flooding down road, and subsequent freezing last winter, from Loch Ness View. Unacceptable delay in completing surface of Loch Ness View road and subsequent adoption by Highland Council.

All points to be raised with planning department of Highland Council.

Knocknagel

JM - no longer a need to extend 30mph zone - sign which triggers at speeds over 30mph is very effective. SSE have built a very good path (although temporarily out of use while flood alleviation scheme underway) and it is expected that they will put cables underground in next few years.

Damage at Cullaird

Work completed and effective.

FlyTipping - No information

Aldourie Castle - Access

Awaiting reply from the Reporter at Scottish Office regarding all access routes including loch side in front of Castle grounds. If approved plan then goes to Highland Council for ratification. RM to send DM details. Roger Tempest has invited Community Council to hold a meeting at Castle (during daylight) to discuss situation. No problem with access in front of steadings and along to Gardeners Cottage.

Access Issue Report - it was decided to set up a Working Group to read through this lengthy document and report back to council at next meeting. Working Group - Duncan Manson, Ruairidh MacLennan and Steve Feltham.

It was suggested that a firebreak should be cut through the gorse at far end of beach. Contact Alastair Grant and perhaps get Gary Falconer to clear an area.

Communications

EM has a good list of email contact and will pass to IC

Correspondence

No contact with Clansman Hotel as yet.

AOCB

Grit Bins - pending

Beach Cleaning - Kyla Finlay doing a good job. IC to organise payment. Roger Tempest to be approached for a donation as we are also cleaning the woods to great effect.

Rockness

RM reported that Rockness do not envisage any change in community donation at this time.

Some discussion about community raising funds by hosting a tent within main event.

(Cllr Davidson left meeting)

Need to have debrief meeting much earlier than previous years.

Need to meet with Jim King to discuss proposals for next few years - already a longer event.

Issue of re-selling of residents tickets to be addressed.

Rockness Flyer to have a paragraph about charity clear up added for 2011.

Treasurers Report:

Only one payment since last meeting - to previous minute secretary.

Correspondence:

The Secretary tabled the correspondence received.

Core Path Improvement Scheme funding has been approved. Local community can apply for grant towards plans already discussed. Apply by 30th July. Pass information to Access Group. <http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourcouncil/news/newsreleases/2010/May/2010-05-12-03.htm>

First Responder Scheme - Mary Finlay considering becoming a local volunteer. <http://www.sja.org.uk/sja/what-we-do/community-first-responders.aspx>

Water Sewage and Roads - no report

Planning - no new planning applications received

AOCB

Roslyn Mackay has intimated her willingness to come onto the Committee. All agreed to co opt her onto committee and thanks given for her interest.

JM congratulated JH on the new website and encouraged all to keep it up to date with event information. <http://www.doresonlochness.co.uk/>

Minutes will go onto website in draft form.

Alan Fraser of Scott Wilson working on a cycle route from Fort Augustus to Inverness and are looking at some amenities at Dores (cycle shelter, information board). Request close liaison with Community Council to avoid duplication.

AM reported that the speed sign has not been working recently.

Development Trust invites two Community Council members onto their board. Graham Scott is on and we need a.n.other.

EM will be submitting a report about Rockness to Highland Council soon. Pass any concerns/issue/comments to her asap. JM concerned over increased number of serious assaults this year - some feedback from police required.

Meeting closed at 9.40pm

Next meeting Monday 16th August at 7.30pm in Dores Parish Hall