

# Ardrishaig Community Council

## Minutes of a Meeting on 6 May 2010

The meeting was held in Ardrishaig Public Hall at 19.30hrs.

### **Present**

Edward LAUGHTON (EL) Convener

Victor JOHNSTON (VJ)

Donnie McLEOD (DM) Vice Convener

Lynne GIRDWOOD (LG)

Jeanette LAUGHTON (JL) Secretary

Cllr Dougie PHILAND

Gordon HUTTON (GH) Treasurer

Catherine BOWE (CB) Minutes Secretary

Peter HOGGIN (PH)

1. EL opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present. He noted the sudden death of Susan's brother, Donnie Cameron (Lochiel), and it was agreed to send a sympathy card from the committee.

### **2. Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Arthur BARCLAY (AB), Susan CAMERON (SC), David INGLIS (DI), Cllrs Donnie MacMILLAN & Alison HAY, Neil John MacLEAN (NJ), Hamish NICOL (HN) and Police Sgt BALKEEN

### **3. Minutes of Last Meeting:**

The minutes of the last meeting were proposed by LG and seconded by VJ subject to the following amendments.

3.1 Para 5.6 2<sup>nd</sup> line - replace "owning" with "owing to"

3.2 Para 8.2 - replace the last sentence with "*SC suggested that if the hall committee requires new heating it should let the public know the cost and ask them for help in fund raising. She agreed to organise a coffee morning and other councillors gave their support for this. It is hoped that other groups in the village will also plan events.*"

### **4. Matters Arising:**

4.1 **Road Signs:** JL will meet John Downie of Argyll & Bute Council to discuss the signs later in the month.

4.2 **Walk to School:** Owing to the present financial climate LG has decided in the meantime to accept the decision of Argyll & Bute Council not to provide free transport for the schoolchildren between Ardrishaig and Lochgilphead High School. However, she intends to raise the subject again when funding seems likely to be available.

4.3 **Fyneview Respite Home:** The secretary has received a letter from Chief Executive Sally Loudon confirming the closure of Fyneview. No decision has been made regarding the

future use of the building. Cllr Philand has spoken to Care Solutions and they also have decided not to re-open the care home. However, he advises that anyone having difficulty with respite care should contact Argyll and Bute Council.

4.4 **CCTV:** A camera has been obtained and will be installed very soon.

4.5 **Neighbourhood Watch:** Police Sgt Balkeen has suggested the evening of 22 June for anyone from the Community Council who may be interested in shadowing him on his village rounds. EL and VJ volunteered and they agreed to meet up with him at Lochgilphead Police Station at 22.00hrs.

4.6 **War Memorial:** JL met with James Hamilton from Argyll and Bute Council and reported that the renovating work to the memorial will be started soon.

4.7 **20s Plenty:** Potholes have been filled in on West Bank Road but it is felt that the work has been poorly done. JL will write a letter of complaint to Argyll and Bute Council.

4.8 **Railings at Boatyard:** A letter has been received from Stewart Clark, Argyll and Bute Contracts manager, saying that suitable funding has been set aside and the work will be carried out during the summer months.

4.9 **Plaque:** A letter has been received from Billy, the son of Mr Gilbert Patterson, expressing his delight at the inclusion of his mother on the plaque. Wilma Little will speak to him regarding the proposed wording on it. It is hoped to arrange the attendance of an Argyllshire Advertiser journalist at its installation ceremony.

Stephen Whiston confirmed that the photograph showing Bobby MacGregor with a spade, at the official turf cutting, is still on show at the swimming pool.

4.10 **Community Hub:** VJ said that the project Summary had been well written and includes most of the village improvement needs. At their meeting on 11 May this will be discussed by the Community Council and the Community Trust.

4.11 **Crossings:** Cllr Philand has written to Simon MacLeod of TranServe and EL to Transport Scotland regarding the need for a pedestrian crossing on Chalmers Street. Stuart Turner from Argyll and Bute Council will bring this matter up at the Police Transport committee meeting.

