

## **Lismore Community Council**

### **Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm on May 16<sup>th</sup> 2024, at Lismore Public Hall**

#### **Present**

Archie MacGillivray, (AM) Convener, Mandie Currie (MC) Secretary, Mark Willis (MW)

Cllr Kieron Green (KG) - Argyll and Bute Council; Rosemary Barry (RB) note taker and two members of the public

#### **Apologies**

Donald MacColl

#### **Declarations of Interest**

None

#### **Minutes of meeting held on 07/03/2024**

These had been circulated previously. Proposed by AM and seconded by MW; adopted as a true and accurate record.

#### **Matters arising**

There were no issues not already covered in the agenda.

#### **Scottish Government R100 project**

MC noted that she had not managed to get to the Broadband meeting held in the Island Heritage Centre. Julian Wormleighton (JW) reported that about eight people were present from the various entities involved in the roll-out on the island and that they were very receptive to the feedback from those islanders who had attended. He was not aware of anyone who was still waiting for a connection. A couple of people commented that they were awaiting connection but that it was in progress. There had apparently been some problems with some suppliers communicating with Open Reach. Community feedback to Openreach for future roll-outs had included the need for an address list to be supplied to the community at an early stage so that it could be checked for accuracy before work began.

#### **Ferries**

MC reported that she had written several times to Calmac, Scottish Government and Transport Scotland with no acceptable response. Jenny Minto has also raised the issues on behalf of the community. She had not received a satisfactory reply either and will revert back to Transport Scotland. It is now likely that the new contract will go to Calmac in September. A strategic review is being undertaken on the Oban harbour and the Lismore ferry slip in Oban will be included in that exercise. MW queried availability of ferries on sale days. MC commented that Calmac has indicated willingness to provide additional sailings for livestock and a request needs to be submitted for these in good time. MC has also raised with Transport Scotland, Scottish Government etc., the need for key service vehicles to be prioritised. Calmac and Transport Scotland have quoted constraints on revised schedules (for tidal disruptions) due to the need to comply with working hours but MW queried if this was really a problem. KG mentioned the possibility of a passenger-only service for missing ferries – MC has already raised this with the authorities, along with all the other issues discussed. **AP: MC to write again, requesting a timeframe for concrete action to be taken.** JW mentioned again that it was 10 years since LCC was advised that funds had been set-aside for any required upgrades to the slip but nothing had happened.

#### **Roads and car parking**

##### **a. road repairs**

Some of the larger pot holes and cracks had been repaired but there were other places that still needed attention. MC noted that the road team were planning to come back.

#### **b. dangerous trees**

The Council is aware of dead and dying Ash trees on roadsides and one dangerous tree was cut some time ago. MC advised that her understanding was that the Council would be attending to trees but a timeframe had not been provided. There was discussion about responsibilities for roadside trees – if within 2m of the road and on the roadside of a fence or wall then it is the responsibility of the Council. KG stressed the need for an informal approach to the landowner if it was their responsibility. There was also complexity if the land is tenanted as responsibility would depend on the wording of the lease. MC commented that it was the younger trees that seemed most likely to die with the older ones seeming to be more resistant (up to 20% may survive and a further 5% may not succumb at all). She stressed the need for a specialist tree surgeon to deal with Ash trees. **AP: MC to identify dangerous trees that are close to the roadway and the responsibility of the Highway Authority and to liaise with the Council.**

#### **c. car parking - Point**

MC reported that she had yet to repeat the posts on Facebook regarding long term parked and apparently abandoned cars. Individual owners have been approached where possible but with little success. Cars left long-term in the car park will need to be uplifted. JW mentioned the missing Doctor's parking sign. **AP: MC to approach Council to ask them to address the parking issues and to replace the doctor's sign.**

#### **d. car parking – Port Appin**

Clare Howarth had attended a working group meeting (on behalf of LCC) in Port Appin, organised by Appin Community Development Trust. MC, CH and MW had previously volunteered to participate in the working group between them. MC reported that they wanted to create more parking spaces but she had advised the group that this would only create more demand and would not resolve the issues e.g. with illegal parking and with overnight parking-up by camper vans, in fact it would exacerbate the problem – unless there was also a strategy in place for managing parking. MC suggested the need for a sign further along the Port Appin road stating that the road was not suitable for camper vans / motorhomes, as the road is narrow and such vehicles were now more common. MC had also asked if parking spaces could be set-aside for Lismore residents. CH, MC and MW will continue to attend working group meetings where possible.

#### **Visitors and dogs**

It had been agreed previously that a referendum should be held of permanent residents, to canvass community opinion on creation of a by-law on leashing dogs on the island. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code advises dogs to be on leads where there is likely to be livestock and the Police liaison officer suggested that LCC might consider requesting a by-law. Preparation for a referendum is underway, which will be delivered in the next few weeks. This will include a front page explanatory sheet provided for each household and the questionnaire itself for each householder. KG queried if the Council could apply a by-law to the whole island and whether this was enforceable. MC replied that Police Scotland had suggested it and were of the view that it could be island-wide. The purpose was to provide an unambiguous message as currently, many dog owners are unclear about what constitutes a dog being under close control and are unaware of their dog's likelihood to chase sheep or disturb wildlife.

#### **Boreholes**

MC reported that the list of sites has been sent to Glensanda and we await confirmation that they are still able to provide a drilling rig.

#### **Church**

MC reported that a bid was being prepared for further funding – for various technical surveys and to commission our own valuation of the Church and Church House. The Church of Scotland had agreed to review their valuation and to undertake a revised valuation if information on archaeology, water and sewerage etc. hadn't been included originally. Membership forms are now in the shop for the new SCIO set up to take on the church project. £450,000 was required for basic conservation work on the Church and £225,000 was the current CoS valuation for the Church House.

### **Graveyard extension**

Work was supposed to be starting this week but there was a delay in securing landowner agreement from the CoS; the Tenant had already provided agreement. There was a query about the possibility of a memorial garden. MC replied that a site for plaques had been an original idea put forward for potential glebe usage.

### **Shop notice boards**

RB reported on her discussion with the Community Trust and it was agreed that the three larger boards should remain and that the two smaller ones could be taken down but retained with the possibility of relocating them.

### **Planning applications**

None were reported. KG checked during the meeting but wasn't able to find anything recent. **AP: MC to check lists until the task can be reallocated.**

### **Resilience and Emergency Plans**

It was agreed previously that the Emergency Plan needs to be redrafted and a public meeting organised to discuss resilience planning – this could form part of an Island Plan. No action has been taken on this yet.

### **New Correspondence**

There was no new correspondence

### **AOCB**

Query whether Glensanda might provide stone for the Laggan track – users would need to approach Glensanda.

MW queried the collection of scrap as there was a problem of the cost of getting a scrap lorry over on the ferry because the operator's new lorries were longer and in a higher cost category. It was suggested that Calmac should be asked to provide a special rate for this as it is an essential island service. **AP: MC to contact Calmac.**

MC reported that the Fish Farm application had been delayed as the developer was working through multiple issues and a long list of questions submitted by the joint CC working group and others. The Loch Long application determination was still awaited and there were other potential sites around Scotland under consideration by the developers as additional (not alternative) sites.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting is the AGM set for the 13<sup>th</sup> June. NB: date subsequently revised to **26<sup>th</sup> June.**