

Ardrishaig Community Council

Minutes of a Meeting on 3 November 2009

The meeting was held in Ardrishaig Public Hall.

Present

Charles REPPKE (CR)	Victor JOHNSTON (VJ)
Edward LAUGHTON (EL)	Peter HOGGIN (PH)
Jeanette LAUGHTON (JL)	Catherine BOWE (CB)
Arthur BARCLAY (AB)	Donnie McLEOD (DM)
Susan CAMERON (SC)	Hamish NICOL (HN)
David INGLIS (DI)	Gordon HUTTON (GH)
Lynne GIRDWOOD (LG)	

Apologies were received from Neil John MacLEAN.

1. Appointment of Office Bearers:

Charles REPPKE opened the meeting as Chairman and welcomed those present. He chaired the meeting for election of Convener and then handed over to the newly elected Convener to chair the rest of the meeting. The following office bearers were appointed:

Convener	Edward LAUGHTON
Vice Convener	Donnie McLEOD
Secretary	Jeanette LAUGHTON
	Minutes Secretary Catherine BOWE
Treasurer	Gordon HUTTON

The Vice Convener agreed to act as Planning Liaison Officer and Hamish NICOL agreed to act as Licensing Officer for the Council.

2. Current Vacancies on the Council

Since only thirteen members are currently elected the Convener asked **CR** if the existing three vacancies could be filled. **CR** explained that Argyll & Bute Council have resolved to hold further by-elections early in the new year in the hope of filling the vacancies in all Community Councils.

3. Constitution, Standing Orders and Best Practice Agreement

The Community Council members formally confirmed their acceptance of the above.

4. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

SC and **AB** approved the minutes of the October meeting.

5. Actions and Matters Arising None

6. Police Report

Police Sgt Balkeen reported that the CCTV camera would shortly be set up in Ardrishaig on a temporary basis only. The Anti-Social Department in Helensburgh has responsibility for the placement of the camera and decides which place in Argyll & Bute has the greatest need of it.

7. Wind Turbine Update

The Secretary reported that Community Energy has agreed to give funding towards the poll of everyone on the electoral roll in Ardrishaig regarding a community wind turbine. The Community Council will be charged £30 for a restricted CD copy of the electoral roll. Volunteers will be needed to put flyers into envelopes asking if they support the idea of "community ownership of one wind turbine in the wind farm planned to be built at Allt Dearg". Circle YES or NO. Also a S.A.E. into each envelope.

A council officer will be present at the formal opening of the envelopes and counting of the votes. It is necessary for 50% of those who return the envelopes to agree to the turbine for the community to be able to go ahead with buying one.

DI suggested that an advert in the Argyllshire Advertiser might be helpful in bringing the need for the poll to the attention of the community. Also, a photomontage of the view from Lochgilphead of Allt Dearg with the turbines in place should be placed in local shop windows to give people a better idea of the plans.

8. Regeneration Update

The Secretary reported that various groups, such as British Waterways and Forward Scotland are willing to provide funding for the regeneration of the village. **DM** suggested that a meeting of the Community Trust with the Community Council regarding the funding would help to clarify the position. A date for the meeting will be agreed upon.

8. Swimming Pool

The Secretary reported that she had received a letter from the board of Mid Argyll Community Pool explaining the facts of the pool's present financial crisis. She has advised the pool Board to put a copy of their petition in John Law's shop for the attention of the local community. From the floor, Cllr Philand said he has spoken to the pool staff and told them that he is supporting their request for an increase in the annual £30k grant given by Argyll & Bute Council.

9. Walk to School Update

EL reported that he had written to Mrs Loudon (Chief Executive) more than a month ago complaining of the lack of response from the Council to the village's concern for their children. As yet he had not received a reply. Cllr MacMillan said that the council is obliged to acknowledge receipt of any correspondence within twenty-one days of receiving it and the Community Council has firm grounds for complaint at being ignored in this matter. Cllr Philand suggested that he and Cllr MacMillan should arrange to meet with the Chief Executive and explain the anger of parents on this issue. They feel that council officials appear to have dismissed their deep concern that their children are expected to walk to school along such a very busy route.

10. Youth Project Update

- **EL** met with Theresa Flannigan last week and proposed using *The Ritz café* for young people to meet for a trial period on 26 November and the 3, 10 and 17 December.
- Should the café turn out to be an unsuitable venue The Community Trust has agreed to pay for one night a week in the public hall for a trial period of four weeks.
- British Waterways has offered the canal basin office as a venue for free.

11. Ardrishaig Community Trust: Reminder of AGM

DM reminded the meeting of the AGM on Tuesday 17 November at 7.30 p.m. As well as a report of their achievements over the last year and a half there will be a re-election of Board members. Also, at present there are three vacancies for directors, which they hope to fill.

12. A.O.B.

- The Secretary asked for the survey questionnaires of the timber operations to be returned to her as soon as possible.
- **SC** asked Cllrs MacMillan and Philand to seek the removal of a raised area in the car park opposite the Co-op shop. Not only is this a trip hazard, it is also extremely muddy in wet weather. If removed two further car parking spaces would be created. The Cllrs agreed to investigate.
- **AB** reminded the council of the dangerous crossing on Chalmers Street to and from the car park. **EL** will write to Allan Reid MP suggesting a pedestrian crossing.
- Cllr MacMillan drew attention to the accidental painting of the railings round the James Chalmers memorial by the workers on the Community Work Scheme. All agreed that it was a very fortunate accident!

- A member of the public requested that the War Memorial be refurbished and the lettering re-leaded. There is some doubt as to whose responsibility this is and the Secretary undertook to write to the War Graves Commission.
- **AB** pointed out the dangerous state of the road along West Bank for elderly people from Caledonia Court walking and perhaps pushing walking frames. On their behalf he asked the Cllrs present to speak to the appropriate authorities. Messrs MacMillan and Philand agreed to do this.

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 1st December 2009** at 1930hrs in Ardrishaig Public Hall.