4.12 **Trees Along the Front:** JL will make enquiries into the Commonwealth Orchard Scheme. There were various concerns from the public regarding this suggestion e.g. they'll block the view: they will take up valuable car parking space: fruit trees and cherry blossom trees are unsuitable for such an exposed position and will be blasted by winds and sea spray. It was decided to discuss this subject at the meeting on 11 May.

## 5. **Police Report:**

5.1 The Police Sgt standing in for Sgt Balkeen reported that a bus stop and a window had been smashed and an elderly resident was harassed by some youths. He confirmed that there would be an unmarked police car with police in plain clothes on duty at weekends during the school holidays. Their action plan is to cover youth vandalism, catch some of the culprits and find out from them the names of all who are involved in local troublemaking. The police intend to contact teachers at the school and ask them to explain to the pupils that they too are part of the community and have a responsibility to it.

5.2 A member of the public reported that the Co-op is unknowingly selling alcohol to a customer who then passes it on to under age youngsters. Also a local bar is serving alcohol to under age drinkers. The Police Sgt said he'd speak to the landlord concerned and the manager of the Co-op after the meeting.

5.3 The table in the Community garden has been burned, probably by a disposable barbeque, although it is felt that it was more due to carelessness than deliberate vandalism. Beer cans and rubbish have been left lying about and the garden will be put on the police patrol list.

**6. Security Cameras:** PH reported that any camera suitable for community use would cost approximately £10k. It was decided to wait for the results from the council camera over the next three months and then to consider the necessity of purchasing one for the Community Council.

**7. Ardrishaig Community Trust Report (Attached):**

7.1 The directors have set up 2 limited companies:

- Ardrishaig Renewable Energies – to cover wind farm development.
- Argyll Activities – Hiring out of cycles and kayaks etc.

7.2 It is hoped that the Robber's Den will be held in Trust for the community in perpetuity. However the need for funding for maintenance work needs to be addressed.

**8. Correspondence:**

8.1 The Citizen's Advice Bureau requires volunteers and anyone who is interested should contact the Bureau.

8.2 Committee members received a joint letter from 3 members of the public from Kilfinan regarding Ardrishaig's proposal to buy one of the Allt Dearg wind turbines. It claims that the information released by the Community Council in the run up to the poll was one-sided and the risks involved not adequately explained. It also proposed that there should be a meeting with the people in the village to explain the pros and cons of the project. EL expressed his great offence at receiving such a letter and has replied to this privately and not as Convener of Ardrishaig Community Council. DI has also written to them. PH suggested that a public meeting to discuss the plans for the Community Wind Turbine would help to answer some of the questions being asked about the project. EL explained that so far there is nothing to report as planning is still under consideration. In addition he said that it is very difficult, in the present climate, to obtain financial support for such a scheme. A public meeting will be arranged as soon as planning is confirmed and funding organisations are prepared to enter

into negotiations with the Trust. In the meantime EL and DM have arranged to speak to Kilfinan Community Council at their next meeting re the Ardrishaig wind turbine.

**9. A.O.B.**

9.1 **Youth Club:** Theresa Osborne reported that the young people are very disappointed to have nowhere to meet and there is difficulty in raising rent for premises. EL explained that unfortunately the Community Council couldn't use their funds to help.

9.2 **Feral Goats:** JL reported that the goats have returned in greater numbers. There are now 4 Billy goats in the group.

9.3 **Mthunzi Group:** The group will visit the area in July/August and has a particular interest in climate change. JL suggests that they be taken to see the site of the proposed Allt Dearg wind farm. She asked for volunteers to provide soup and sandwiches for the day and to organise a barbeque for the evening. There will be more details from JL at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010** at 19.30hrs in Ardrishaig Public Hall.

The meeting ended at 21.20hrs