

## DORES & ESSICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2011 in Dores Parish Hall 7.30pm

**1. Members Present:** Ella MacRae (Chair)(EMacR)  
 John Martin (Vice Chair) (JM)  
 Iain Cameron (Treasurer) (IC)  
 Ruairidh MacLennan (RMacR)  
 Steve Feltham (SF)  
 John Hedger (JH)  
 Ruth Seaton (RS)  
 Roslyn MacKay  
 Angus MacLaren  
 Duncan Manson  
 Annette Munro (AM)  
 Gavin Finlay (GF)

**In Attendance:** Cllr Margaret Davidson (Cllr MD)  
 Cllr Hamish Wood (Cllr HW)  
 Cllr Helen Carmichael (Cllr HC)  
 Cllr Drew Hendry (Cllr DH)  
 Sarah Hartley (SH)  
 Clare Cuthbertson (Minute Secretary)

**2. Apologies:** Graham Scott, Anna Williams  
 Cllr John Finnie, Cllr Fraser Parr

**3. Adoption of Previous Minute:**  
 Proposed: John Hedger Seconded: Annette Munro

#### **4. Matters Arising from Previous Minute/AGM minute:**

Scottish Water – ongoing

Affordable Homes Site (Housing Needs Survey) –Ronnie MacRae (Director, Highland Small Communities Housing Trust) will attend next meeting with full report.

Aldourie Castle - Access - Access Plan from Aldourie Estate goes to committee in September. Reports of locals getting turned away along track from steading to Bonar. **Action: RMacL**

Ness Castle Lodges entrance – see item 8

Litter at Midtown – check situation for next meeting **Action: IC**

Cycle signs – ongoing.

Roads - Following on from last meeting Colin Ross and Mike Stevens will be asked for report for next meeting. **Action: RMacL**

Speeding - Problem reported with cars going south. Could have another police check (though some concern expressed over poor feedback from previous checks) **Action: RMacL**

Constitution – New Community Council Constitution now signed. Each member to receive a copy of the Code of Conduct by email **Action: R MacL**

Fish Farm – Concern expressed over extension of farm plus addition of orange buoys contrary to previous agreement. **Action: EMacR**

#### **5. LEADER**

Torr Gardens Play Area – contacted 4 suppliers. To replace swings and add one item. If wooden swings item will be a flexi-balance; if metal swings item will be a stand-up seesaw.

Some concern over removal of old and popular swings. Cllr MD pointed out that Council were about to remove these in any event prior to latest developments and they may well now be regarded as non-suitable. Equipment must meet current British Safety Standards. SH will check on drop of current and proposed swings. Committee gave permission for SH to make a final decision and order new equipment asap taking all concerns into consideration. **Action: SH**  
**Beach Rules Sign** – Rather than having a negative sign idea is to say which 'Codes of Conduct' the village conforms to/ has adopted– i.e. British Waterways Rules – Green Dog Walkers Scheme. For latter there will be a stall at Dores Gala to promote it (SH + a.n.other). R MacL agreed to do administration for scheme. **Action: SH and EMacR to meet asap**

**Misc –**

\*Handrail at Torr Gardens to be painted

**Action: EMacR/SF/AM**

\*Tidy up vegetation etc behind bus shelter **Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Sep 10am**

**Action: GF + volunteers**

\*Reglazing of bus shelter. Contact Neil Young, TEC services.

**Action: IC**

\*Noticeboard –move inside cycle shelter

**Action: IC**

## 6. Water Sewage and Roads

GF reported that he has had to call out Scottish Water again over problems with village sewer overflow to Ness and Rose Cottage. Cllr MD will identify relevant engineer and request a visit. Also problem of excessive charges made to Cameron Cottage and Old Mill for maintenance for additional pumps installed in 2002. Community Council will support any approach made to Ombudsman. **Action: Cllr MD**

## 7. Treasurer's Report

Annual grant for highland Council £919.70

Current bank balance is £6900 - £2900 Leader Temporary Float  
 £1000 Playing Field Funds  
 £1100 Beach Fund

Leaving a balance of Community Funds of £1900 – high as have just received Council grant.

SH left meeting

## 8. Planning

JM raised concerns over Application submitted by Fishing Lodge at Ness Castle. Community Council have submitted a 'Holding Letter' in order to consider application. New development includes a new Traffic Management Plan which raises safety concerns and appears to contradict previous plans – JM to seek clarification. **Action: JM**

## 9. Rockness

Debrief with Rockness due soon. Council received a letter from a supporter of event but which raises concerns over noise levels; length of concert into night; and if Council are being influenced by financial considerations to allow creeping extension of event into village life.

