

DORES & ESSICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 27th September 2010 in Dores Parish Hall 7.30pm

- 1. Members Present:** Ella MacRae (Chair)(EMacR)
John Martin (Vice Chair) (JM)
Iain Cameron (Treasurer) (IC)
Ruairidh MacLennan (Secretary) (RMacL)
Duncan Manson (DM)
Iain King (IK)
Graham Scott (GS)
Annette Munro (AM)
Gavin Finlay (GF)
John Hedger (JH)
- In Attendance:** Cllr Hamish Wood (Cllr HW)
Les Houlker (TEC Services, Highland Council)
Clare Cuthbertson (Minute Secretary)
1 member of the public
- 2. Apologies:** Steve Feltham
Anna Williams
Roslyn Mackay
Cllr Margaret Davidson; Cllr Drew Hendry
Cllr John Finnie; Cllr David Henderson

3. Adoption of Previous Minute:

Amendment to minutes of 16th August 2010 - page 3 item 9 Jet Skis. Cllr DH stated that we need to clarify if jet skis are banned from the beach and will check this

With this amendment minutes of 16th August 2010 were accepted as read

Proposed: Ruairidh MacLennan

Seconded: Graham Scott

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minute:

Neath Birches - Delay in opening date, no date yet for Open Day.

Action: EMacR

Loch Ness Marathon - annual notification of road closures received. Request to use Hall car park for 2 skips Thurs-Mon for drinks containers collection.

Scottish Water - Note to be put on village website asking residents to contact Scottish Water with all problems (even if resolved personally) so that a detailed log can be compiled. **Action: JH**

Village Improvement Project - Leader Application on going.

Housing Needs Survey - Feasibility Study on going.

Flooding at Millcroft - defer to next meeting.

Aldourie Castle - Access - ongoing.

Firebreak - no contact yet. Defer until new wardens established.

Beach Cleaning - Position 'vacant. Defer until new wardens established.

Rockness - Highland Council debrief took place last week. Village debrief on 8th November 7pm to which police and council to be invited. **Action: RMacL**

Development Trust Graham Scott and Duncan Manson are Council representatives on Board.

Broadband - ongoing action to co ordinate local groups.

Jet Skis - No signs yet - Council to approve any wording drafted up by Dores Inn.

Dores Gala - A very successful day.

Dog Fouling in Play Area - a new sign is up but problem is on going

5. Traffic Calming:

Les Houlker supplied leaflets about village speed limits and various traffic calming measures

available. Latest survey in April 2010 showed that at the north end of the village - 55% of vehicles were speeding (average 32mph) as they entered and 84% were speeding (average 38mph) as they left the village. At the south end of the village 52% were speeding as they entered and 72% were speeding as they left the village. Traffic volumes are considered low - averaging 250 vehicles a day in each direction.

Options to reduce speeding include pinch points (with parking lay-bys), chicanes, speed bumps, cameras, revised road layouts.

Under consideration - altering junction at centre of village, forcing traffic from Foyers to stop before. If village had a more clearly defined 'centre' traffic would be more likely to slow down.

Northern entry has no defined difference from main road. Opportunity to 'define' southern entry may be possible with proposed new housing development.

Les Houlker will get some ideas drawn up and present at next meeting.

Grit Bins - contact Community Works Manager so village is prepared for winter. **Action: RMacL**

Road Bends - JM highlighted dangerous bend on Dores road (site of recent road fatality) - a sharp bend and appears to have a difficult camber. LH will check camber but road is not deemed especially dangerous and other bends are not signposted. Highland Council will consider adding SLOW signs on road.

Ness Castle Lodges entrance - Planning permission for this development states that there should be a Traffic Management Policy but JM unable to locate such. LH stated that not having a Traffic Management Policy or not conforming to it is a breach of condition. Developer appears to be stalling. Council expressed concern over developer's suggestion to use old entrance for deliveries - poorly signed, too narrow and liable to flooding.

Speed Warning Sign (north end) - has been away for repair for @ 4 weeks. **Action: RMacL**

(Les Houlker left meeting)

6. Treasurers Report:

IC presented latest statement - Bank balance stands at £3303, £1000 of which is allocated for playing field and £399 is beach fund. GF thanked IC for his continued good work as Treasurer.

7. Correspondence:

Knocknagael substation - An open public session by SSE took place in October 2009 (notification letter has been astray) and work has been carried out - JM reported that Torbreck residents hear a distinct hum from new cabling and readings have been taken which confirm that it is substandard. Only remedy is to rewire but this is costly. **Action: Cllr HW, EMacR**

Highland wide Local Consultation Plan received which represents the Council's land use vision, strategy and principal, general policies for the whole Highland Council area (except Cairngorms National Park). This is basis for subsequent Local Plans and needs to be carefully considered with feedback to Highland Council by 3rd December. JM and RMacL will read and report back to committee in November. **Action JM, RMacL**

View full details at: <http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/planning/developmentplans/>

Safe Routes to School - Aldourie Primary are working on this project - especially Scaniport to school section. Possibility of using track laid down by Rock Ness. Problems with landowners granting access across fields. Apply for passing place on brae to farmhouse. This project could also be used to get improvements to pavements from Church towards centre of village.

AM highlighted problem of cars parking on pavement/cycle path between village and school.

Meeting at school on 1st October. Council to write a letter of support. **Action:EMacR**

8. Water Sewerage and Roads - issue of Dores road flooding

9. Planning

Cllr HW is on Highland Council Planning Committee and did not take part in following discussions except on advisory matters.

Ness Castle Lodges - Dores Council objected to demolition and rebuilding of staff house on grounds of current dangerous entrance from main road.

Darris Farmhouse - application to convert steading to 3 dwellings. Dores Council made representations as there is lack of safe pedestrian access - this could be made a planning condition but still leaves problem beyond boundary for path from Scaniport to School. Links to Safe Routes to Schools Project.

10. AOCB

AWS - GF reported that test machine will not be back on Loch until March and presentation will take place at that time.

Beach wardens - DM presented a draft Job Description for feedback from committee.

Destination Loch Ness (DLN) can assist with legalities of position but are not willing to be employers. Council could approach local businesses to be legal employer of warden and would offer warden work in-kind for this service. Warden position hopefully funded for two years by Leader Application.

Problems of beach mis-use really needs this physical presence. In the meantime we need to know exactly what police are prepared to do and some clear definitions of legal rules. Inspector to be invited to next meeting (having been advised in advance of questions) **Action: RMacL**

Signage - DLN are planning Gateway signs plus a Major Interpretation Site. Suggest that they consider naming south loch side lay-bys. Keep gateway signs 'out' of village - perhaps at Darris.

Several other schemes are also currently in pipeline: Need to co ordinate with current SLNTG sign at roundabout - though this may 'move' with planned bridge upgrade; Scott Wilson Consultants re cycle route interpretation signs in loch lay-bys and in village; Leader Project also planning for village sign. (consider visitors being able to 'personalise' this signs for photo opportunities).

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

11. Next meeting Monday 1st November at 7.30pm in Dores Parish Hall

Rock Ness De-brief on 8th November 7pm in Dores Parish Hall