

DORES & ESSICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 24th January 2011 in Dores Parish Hall 7.30pm

1. Members Present: Ella MacRae (Chair)(EMacR)
 *John Martin (Vice Chair) (JM)
 Ruairidh MacLennan (Secretary) (RMacL)
 Iain Cameron (Treasurer) (IC)
 Duncan Manson (DM)
 Ruth Seaton (RS)
 Graham Scott (GS)
 Angus McLaren (McL)
 John Hedger (JH)

In Attendance: Cllr John Finnie
 Cllr Hamish Wood
 Cllr Fraser Parr
 Clare Cuthbertson (Minute Secretary)
 2 members of the public (Neil & Maggie Sutherland)
 *NB John Martin in public gallery for this meeting

2. Apologies: Steve Feltham
 Anna Williams
 Roslyn MacKay
 Cllr Margaret Davidson; Cllr Drew Hendry

3. Adoption of Previous Minute:
 Minutes of 1st November 2010 were accepted as read
 Proposed: Duncan Manson Seconded: Ruairidh MacLennan

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minute:

Neath Birches - Delay in opening date, no date yet for Open Day. **Action: EMacR**
Scottish Water – Work still ongoing. Call out on 15th/16th January and have identified problem as being at sewerage plant which is causing back up and effluent flooding at loch side properties.
Housing Needs Survey - Highland Small Communities Trust stating that infrastructure needs to be tested and that cost of a Flow Pressure Test would be £1400. IC stated that he (as landowner) would cover this but that if test proved positive this charge should be dropped. Query as to need for this test – letter to be written. **Action: RMacL**
Aldourie Castle - Access –contact access officer - Stewart Easthaugh **Action: RMacL**
Broadband – check what group at Boleskine is doing **Action: EMacR**
Traffic Calming – Colin Ross will attend next meeting to go through concerns about survey. Need to notify John Taylor about bollards knocked down on path to school. **Action: RMacL**
Grit bins supplied and kept topped up through recent bad weather.
Road Bends – now signposted with bollards.
Ness Castle Lodges entrance – JM confirmed that traffic management survey recently received is acceptable but raises concerns over allowance for special events: i.e. that twice a year possibly 150 cars will enter over a four hour period. Noted that NO lorries are allowed (though if any building work takes place this would have to be revised). IC sought clarification that signs are temporary until Council draw up an agreement for better permanent signs.
Speed Warning Sign replaced
Safe Routes to School – Further discussions required to improve on planned route. **Action: IC**
Planning -Ness Castle Lodges withdrawn. Darris **Steading** (correction from last minute) plans were passed but with no conditions on improving access to main road – of concern.

8. Planning

Cllrs Wood, Finnie and Parr present in an advisory position only – not able to take part.

Neil Sutherland made a presentation about his proposed development at Torbreck of a new workshop and associated road access through the woods to his property. Access road would be from main road to south of Neath Birches and would be suitable for full size lorries – probably 2 per week. Mr Sutherland stated that this development would last his business for the next 5 years and if further growth was necessary he would have to relocate. He also stated that the workshop development could not happen without the access road and vice versa.

Objections were raised by John Martin expressing concerns over previous statements claiming that there would be no more development and that the traffic increase would be to his detriment.

After some discussion the Committee agreed to support the planning application with a condition that **all** the commercial traffic would use the new road, that the legal position of the rental of this road be deemed sound and that the land quality should be reviewed as to its suitability for this road.

Action: RMacL

Neil and Maggie Sutherland left meeting

5. Treasurer's Report

Due to pay Dores Community Trust £24,600 from Rockness 2010 and have paid C Cuthbertson £2000 for LEADER application consultancy. (£1800 of this will be refunded from LEADER shortly). Annual grant from Council is due in March.

Agreed to request £3600 from Dores Community Trust as requested contribution for LEADER work and that monies will be drawn down as required to pay for LEADER work and refunded to Development Trust in due course.

Committee agreed not to claim for Rockness meeting hall hire from Development Trust as sign of goodwill.

6. Correspondence

British Waterways – proposing to holding a Paddle Sports Come & Try Day in March. Dores Inn have been notified. Event will be free and donations to local charity and RNLI will be collected.

Highland Council – tenders for public transport

NHS ; SNH ; SCHAT; Offshore Wind Energy off Moray Coast- updates and newsletters

7. Water, Sewage and Roads

8. Planning (cont)

John Morrison applied for an extension.

9. LEADER and Beach Warden

Grant of £85,825 has been awarded towards the Dores Village Improvements costing £96,500. In addition Highland Council will provide £5,000 in kind plus £675 towards fencing. The Community Council will fund £3600 (via Dores Development Trust) and provide £1400 worth of work in kind. Cllr H Wood congratulated the Council on achieving this grant – many other applicants had been unsuccessful.

To be discussed more fully at next meeting.

Beach Warden – EMacR now has some job descriptions – IC will copy and send to Committee for further detailed comment at next meeting.

Action: IC

10. Community Council Review 2011

New document gives options of numbers of committee members of between 8 and 12. If no objections are raised it will be implemented in November 2011 with new elections for all community councils. No limit to associate members but co opted members are limited to one quarter of number in full committee. Committee agreed desire to keep to 12 members which gives a reasonable quorate. Dores also uses sub groups to good effect. Dores does not subscribe to the standardisation procedure being put forward. Letter with these views to be sent by 31st January.

Action: RMacL

11. AOCB

LEADER application highlighted need for Council to have a Child Protection Policy and an Equal Opportunities Policy. Policies have been drawn up and will be distributed to committee for any alterations/amendments. **Action: EMacR**

Website - request to add telephone numbers for residents to call various services if problems are noted. Currently website is very full – agreed that JH should pursue another host which will supply a better, cheaper service. **Action: JH**

Community Allotment Scheme – proposal by Candy Cameron in field behind Torr Gardens – open meeting 4th February 7.30pm.

Rockness monies for village - concern expressed over letter from Joe Gibb proposing to alter arrangements of money for village from ticket sales. To clarify for next meeting. **Action: EMacR**

Meeting closed at 9.50pm

12. Next meeting Monday 7th March 2011 at 7.30pm in Dores Parish Hall