Council agreed reply that noise seems more this year mainly dues to different wind direction. A letter has also gone to environmental health. **Action: RMacL**

Some problems also reported over several 'near misses' on road by lorries in village.

Foyers residents have voiced concerns – they should raise these direct with Rockness officials.

## 10. Dores Inn

We are in 'Pre-Planning Consultation Stage'

IC and Sfdeclared an interest in this development and did not take part in discussions or influence decisions.

Procedure will be:

\*Planning Application will be lodged by Quentin Stevens (Oct/Nov?)

\*Community Council will be emailed and a Holding Letter will be sent to Planning Department while the village considers a response.

\*A flyer will be sent out to all residencies within Community Council area identifying where and when these plans can be viewed (Dores Post Office/ Dores Inn/ EmacR house as a minimum)

\*Hall will be booked for one or two afternoon/evenings where plans will also be available to be viewed

\*Public meeting to discuss plans – use ‘post-it’ notes for comments on plans

\*Formal Community Council Meeting to discuss outcome of public meeting – decide a course of action and submit to Planning Department.

Villagers to be encouraged to sign any comments as ‘unattributed opinions’ hold less sway with planners and may be ignored. Door to door canvassing for comments not recommended as can be seen as undue influence. Request a senior planning officer to attend meeting as being professional, impartial and objective in advice and comments.

### 11. Knocknagael Sub Station

Queiries need to be raised with Planners and SSE.

\*Buses promised to take workers back and forth – non apparent

\*Heavy lorry traffic about 3 times that quoted by SSE

\*Traffic exiting site at end of day driving at excessive speeds

\*Road edges are perilous and collapsing

\*Site was supposed to be located in a depression to minimise impact on local area. It seems to have been extended without permission and is causing both noise and light pollution.

A formal letter from Council to be sent (copied to appropriate councillors) **Action: JM**  
Cllr MD and Cllr HC left meeting

### 12. CC Code of Conduct

JM has been reported to Highland Council as bringing Community Council into disrepute over his involvement with local planning issues. He has since been exonerated but it highlights the importance for all Council members to read and abide by the new Code of Conduct drawn up by Highland Council. Copy to be circulated to all members **Action: RMacL**

### 13. Correspondence

-Kirkirg of Council ion 11<sup>th</sup> September 2011 – open invitation

-Small Communities Housing Trust –Community newsletter

-Council elections: Council will be dissolved 15<sup>th</sup> November, Election Day 16<sup>th</sup> November, new Council from 16<sup>th</sup> December. Clarification being sought s we cannot be without a council for a month with so many important issues ongoing.

-Danny Alexander will be in Dores Hall Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August 1pm

-Ward Forum (Aird & Loch Ness) Stratherrick Hall 22<sup>nd</sup> September 7pm (main topic:timber extraction and transport) IC and JM will attend.

Cllr HW and Cllr DH left meeting

- Loch Ness Marathon 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2011. Road closures as last year.

### 11. AOCB

- New beach litter warden agreed to be Yuri (also helps at Inn). Approx 2 hours per week.

- Was permission obtained to take down ash trees by burn into Loch. IC reported that they were rotten and taken down on tree surgeons recommendation.

- Nessie Nippers down to three children and low on funds. Requesting funds to attend Eden Court. Recommend apply to Gala Committee **Action: AM**

- Millcroft flooding – urgent need to dig and clear ditch. Contact Albyn Housing **Action: EMacR**

- Buoy from Monster Swim event still on /by Loch. **Action: RMacL**

- Need to encourage more Young People to stand for Election **Action: All committee**
- Millcroft resurfacing causing problems in heavy rain. Need feedback from Highland Council
- Speedboat causing problems on Loch – not launching from Dores Beach. Open Swimming Group are requesting designated swimming area. Possibly add onto new 'Beach Rules' sign. Also increase in jet skis. Consider a line of buoys. Contact Ward Manager and British Waterways as it is potentially very dangerous **Action: RMacL**
- Village signage – awaiting feedback from last meeting about rationalisation of signs.
- JH thanked those who had painted container by hall - no longer such an eyesore!
- Leader benches – Ruairidh Campbell has identified several options - to be emailed to all. Please respond.
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Meeting closed at 10.00pm

**Next meeting Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at 7.30pm in Dores Parish Hall**