

LISMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm on 25th January 2024

Present

Archie MacGillivray (AM) Convener, Mandie Currie (MC) Secretary, Donald McColl (DM) Treasurer, Mark Willis (MW)

Rosemary Barry note taker and one member of the public

Apologies

Cllr Kieron Green A&B Council, Clare Howarth LCC

Declarations of interest

None

Minutes of meeting held on 02/11/2023

These had previously been circulated. The minutes were proposed by MC, seconded by MW and adopted as an accurate and true record.

Matters arising

There were none not already covered by the agenda

Scottish Government R100 project update

Julian Wormleighton (JW) reported that he had received no official update on the project recently. He advised that there was some sign of the outstanding work being completed but no information on when and how this will be finalised. Laggan for example had yet to be reached. He emphasised that the work needed to be fully completed before the team left the island. **MC and JW to seek an update from Openreach.** Some properties had not been recognised by suppliers when householders applied for fibre connections - due to differences in the way the addresses are listed compared to that used by the householder.

Ferries

The Minister had eventually replied to the previous letter sent so the planned reminder letter had not been sent by MC. However, the response received is unsatisfactory. The necessary works to the Oban slip to make it safe at all tidal heights has been bundled into a strategic plan on the Oban Ferry Terminal that is underway. No date had been given for completion of this.

The letter advised that additional sailings had been undertaken when it was considered possible but there is little evidence of this happening. DM noted that where sailings were cancelled both ways there was a cost saving so an alternative sailing could be undertaken at neutral cost. Working Times and the need for rest periods had also been raised as an issue but it was felt that alternative sailings could be accommodated within the required working schedule.

JW commented that both he and Stuart Ross had corresponded with Jenny Minto re the tidal cancellations and that she had been communicating with Calmac and CMAL without success. LCC has also had correspondence with MSPs and MPs on the matter.

It was agreed that LCC should write to Scottish Government again on the issue. JW commented that in 2004/5 there had been an assurance that funding had been earmarked for any harbour

work needed for the introduction of the Loch class boats on the route. There was concern for the impact of the continual loss of early morning and late sailings on commuters and school children.

MC advised that the public consultation on the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Contract ends on 8th March 2024. It was agreed that is important for LCC to respond to the consultation as well as lobbying decision makers. **MC to write again to the Scottish Government Transport Secretary and to submit a response to the consultation.** JW suggested that the original letter from around 20 years ago might still be stored in the Hall filing cabinet. **JW volunteered to look into this**

Roads and car parking

MC had emailed the Council Chief Executive regarding potholes and other road damage but had as yet had no substantive response. However it is generally understood that work is scheduled, although concerns were raised that the scope of operations may not cover all the work required. **MC to ask for a time frame for the work.**

MC reported that notices on Facebook had little impact on resolving the parking problem at Point although it did seem that a couple of people had stopped leaving their vehicles there long term. **MC to ask A&B council about the removal of abandoned cars. Also to organise another campaign on the island Facebook site.**

Visitors and dogs

No consultation had been done on establishing a by-law yet but it was anticipated it would be completed by late spring.

Boreholes

Not progressed yet but the site checks have been completed. **MW and MC to take forward.**

Church

MC reported that the feasibility study is underway and a draft interim report received. The SCIO was in progress. The intention had been to complete the report by mid Feb but further considerations had been required on the various options. The parishes of Lismore and Appin to be combined from March 31st but no word yet as to when the COS is intending to dispose of the church and church house.

Graveyard extension

Soil from various places has been organised to allow the graveyard capacity to be extended within the existing boundary.

Planning applications

MC reported that the planning application for the fish farm would probably be submitted in March (since delayed – potentially summer). The working group for the various community councils had submitted questions to the applicant and await a response. Once the application is in, LCC will hold a public meeting on the island (this won't be attended by the fish farm applicants).

Resilience/Emergency Plans

No work has been undertaken yet – it had been agreed that a rough draft Emergency Plan should be prepared, edited by a small working group and shared with the community for discussion and agreement. CH and Sebastian Tombs to input to the Plan, along with key stakeholders. **MC to prepare rough draft Plan.**

New Correspondence

Peter MacDougall had emailed to say he had experienced problems when taking a chest freezer to the recycling centre at Oban as this was deemed to be commercial waste. It was agreed that many households on Lismore (as with other islands and remote locations) have chest freezers for supplies. **MC to contact the Council for clarification and to make the case** (NB this was done as Council are looking into it).

AOCB

There discussion about the delay in rubbish bins being collected over the past few weeks. Also that recycling wasn't being collected. There was a suggestion that there may have been a problem getting a ferry booking for revised general waste collection dates following vehicle breakdowns. Also that there was insufficient capacity on the truck to collect recycling from all house holders in one trip, which was why some parts of the island had been left uncollected. **MC to contact A&B Council about bin collections** (NB – larger vehicle with cage now available for recycling collections).

Dates of forthcoming meetings

The dates suggested were March 7th, 16th May, and August 22nd with the AGM to be held on June 13th.