

## LISMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at Lismore Public Hall

#### Present

Archie McGillivray (AM) Convener, Mandie Currie (MC) Secretary, Mark Willis (MW)  
Cllr Andrew Vennard (AV) Argyll & Bute Council  
Rosemary Barry (RB) note taker and five members of the public.

#### Apologies

Donald McColl, LCC  
Cllr Kieron Green and Cllr Luna Martin A&BC

#### Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

#### Minutes of meeting held on 18/05/2023

The minutes had been circulated previously; they were proposed by MC and seconded by AM

#### Matters arising

There were no matters that were not already covered in the agenda.

#### Scottish Government reaching 100% Broadband

MC reported that this scheme was on target . All ducting had been done and completion of the fibre insertion was expected by the end of August. Work also had to be completed on the infrastructure between Oban and Appin before Lismore could be connected. Ducting had not been installed where there were functioning poles still in place. There was a query about continuation to Laggan. **MC to clarify this with the Scottish Government representative.**

#### Health and Social Care

Health and social care issues link with, and can form part of, resilience planning and LCC has previously agreed to initiate community discussion on this issue.

#### Ferries

MC reported that she had yet to write to Ministers on the various issues with Calmac but had not received a response from Calmac to previous communications. A Teams meeting had been held with Angus Campbell, Convenor of the Scottish Independent Community Ferry Board as part of a review on behalf of the Scottish Government. A representative of Transport Scotland sat in on the meeting. LCC had also mentioned the issues to Jenny Minto at her recent island surgery. Liaising with other communities who experience similar ferry problems was agreed as a sensible step. There was a query on behalf of Lismore Community Transport as to who to contact in Calmac regarding issues with booking the Community Transport vehicle. MC undertook to forward those details. **MC to continue to correspond with Scottish Government and Calmac to raise the ongoing issues.**

#### Roads and car parking

There was a query from a member of the public about the pot holes outside the shop as he had damaged his vehicle's suspension driving over one of these and had written a letter of complaint to A&BC. MC confirmed LCC had been advised that money had been allocated for this.

There was also a query about the cutting of the verges. MC replied that this was to happen shortly but that really, it needed to be done at the right time of year (early spring to remove roughage and late summer to remove weedy competitive plants and encourage wildflower diversity).

There was also a query about the overhanging branches between the hall and Carney Cottage. LCC's understanding is that trees on the verge are the responsibility of A&BC but those within fences / boundaries are the responsibility of the landowner.

Mention was also made of the problem of Ash die back. There was a query as to whether there was a cure. MC replied that it was thought that 25% were likely to either be resilient or to recover and that trees should not be cut down too soon (for example if only 30% of leaf cover has been lost) as they might recover. But they did need to be cut down before they were actually dead. Trees should be cut where they present danger to the public but trees in fields away from roads etc. could be left as dead wood is extremely beneficial for wildlife. If necessary, limbs could be removed and the trunk left, which provides useful habitat for a range of species.

MC explained that an effective action to tackle the car parking problem at Point had not yet been identified. People who were leaving cars unused at Point for long periods (e.g. second home owners, workmen etc) had been written to in the past, asking them to leave their vehicles at home or in an agreed secure place and to arrange lifts when intending not to return to the island for prolonged periods but this had not achieved any response. **AM and MW to compile a list of those vehicles not belonging to permanent residents and bring it to the next meeting.** MC explained that A&BC could introduce parking charges if the situation is not resolved.

### **Visitors and dogs**

MC explained that there was an ongoing problem with visitors with dogs unleashed and not under close control. Every year, there had been instances of sheep and lambs drowning at Point and other livestock owners also experience problems. At least 39 people had been spoken to in less than a month, explaining the issues and asking for the dogs to be put on a lead. Although 90% were on a lead, a significant minority refused when requested. **MC to organise a communication to go to each household to ask for views on this issue.**

### **Boreholes**

MW reported that there was only one survey left to do and then a map could be produced for a drilling schedule. Gilly Dixon Spain commented that they had gone ahead privately due to the delay in this issue going forward.

### **Church and Graveyard**

A representative of A& B council had made a site visit to look at the options for a graveyard extension. MC reported that although the Church of Scotland was willing to grant the land for the graveyard extension, there was a potential problem with the site due to compliance with SEPA regulations; this still had to be confirmed by the Council. In the longer term, an alternative site needs to be found and LCC will approach landowners on this. In the short term, the Council intends to look again at the existing extension where part of the area was previously considered too rocky. It might be possible to excavate individual lairs here and back-fill with soil. If successful, this option would provide scope for another 20 years.

**Action: MC to circulate information (FB & noticeboard) inviting offers of suitable land. LCC members to speak to landowners individually.**

MC gave a brief report on the Church project. A tender process is underway to select a consultant for the feasibility study and a funding bid is being prepared to AHF with other funders being identified for match funding. **Action: MC to prepare funding bids, with Church Futures Group.**

### **Planning applications**

There were no new applications. It was anticipated that if submitted, the proposed fish farm plan would be contentious. If and when a formal planning application is made, LCC will organise a public meeting to discuss the issue, extending invitations to representatives from Duror and Appin Community Councils, whose communities will be most impacted by the proposals, as well as representatives from the company involved. It was agreed that if LCC were to make a response it was necessary first to ascertain the public view.

### **LCT funding**

This was still under consideration but no decision could be made until the allocation of the LCC's limited budget was decided on.

### **Resilience/ Emergency Plans**

There needed to be a mini meeting to revisit the Draft Emergency Plan but it had proved difficult to organise this so far due to time limitations. Once a draft has been prepared, a wider meeting to discuss resilience issues will be organised, at which the draft Emergency Plan can also be discussed. **Action: MC to organise initial meeting to revisit the draft Emergency Plan.**

### **New correspondence**

There was no new correspondence.

### **AOCB**

There was a query about the time it was taking (potentially 9 months) to obtain the necessary licence for short term lets despite the required payment having been made. **MC to contact A & B concerning this.**

Gilly Dixon Spain announced that Lismore Community Transport was in the process of obtaining a new electric vehicle and that there would be an electric charging point located outside the hall available for public use.

### **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> September (all 2023 dates had been agreed at the January meeting).