

DORES & ESSICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 1st October in Dores Parish Hall 7.30pm

- 1. Members Present:** Ella MacRae, Chair (EMacR)
 Ruairidh MacLennan, Secretary (RMacL)
 John Hedger, Treasurer (JH)
 Gavin Finlay (GF) Graham Scott (GS) Duncan Manson (DM)
- In Attendance:** Cllrs Margaret Davidson (Cllr MD), Helen Carmicheal (Cllr HC)
 Sarah Hartley (LEADER Development Officer)
 Sgt Aros Mathieson (Northern Constabulary)
 Ewan McPherson (AWS)
 Clare Cuthbertson (Minute Secretary)
 3 members of the public
- 2. Apologies:** Steve Feltham, Roslyn MacKay
 Cllrs Hamish Wood, Drew Hendry

Chair invited Ewan McPherson of AWS Ocean Energy to make a presentation of the wave energy converter that is being tested on the loch near Dores. In the 2010 summer we had a one-tenth sized model on the Loch. This has been subsequently tested in a wavetank in the Netherlands. AWS will now deploy another (one-fifteenth actual size) model to gather 'performance data' on and off for a few weeks. The final product is hoped to be utilised at a wave farm in Orkney where they will have approx 80 of these converters. It is not expected that these offshore converters will be very visible from the shore as they are only 6m above the water line. For much more details see:

http://www.awsocan.com/Prototype_tested_Loch_Ness_.aspx?In=1

Ewan McPherson left meeting

3. Adoption of Previous Minute (28th August):

Proposed: Ruairidh MacLennan Seconded: John Hedger

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minute/AGM minute:

Aldourie Castle – Access Management Plan has been submitted but was deemed insufficient as it excluded details of access road.

Cycle signs – Cllr MD still following up but officer in charge of this is on paternity leave.

Speeding – Ongoing. GS now available to clear branches obscuring sign.

Action: GS

Fish Farm – Ongoing

Action: Cllr MD

Beach – Contact telephone numbers to be added to website for anyone to contact if they see litter bins need emptying or if wish to report incidents with boats/jet skis etc.

Inspector David Ogilvie to attend next Beach Meeting with Charles Stephen

Essich Voters – Boundaries will not be altered.

Scottish Water – All households in village now received letters re current works. Scottish Water will now reopen roads in evenings and at weekends. Work hopefully completed by end of November. HGVs to be diverted.

RockNess – Still to be queried about numbers of tickets sold. Problem is of increasing disturbance for village with less money recompense.

Fireworks – guidance letter in progress

Action: R MacL

Roads – Cllr MD will remind Roads Department to pursue plans for village and request that they offer suggestions following village feedback to previous proposals. Cllr HC will notify Council re non-working speeding 'smiley faces' signs.

Action: Cllr MD, Cllr HC

Monster Swim – no response re village comments but they will inform us in advance of date for next year.

5. Treasurer's Report –

Local businesses have been collecting donations from public on behalf of DLN for 'Together, lets Care' programme. JH queried if these locally generated funds could be used for Dores beach cleaning. Cllr MD (a director of DLN) said funds this year had gone towards SLN trail.

6. Correspondence -

- Highland Council Act Now on Insulation Programme with Carillion. Details will go onto website.
- Forest Management Strategy along A82 - forthcoming plans
- Notification of Marathon Route/Road closures

7. LEADER report by SH -

Play Area – Community Council prefer to see side entrance improved rather than council install long ramp zigzagging up to front entrance (for mowers/wheelchairs etc) as it was felt this would easily become a temptation to bikers/skateboarders etc and an 'accident waiting to happen' – SH to check on land ownership issues with side entrance (originally made for mower access)

Play Equipment – problem with obtaining LEADER funds – LEADER requiring sight of tender documents – these would be from Highland Council for all play equipment and are not specific to this project. Cllr HC will assist with this problem.

Village Sign - Third sign – new location options – north of bridge by wall or on bank past lay-by.

Funders Sign – presented to council – will be placed on all LEADER works in village

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

Beach Rules Sign – signs presented to council - for gate post into parking area and by slipway.

8. Water, Sewage, Roads –

- Drainage problems on Dores Road.
- Major pothole at Scaniport. Cllr MD will speak to council
- Cyclists becoming a hazard on road (not making way for cars).

9. Planning – none

10. AOCB

Marathon – Litter pickup after event was greatly improved this year and appreciated by locals. Complaint about cars parked up hill from Torr Gardens causing access difficulties for residents. There was a traffic warden on duty in the village but they did not appear to notice the problem.

Suggest cones on one side of road – contact organisers (M Sutherland) **Action: R MacL**

Buses – recent confusion about alterations to timetables – passengers left stranded had to get taxis as a result. Request better notice re changes and add to website **Action: R MacL**

Scottish Communities Housing Trust — R MacL attended their AGM on 28th September.

Feasibility study ongoing - delay due to problems with Scottish Water inconclusive results.

Destination Loch Ness – JH to attend meeting 4th October

Dumping – Asbestos was dumped on beach in front of Stratherrick Gardens 2 months ago – Cllr Norrie Donald had quickly arranged for the **12 bags** worth to be picked up.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Next meeting Monday 12th November 2012 at 7.30pm in Dores Parish Hall