

LISMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 23/01/25 at Lismore Public Hall

Present

Archie MacGillivray (AM) Convener, Mandie Currie (MC) Secretary, Mark Willis (MW), Cllr Kieron Green (KG) Argyll and Bute Council and Rosemary Barry (RB) notetaker.

Apologies

Donald MacColl (DM), Clare Haworth (CH), Cllr Andrew Vennard (AV) A&B Council.

Declarations of Interest

There were none

Minutes of the meeting held on 31/10/24

The minutes had been circulated previously. Proposed by MW; seconded by AG and agreed as a true and accurate record.

Matters arising

Ferries

No further progress reported on tidal amendments issues. LCC were invited to a meeting via Teams with Calmac to discuss proposed changes to the summer timetable. MC was available and would attend. MW would attend if he was able to return to the island on time. **AP: MC to attend meeting**

Boreholes

No recent updates – **AP: MC to chase progress.**

Planning

CH checks A & B planning applications but was not present and had not provided an update.

Uplift of white goods

CH was not present so update deferred to next meeting.

Local Place Plan

Questionnaires prepared for circulation. Community drop-in event on March 1st (since rescheduled to 15th March). Volunteers to deliver questionnaires, one per household, to permanent island residents. An online version to be available on Smart Survey for permanent residents and non-residents.

A date was needed for the possible meeting with Duror and Kentallen CC, who had already completed their plan themselves. **AP: MC to organise meeting if possible**

A suggested date for a meeting with island groups was pencilled in as February 20th (since rescheduled to 6th March).

Resilience/Emergency Plans

This had yet to be dealt with but MC reported that it is next on the list.

Finances

MC reiterated the need to draw up a budget. It was necessary to know what was reserved money for specific purposes; what was available for general necessary expenditure and what might be available for other uses such as contributing to other projects / groups. **AP: MC to action this when DM available.**

It was still necessary to sort out the changes for the account signatures. **AP: MC to action this.**

New Correspondence

MC flagged up the consultation on the proposed Argyll and Bute Visitor levy due on April 10th. This was a 5% levy on all types of holiday accommodation across Argyll and Bute with a few exceptions. It was thought that this could raise around £9m per year KG explained with around £6m available to be spent on relevant services.

MW queried what the money might be spent on and KG replied that this was the point of the consultation. He suggested Council service that would benefit visitors such as toilets, roads and the running of events and festivals.

MC queried situation with VAT and KG confirmed that if the accommodation price included the levy then the whole amount would be liable for VAT.

MC described her misgivings concerning the rise in cost of campsites etc. leading to an increase in fly camping (vehicle camping) on private ground and in car parks because higher costs would further discourage use of managed facilities.

KG mentioned the housing emergency in the area and the current push to put off holiday and short term letting. Additional costs imposed by a levy might influence this. He added that other authorities were looking at similar figures to the 5% already agreed by Edinburgh. He reiterated the need for an income stream if the necessary infrastructure was to be put in place for tourists. **AP: MC to draft a response from LCC, ready for discussion at the next meeting on March 13th .**

AOCB

Nothing raised