

DORES & ESSICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 11th July 2011 in Dores Parish Hall 7.30pm

1. Members Present: Ella MacRae (Chair)(EMacR)
 John Martin (Vice Chair) (JM)
 Iain Cameron (Treasurer) (IC)
 Steve Feltham (SF)
 John Hedger (JH)
 Graham Scott (GS)
 Ruth Seaton (RS)
 Anna Williams (AW)
 Annette Munro (AM)
 Gavin Finlay (GF)

In Attendance: Cllr Margaret Davidson (Cllr MD)
 Sarah Hartley (SH)
 Mike Stevens - TEC Services, Highland Council (MS)
 Colin Ross - Roads Dept, Highland Council (CR)
 Clare Cuthbertson (Minute Secretary)

2. Apologies: Ruairidh MacLennan, Roslyn MacKay, Angus MacLaren,
 Duncan Manson, Cllr Drew Hendry, Cllr Fraser Parr

3. Adoption of Previous Minute:

With the following alterations to AGM minute::

V LEADER update - Fencing cost was £12000

VI Other - Local Plan - Tim Stott (Principal Planner, Highland Council)

The minutes of previous Committee meeting of 18th April were

Proposed: Iain Cameron Seconded: Anna Williams

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minute/AGM minute:

Scottish Water – ongoing

Affordable Homes Site (Housing Needs Survey) – Funding to be discussed before Housing Trust can Tender for works. Ronnie MacRae (Director, Highland Small Communities Housing Trust) will attend next meeting with full report.

Aldourie Castle - Access - Still awaiting Access Management Plan from Aldourie Estate.

Access Officer (Stewart Easthaugh)will pursue this with support of this Community Council.

Ness Castle Lodges entrance – ongoing.

Action: JM

Litter at Midtown – letter has been sent to farmer re black bags problem

Cycle signs –Cllr Hamish Wood contacted for progress update

5. Water, Sewage and Roads

LEADER signs – Mike Stevens has identified (with EMacR, IC and SH) 2 locations at main entrances of village for stone feature signs.

N entrance by Millcroft - Albyn Housing to be contacted. Incorporate existing OS benchmark.

S entrance before Village Hall – need to have site cleared before can fully assess.

Will complement any proposed traffic calming measure.

Colin Ross presented several traffic calming measures which have been used elsewhere to good effect and suggested that a combination of measures could be used in Dores. These included various 'narrowing' road markings; raised table junctions and chicanes. Features could be used at either end of village. Raised junctions are very expensive but effective. Chicanes can be a problem for large lorries to negotiate. Community would have to 'bid' for funding from Council roads budget, but MS felt this would be a good possibility.

CR then presented several options for improvements to existing junction in centre of village and committee agreed on option with Cameron Cottage access off main road and a cycle path along 'old road' alignment. Signs will be rationalised and de-cluttered. CR to have preferred junction option drawn up with new signage proposals for next meeting. **Action: CR**

It was agreed that work on this junction will serve to re-inforce any traffic calming measures introduced at either end of village.

GF left meeting

JM pointed out need to repair much of the road edges into Inverness after damage caused by Rockness lorries.

JM pointed out that the accident blackspot previously highlighted at Loch Ness Lodges has indeed had a couple of recent accidents, causing damage to walls and property. It was agreed that the replacement of barriers with kerbstones has exacerbated the problem. CR will get accident statistics for this part of the road.

JM highlighted damage to roads accessing SSE works at Bunachton. Signs are missing and verges overgrown. Road to be returned to standard condition by SSE.

JM reported that the raised table between the pedestrian area of Millcroft and the junction with Loch Ness View is still outstanding (a requirement once Loch Ness View had been completed). With the slowing of the development it is important to request that this raised table be implemented as soon as possible as a safety feature for the residents of Millcroft.

EMcR reported that the recent severe weather had caused particularly bad floods on Dores road –but no Flood signs had been supplied. It was noted that they will have been in need in many places in the area.

MS & CR left meeting

6. LEADER update

Entrance signs – suggest inset to be in slate with words etched. Must be legible, hardwearing and inexpensive. Examples to be drawn up and presented. Site to south of village to be cleared.

Photo Opp sign – suggestion of metal poles in water supporting metal sign. Ross Associates and McBride signs contacted. Discussion to use more stone than metal option. Examples to be presented.

Lectern sign – McBride quote of £800 + vat for sign and plinth. Working with Destination Loch Ness and Helen Stirling Maps on content. SF will also assist.

Beach Rules sign – simplify by use of logos of Outdoor Access Code/ Highland Council green dog walkers initiative/British waterways. Work with Ranger responsibilities.

Playparks – 4 registered preferred suppliers for Highland Council of which 2 have done site visits. Possibly site one further along beach than existing location to avoid new building works at Dores Inn – need to contact landowner.

Bus/Cycle shelter – plinth now complete. Delivery and installation of cycle shelter 20 July.

Need a work party to paint wall at old petrol pumps and rail at Torr Gardens. (EMacR/AM/SF)

Benches – EMacR follow up with Ruairidh Campbell

Second claim (for fencing and cycle shelter) can go in at end of July. SH plans to do a financial submission to LEADER monthly.

Cllr MD left meeting

7. Treasurer's Report

Need an additional signatory on account – currently IC and RMacL. EMacR agreed to be third. Latest expenditures have been on beach cleaning and Housing Seminar. Outstanding honorariums to secretaries (RMacL/CC) to do. Currently hold £4800 for LEADER bills and £1700 of this due out to Gary Falconer for cycle shelter plinth. 2010 accounts passed independent auditors for checking.

8. Correspondence

- Dr Barnardos launch Northern Lights service.
- Alan Findlay letter about noise at Rockness until 3am. To be discussed at next meeting. Community representative has been invited to Town Hall debrief of Rockness. EMacR or SF to attend.
- NHS highlights
- Community Pay Back Scheme
- Community Councillor Newsletter
- Community Council new financial arrangements for 2012-13. Does grant will fall to £972.12 (£126.07 reduction). Election on 16 November – timetable available and will be on village website. (www.doresonlochness.co.uk)

8. Planning

Plans submitted for house at Wester Duntelchaig. No representations made.

10. Adoption of New Constitution

New Community Council from November will have 8 members (currently 12). New constitution signed by EMacR, JM and IC. Note – contains Code of Conduct relevant to all committee members.

11. AOCB

Website – needs LEADER update

Fish Farm - SF noted that cages had been moved back out into Loch

Beach fires – more damage this year. It was hoped the new Ranger will help with this.

SSE representative regarding Knocknagael will come to next meeting

Rockness to be discussed at next meeting

Ronnie Macrae (Scottish Small Communities Housing Trust) will attend next meeting

SH reported on Housing Seminar. Very useful for contacts which will benefit her work with Does. Information on balanced communities and sustainable futures.

Meeting closed at 10.00pm

Next meeting Monday 22nd August 2011 at 7.30pm in Does Parish Hall