

## DORES & ESSICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> August in Dores Parish Hall 7.30pm

- 1. Members Present:** Ella MacRae, Chair (EMacR)  
 Ruairidh MacLennan, Secretary (RMacL)  
 John Hedger, Treasurer (JH)  
 Steve Feltham (SF), Gavin Finlay (GF)
- In Attendance:** Cllr Margaret Davidson (Cllr MD)  
 Sarah Hartley (LEADER Development Officer)  
 Sgt Blakely (Northern Constabulary)  
 Clare Cuthbertson (Minute Secretary)  
 2 members of the public
- 2. Apologies:** Graham Scott (GS)  
 Roslyn MacKay (RMack)  
 Cllrs Drew Hendry, Helen Carmichael,

**3. Adoption of Previous Minute (12<sup>th</sup> July):**

Correction - SF was not due to attend Forestry Commission Strategy meeting.  
 Minutes adopted (with correction) - Proposed: Steve Feltham    Seconded: John Hedger

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

Aldourie Castle - Access - Roger Tempest (Aldourie) has informed Keith Gibson (Highland Council) that updated Access Management Plan is in progress and will be in place by end Aug.  
Cycle signs – Council had assured Cllr MD that these would be done but clearing round signs is still outstanding. After some discussions Cllr MD agreed to investigate options of new signs saying ‘Safe Cycle Route to Inverness’ and ‘Safe Cycle Route to Loch Ness’ (as appropriate) being installed at top of Aldourie Brae, Scaniport turn off and at Aldourie School.

Bike Hire companies to be contacted and told (or reminded) to inform their customers of the safer cycle route options.

Speeding – no response. Sign at Inverness end of village not working. Branches obscuring sign at other end of village to be trimmed **Action: GS**

Fish Farm – No further action has been taken and cages still not moved. Cllr MD offered to chase this up. **Action: Cllr MD**

Ness Castle Lodges Planning – New building application withdrawn so no new entrance legally required at present

Beach – Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> July attended by EMacR, IC, SF, GF, Dores Inn, Cllr MD, Sgt Blakely, Charles Steven (Highland Council) but no one from Clune or Aldourie. Agreement made for a weekly bin collection. Follow on meeting about litter etc - Tues Sep 4<sup>th</sup> 10am with Alan McKinnie

Newsletter – unlikely to happen at present

Essich Voters – no feedback from Highland Council

Scottish Water – New valve has been fitted and pipes which were found to have root damage have been repaired. A new grease trap has been placed at the Inn. Community have all received a reminder letter about disposing of waste.

Work on water pipe from Essich Treatment Plant to Gorthleck – it was noted that the community and landowners had received NO notice or consultation of this event or the extensive closure of the roads (for several months) and that this has badly affected local businesses. Road diversion signage is unclear and no permission was sought to use land for portakabins etc. Meeting on Wed 29<sup>th</sup> Aug 4pm at Town House with contractors/ TEC services/ Stratherrick and Strathnairn Councils. Letter to go to Scottish Water expressing deep concern over this. **Action: RMacL**

Youth Club Hut will be removed soon.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report –**

We have received £50 compensation from bank over poor arrangements of new signatories.

Grant from Highland Council now received - £901.22

Telescope Income received - £143.00

Beach cleaning hours to be paid (45hrs). Comments that beach has 'never looked cleaner'. With thanks for Derek MacRae

#### **6. Correspondence -**

- Inverness Area Community Council Forum - update on inner Moray Firth Development Plan  
Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 7pm Town House

- Community Consultation on proposed residential development at Knocknagael Farm  
Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Sep 4-8pm Culduthel Centre

- Scottish Water circulated leaflet about Disposal of fats etc

- Highland Licensing Board

- Highland Skatepark Association seeking support for development at Bught Park. To acknowledge and offer support

**Action: R MacL**

- Rockness letter from Paul Nielson (Head of Finance) with details of tickets sold giving a daily average of 19,345 – which at 80 per ticket gives village £15,477.60 in donation

Some clarification required as numbers appear to be higher on Saturday than Friday. Payment details have been prompter this year – but we are getting less as event gets longer. Very few complaints from locals this year – but traders are less happy with smaller event.

#### **7. LEADER report by SH -**

Play Area – proposal by council that side entrance be closed off and a ramp put in place for front access (this will not be straight up (too steep)) plus some vegetation tidying to be done. If LEADER agree that this is part of 'upgrading children's areas' then grant can be utilised for this as Council do not have funds available.

Loch Ness Sign - Time capsule now completed and installed. Laminated information board likely to be angled on top of sign and further comments on content required.

Village Sign - Third sign – TEC services happy with location in/near lay-by before village but to discuss with Iain Cameron (landowner).

North Entrance – Need to speak to Council about removal of some of sign clutter

Funders Sign – should be available soon

Bus shelter – need to agree on planter etc to 'finish off' this area. SH to supply options.

Beach Rules Sign – Dores Inn producing own signs at present. LEADER signs will be available soon – about A5 size and will be on gate post into parking area and by slipway. Possibly look at removing old sign (leaving posts) near steps to football field?

#### **8. Water, Sewage, Roads – none**

#### **9. Planning – none**

#### **10. AOCB**

Fireworks – licence required for use after 11pm. Guidance Notes on Firework Legislation have been sent to Angus MacLaren. Copies to be sent to Castle/ Lodges/ Hotels on both side of Loch with copy to Fort Augustus Police Dept.

**Action: RMacL**

Beach Issues – Recent scenarios included problem with jet skiers trying to launch off slipway and campers obstructing path with tents. Sgt Blakely requested that ALL concerns be reported to police as this will give them more evidence of police cover required. Also to notify police in advance if we know of any local event/gathering (such as post exam parties) on the beach.

RMacL has sent letter to all schools and will forward copy to police.

**Action: RMacL**

Need for a local landowners meeting later this year.

SF expressed concerns over dangers of fast boats to canoeists and swimmers. We can only recommend high viz vests – but there is a degree of self responsibility. Issues to be highlighted to public  
Rockness – Alan Findlay has not had a reply to official letter of complaint from 2011 event.

**Action: R Macl**

Roads – Need to re-contact Mike Stevens re proposals for road adjustments at Inn and request that they re-address issue and return to a future meeting.

**Action: R Macl**

First Aid Course – Postponed to Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Sep 10-2pm. Open to All. Contact Heidi Seaton

Monster Swim – GF reported that loudspeaker started at 7.30am though start of event was not until 10am. Whole event had poor communication with village with no official requests to use local facilities (except with Dores Inn and Magnus Grant) and no notification to police. Event is not a charity event and some donation to village might be expected for the inconvenience and loss of use of football pitch.

Write to express these concerns.

**Action: R Macl**

Police – Sgt Blakely confirmed that local police numbers would not be decreasing and that the single number for non emergencies (101) would be set up. He reported that he would be re-addressing the speeding issue through the village and that traffic wardens remit now includes Dores and that checking of cars could take place at any time.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm

**Next meeting Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2012 at 7.30pm in Dores Parish Hall**