

DORES & ESSICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Rock Ness meeting held on 16th May 2012 in Dores Parish Hall 8.30pm

Members Present: Ella MacRae (Chair), Ruairidh MacLennan (Secretary), Steve Feltham, Gavin Finlay, Roslyn MacKay

Apologies: John Hedger (Treasurer), Duncan Manson, Graham Scott, Cllr H Wood

In Attendance: Inspector Henderson (Northern Constabulary, John Lee (Environmental Health Manager, Highland Council), Mike Elsie (Senior Licensing Officer, Highland Council), Joe Gibb (RockNess), Greg McVeigh (Loudsound) Dave Grindle (Loudsound) Clare Cuthbertson (Minute Secretary)

There was no debrief after 2011 event partly due to very few comments and complaints coming in that needed addressing and partly as Community Council were facing elections and getting mutually suitable dates between councillors and RockNess proved difficult.

Comments previously submitted from 2011 event:

Some complaints (made several months after the event) about the setting up process. These comments need to come in immediately so that they can be addressed and rectified (if possible) at the time.

One letter came in complaining about loud music late at night. This has been addressed and was a problem last year due to the wind direction. To confirm – main stage closes at midnight and elsewhere at 2am (3am on Saturday night).

Businesses complained about loss of trade due to traffic from Fort Augustus being diverted away from south side of loch. Some drivers from Holm area were also being diverted away from Dores. RockNess management will address these issues and ensure traffic control have correct information.

Comments from this meeting:

Concern about speed of large delivery lorries on Dores Road especially regarding children going to and from school. A request will go forward that a 40mph speed limit is imposed for the duration including setup and take down period. Note – this will limit ALL drivers to 40mph and may be unpopular with some local traffic and it may be too late to implement for this year. However it was noted that lorries are restricted to 40mph on these B roads anyway – RockNess will put a reminder road sign at Tesco roundabout and will ensure drivers are told to follow this rule. Police will be enforcing 20mph rule past the school in particular.

Tickets – a problem arose last year where visitors to Dores (staying with friends in the village) who had purchased tickets were not able to enter the village. This was a misunderstanding – all residents who have visitors with tickets should also request village passes (these were available in 2011) for these visitors so that this will not happen again in 2012. RockNess will ensure that staff are aware that this has been agreed with the village residents.

Ticket regulations – state that U18s MUST have photo ID – with no exceptions. This is a problem for those under 16 if they have no passport. RockNess will look at this and get back to Ella MacRae with a solution.

Thursday night – will have background music only. There is a special train from London arriving in Inverness at 8pm with 500 festival goers. They will arrive on site in 10 buses and will have access to VIP areas. There will be no traders or crew members in VIP area.

Early access – in 2011 several people arrived night before festival. RockNess are aware that this will happen every year – and will have security staff on duty to allow them into the carpark, to camp next to their car (only) for the night and access the site when it opens at the official time. RockNess also do continual checks for fly campers and will move them to the carpark for security. There is also a mobile security control after the event to assist those who have failed to leave the village by Monday lunchtime. If any villagers do come across anyone in this position – contact Ella MacRae or any member of RockNess staff who will then assist them as necessary. Lorries parking on pavements – RockNess will ensure that all lorries use the designated holding areas not pavements to wait up (including the mobile phone network lorries).

Litter/Charity Collections – RockNess will add a comment to their website to encourage festival goers to be more environmentally aware and take their tents away with them. Some discussion about the problem but a move to try and make this a 'greener festival' was agreed. Note that charities have no use for tents or sleeping bags as they are not of good enough quality for re-use. All go to landfill.

Layout – slightly different again this year with VIP camping at Clune Road End. Signage will start to go up on 24th May this year.

Roads – concern about state of edges of Aldourie Brae and that it is an accident 'waiting to happen' with heavy and large traffic. Highland Council will look at this.

Drink and Drugs – Northern Constabulary have assured Dores that this festival is one of the best policed festivals and has a very high reputation for control of illegal activities resulting in a low number of incidents and casualties.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm