

## **Lismore Community Council**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 at Lismore Public Hall**

#### **Present**

Mark Willis (MW), Mandie Currie (MC), Donald MacColl (DM), Archie McGillivray (AM), Clare Howarth (CH) and Rosemary Barry (RB) minute taker.

#### **In attendance**

Cllr Kieron Green (KG) A&B Council and one member of the public.

#### **Apologies**

Cllr Andrew Vennard, Cllr Luna Martin, Cllr Julie Mc Kenzie

#### **Declarations of interest**

None

#### **Minutes of meeting held on 21/09/2023**

Proposed by MC, seconded by DM; the minutes were adopted as a true and accurate record.

#### **Matters arising**

None

#### **Scottish Government R100 Project update**

Roll out of the project on the island appears to be going well. Open Reach have advised they expect all properties who want it to be connected by the end of the year, including the Laggan properties that were waiting for wayleaves and the ones at Baleveolan that were missed. AM noted an issue with BT operatives changing an appointment, with his agreement, then BT billing him for a missed appointment. **Julian Wormleighton (JW) to raise with Open Reach in case the issue arises with others.** AM was also advised to raise it directly with his supplier, BT.

#### **Ferries**

MC reported that she had written again to the Transport Minister but was yet to receive a substantive response. The letter had included a request to address the issues rather than simply passing it on to Calmac. The frequency of cancelled sailings over the past few months had created significant problems for commuters as well as service providers, e.g. MBS, bin lorries, Open Reach and other vehicles for the R100 project, school children and many builders and other trades people.

It was agreed that a further communication should be copied to Ministers, Calmac, CMAL, Transport for Scotland, the Independent Community Ferries Board, and also A&B MSPs and Councillors. Calmac should, it was thought, be more creative in finding a solution – such as passenger- only ferries for some sailings, or transport to -or - from the Appin Ferry. LCC had already requested alternative sailings rather than cancellations, additional sailings on request during livestock sales and an indication of when the Oban slip would be upgraded to resolve the tidal restrictions. **MC to write to Ministers copying in others as agreed above. Also to check the date by when the Scottish Government had previously given the assurance that the issue of the upgrading of the slip would be resolved.**

#### **Roads**

KG reported that he had seen the draft plan for work on the island's roads and that work was scheduled to be undertaken in April next year. Work on the area in front of the shop was likely to be done earlier than this along with some small repairs. CH mentioned the serious cracks in the road between Rowan Tree Cottage and the Hall and the potential for a serious accident to occur. **MC to write to the Council and flag up the dangers.** KG added that it was important to know why the road had moved in the way that it had.

### **Car parking**

MC reported that a notice on the problem of the long stay cars at Point had been placed on the Island Facebook page, CH suggested that the new Community bus could potentially be used so fewer people felt the need to leave their cars there. **CH to take this idea to the Community Bus Committee.** MC mentioned that some of the vehicles were work related, some appeared to have been abandoned and at least six belonged to people who were not island residents.

### **Visitors and dogs**

This was not discussed as there needed to be a public consultation on the issue.

### **Boreholes**

MW reported that he had the plans and **would liaise with MC concerning the next steps.**

### **Church**

MC reported that there had been good progress. A meeting had recently been held with the Consultants who were coming to the island the following week to carry out research. The feasibility study is underway and progress made on governance. DM mentioned that the payment of the £100 which it had been agreed at a previous meeting to give to the Church for the use of the Church House had been left until the New Year when Lismore and Appin would have merged.

### **Graveyard extension**

There was a discussion concerning the need for extra soil to ensure that the extension could take place within the existing area. for the near future. DM confirmed that only residents could automatically have a plot in the existing area. A plot could not be purchased currently although the situation may be different once the new piece of ground had been established.

### **Planning-**

The proposed **fish farm** in Loch Linnhe was discussed, including the Drop - In Public Consultation Session held by the Fish Farm developer, Loch Long Salmon. MC reported that they might be submitting a formal planning application in November or December. She had been given a copy of the presentation that was viewed at the event and had been participating in the Working Group established with the other affected Community Councils (Appin and Duror/Kentallen). The Working Group has been gathering information/ evidence and trying to establish accuracy of statements presented by both the developers and opponents. The WG aims to be as objective as possible and is considering ways of consulting each affected community so that views could be aired and considered before a formal response was made by each Community Council.

**Affordable housing** plans put forward by the island Community Trust were then discussed.

Concerns were expressed about the potential effect on neighbouring properties; whether the rents would be truly affordable and how the houses when built would be allocated. KG mentioned that they could be either managed or sold on as social housing. Locally rents for similar properties were between £550 and £800. It was agreed that the community had previously indicated support for affordable houses in this location and that it was thought to be a good idea for them to be built. **MC to write in agreement with the proposal with the caveat that any issues with the immediate neighbours should be discussed and minimised.**

### **Resilience and emergency planning**

This was currently on hold but was to be kept on the agenda.

### **Date of next meeting**

This was scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> December. Apologies were given in advance by DM, CH and KG.