

DORES & ESSICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 19th August 2013 in Dores Parish Hall 7.30pm

1. Members Present: Ella MacRae, Chair (EMacR) Gavin Finlay, Vice-Chair (GF)
Steve Feltham, Interim Secretary (SF) John Hedger, Treasurer (JH)
Duncan Manson (DM) Graham Scott (GS),

In Attendance: Cllr Drew Hendry (Cllr DH),
Clare Cuthbertson (minutes), Sarah Hartley (LEADER),
M Sutherland & R Cameron (Caledonian Concepts)
3 member of the public

2. Apologies: none

3. Adoption of Previous Minute (14th April 2013):

Proposed: John Hedger Seconded: Duncan Manson

Malcolm Sutherland of Caledonian Concepts gave some information about Etape Loch Ness - a Cycle Sportiv event planned for around Loch Ness in early May 2014 with plans to make it an annual event. Caledonian Concepts organise the Loch Ness Marathon among other major events in the area. Event would start early on the Sunday morning to minimise the impact of necessary temporary road closures. Community Council supported this venture.

M Sutherland and R Cameron left meeting

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minute:

Aldourie Castle – Ongoing

Fish Farm – Ongoing. **Cllr DH** will obtain progress report from N Drummond re enforcement notice.

Winter Resilience - application form to Highland Council due in by 31st August so they can allocate supplies of shovels, high viz vests etc

Action: R Mack

Church of Scotland – proposed graveyard extension. Ongoing

Action: EMacR

Loch Ness View – Residents of Loch Ness View dealing directly with this

Community Services/ Litter Pick - not supplied

Highland Small Communities Housing Trust – no feedback. Request a visit to update community

Action: EMacR

RockNess – Indignation was expressed by A MacDonald that guests were being charged £10 per ticket without consultation. Chair responded that the Community Council discussed this at an open meeting and, as a body elected to make decisions on behalf of community, felt it reasonable to request that guests pay into the Community Fund to counteract the lessening of financial compensation RockNess were offering.

Roads and Signs – Sign clutter remains a problem. New WC sign erected by Highland Council universally disliked by members present. **Cllr DH** to look into getting a further meeting with TEC services to offer solutions to traffic calming and signs – problem has been a funding shortage.

5. Secretary

Secretary Position was advertised on village website with one response. SH left meeting while council discussed options. Decision that Sarah Hartley be asked to be Correspondence Clerk from today (19th August) with a view to being co opted onto Community Council once on the Electoral Roll.

6. LEADER – SH stated that final claim has now been submitted. There may well be queries back from this as the 'in-kind' applications are complicated. Of the total £90,100 awarded the

Dores Village Project spent £77,983. Cllr DH requested that the Highland Council get a Case Study Report to assist in future projects. JH reported that he is doing a full Accounts Report covering the 3 years of the LEADER project.

7. Correspondence

- Aird & Loch Ness Ward Forum on Police and Fire Services at Stratherrick Hall, Gorthleck Tues 10th September 6.30-9pm. (Also in Beauly on 17th September)
- Loch Ness Marathon on 29th October. Road closure information on website.
- Policy to be presented on Consultation on Managing Obstruction within Adopted Roads on 15th August see <http://www.highland.gov.uk> and search for Road Consultations
- Several meetings at IRA about New School Development
- SSE to be discussed at next meeting
- LEADER Report on 'Revitalising Communities in the Highlands'
- Invitation to Kirking of Highland Council 8th September
- Evaluation of Community Council Scheme

8. Treasurer's Report - Independently approved Annual Accounts have gone to Highland Council. Hoping for release of annual grant soon

9. Water, Sewage, Roads

Further problems with Sewage – Scottish water attended promptly but there is no long term solution. Do not believe that problems solely arise from misuse and suspect that there is a design flaw. GF to liaise with Cllr MD to follow up

Action: GF

Request from Bonar to introduce a 20mph limit – EMacR to check with all residents. Could introduce but question as to how enforceable it would be.

Action: EMacR

Campsite at Foyers has resulted in an increase of caravans and campervans on road – and have often been seen travelling in convoys which leads to frustration in lack of overtaking possibilities. Letter to go to owners to express support for their business but with a request that their guests space their journeys. Also letter to TEC services to highlight the issue. **Action: SH**

Pull off areas (untarmaced) along Dores to Foyers road have dangerously large potholes. Not Highland Council responsibility. Landowner can fill and has offered to do do.

New fences in Torr Gardens – stones from lower edges crumbling into path and road. Report to Ian Reid Highland Council. **Action: SH**

Verges are not being cut as often as need to be – possibly dangerous lack of visibility in places. EMacR to discuss with Cllr MD

10. Planning

None

11. AOCB

- Planters at Bus Stop. Excellent feedback. A.Thomson & G Reid will continue and will add winter flowering plants. Also a need to clear out behind shelter. Council have also cleared flower beds in village.
- SF raised a query about having a roped off swimming area in loch. Discussion about expense and possibility of boats (potentially dangerously) then assuming no swimmers in other areas. Possibility of obtaining 'throw-in' buoy. Discussion about rationalising the existing buoys. Danger

of boats 'mooring' to marker buoys. Talk with Dores Inn about re-installing safety signs which have been removed. A new sign about water 'rules' needed and perhaps handout sized copies to distribute?

- At Monster Swim (17th August) – several complaints about loud tannoy starting at 7am. Village also complained last year and had no response from organisers of event. Need to contact them to ensure that this does not happen a third year. **Action: SH**

-Rockness – Band on the Thursday night at Dores Inn was Ok but perhaps a little loud.

Comments to be forwarded to Dores Inn

Action : GF

- Grass cutting in village is being done but not well and on a haphazard basis. Appears that contractors are not being told which areas they should be doing – poor quality of service.

Inform Council to support complaints already made by Cllr MD

- Trees being cut down at back of beach for firewood

- Beach – cleanliness much better this year with special thanks to D MacRae. Also bins emptied promptly on request. Good lines of communication.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Next meeting - Monday 2nd September at 7.30pm in Dores Parish Hall