

## DORES & ESSICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012 in Dores Parish Hall 7.30pm

- 1. Members Present:** Ella MacRae , Chair (EMacR)  
 Ruairidh MacLennan, Secretary (RMacL)  
 John Hedger, Treasurer (JH)  
 Steve Feltham (SF)  
 Duncan Manson (DM)  
 Gavin Finlay (GF)
- In Attendance :** Cllr Drew Hendry, Cllr Helen Carmichael, Cllr Margaret Davidson,  
 Sarah Hartley (LEADER Development Officer)  
 Clare Cuthbertson (Minute Secretary)  
 3 members of the public plus 2 later arrivals
- 2. Apologies:** Graham Scott, Roslyn MacKay  
 Cllrs John Finnie, Hamish Wood, Fraser Parr and David Henderson
- 3. Adoption of Previous Minute:** Proposed: Duncan Manson Seconded: Ruairidh MacLennan
- 4. Matters Arising from Previous Minute/AGM minute:**
- Aldourie Castle - Access - still no Access Management Plan available (requested in Dec 2011)  
 - advice being sought from Enforcement Officer **Action: RMacL**
- Cycle signs – vegetation around signs cleared but signs (even new SLNTG ones) not proving  
 effective in getting cyclists off B road, especially at Scaniport **Action: EMacR**
- Speeding – Community Council urged to write to Mike Stevens, Richard Evans and Ward  
 Manager to get action on safety audit and firm up plans for village as a whole **Action: RMacL**
- Fish Farm – again-still no action from planning department. Cllr MD asked Nicola Drummond to  
 send out an enforcement officer as it is felt that the farm is exceeding its remit. **Action: RMacL**
- Ness Castle Lodges Planning – ongoing. **Action: EMacR**
- Beach –still waiting for meeting between Ward Manager/Landowners/Emergency Services and  
 Community Council re public use of beach/bay. **Action: EMacR**
- Beach still not clean enough despite recent Village Clean-up. Beach is littered again within  
 days. Community Council to seek a new beach cleaner via website. GF will (with agreement  
 from Dores Inn) arrange for store of recyclable binbags for public to use by Inn. Aim to get a  
 press release out to raise profile of problem. Cllr DH will enquire about the possibility of using  
 the Community Payback Scheme where village could get Community Service Workers out  
 every few months to clean beach.
- Community Council recommended to pursue Ranger/Warden idea for south Loch Ness shore  
 line. To be discussed with DLN.
- Newsletter – ongoing. **Action: SF**
- Wave Energy – testing platform will perhaps now be returning in October, not May
- 5. Treasurer's Report**
- RockNess funds - received £17,323.40 from 2011 ticket sales.
- LEADER funds – still expecting £1704 back and have £11724 to claim. Next loan from Dores  
 Trust to meet LEADER bills will be for £60,000 (for play equipment, benches etc)
- Grant due from HC – less Public Liability Insurance. Some clarification required about what is  
 covered under this blanket coverage – Community Council organised events such as sports  
 days/bonfire night/fun days etc. Copy of document will be posted on village website.
- 6. Correspondence**
- Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan – Public Exhibition in Dores Village Hall Thursday

19<sup>th</sup> April 2-6.30pm followed by round table discussion. Consultation and comments to HC by 28<sup>th</sup> June. (EMacR, GF, JH, SF will attend)

NHS Highlight magazine; Conference of Association of Scottish Community Councils 18<sup>th</sup> April; Letter from John Martin about problem that voters in Essich area were excluded in error from last election. Highland Council to apologise but they cannot re-run the election. Community Council to reply to JM thanking him for input and assuring these voters in Essich Area that Community Council will continue to support and represent them. **Action:RMacL**

## 7. LEADER report by SH

Entrance signs – sign at northern entrance now complete and work will start on southern entrance one soon. HC to be requested to remove metal Welcome to Dores village sign. Shoreline sign – on left of slipway. Being built in workshop. School have completed a time capsule. Looking for village and nursery contributions. Draft content supplied for feedback. Use of Beach ‘rules’ sign – sample supplied. Council agreed to keep it positive. Check with British waterways for advice. Extra copy specifically re rules of the water to be positioned by (private) slipway. Liaise with Dores Inn. Regard this sign as urgent.

Logos on signs – Still waiting on feedback from RockNess. Agreed to be on blue background Bus shelter – concrete to ‘join’ all elements together - in progress.

Outstanding jobs: write to Patersons re repairing new fence damaged by their lorry (RMacL); thin out tree; clean and paint bus shelter; paint fence by bus shelter (DMacR); new felt on noticeboard; repaint wall at old petrol pumps; paint handrail by path (AM); planters in village – sponsored?

Iain Reid (HC) to be requested to look at: No Dogs sign and improve steps at new play area; improve dangerous state of fencing to side of new play area; add gate to new play area?; rubber matting under swings needs some attention.

## 8. Water, Sewage, Roads

- Scottish Water to hold meeting with Cllr MD and affected householders.
- Dores Road – road edges currently being improved.
- HC roads dept to be asked to remove sign to Gorthleck (from Foyers direction) from triangle.
- Some discussion that cars parked along road edges when Inn is busy should not be discouraged it forces traffic to slow down, which can only be a good thing.
- General feeling that HC TEC Services had not dealt with road repairs on Dores Road after Rockness very well and we would be looking for a better service after 2012 event.

## 9. Planning

Torbreck – John Martin has been requested to increase road bellmouth on outline planning. Darris Steading – permission has already been granted to convert to residential dwelling. Community Council to send letter pointing out submission of a holding letter and requesting a lay-by due to increased use of this road especially when Safer Route to School is implemented. Community Council to send a letter to Malcolm McLeod, (Head of Planning & Building Standards) highlighting that Planning Department are not responding adequately to requests.

## 11. AOCB

Signs in Village - GF requested that we check position regarding two large advertising signs for Loch Ness View. Planning permission for these should be time restricted. **Action: RMacL**

RockNess- Will now just be a Brief for 2012 event. EMacR to suggest dates. Note that licence has been requested for three years rather than annually. Ticket allocation currently under discussion- all details will be on flyer as usual.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

**Next meeting (AGM) Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at 7.30pm in Dores Parish Hall**