

Lismore Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd August 2024 in Lismore Public Hall

Present

Archie McGillivray (AM) Convener; Mandie Currie (MC) Secretary; Donald MacColl (DM) Treasurer; Mark Willis (MW); Clare Haworth (CH);

In attendance: Rosemary Barry (RB) notetaker; Cllr Kieron Green (KG) Argyll and Bute Council and 2 members of the public.

Apologies

Cllr Andrew Vennard (AV) Argyll and Bute Council

Declarations of interest

None

Minutes of the meeting held on 22.08.2024

These had been circulated previously. CH commented that her name had been misspelled. The minutes were proposed by DM, seconded by AM and adopted as a true and accurate record.

Matters arising

There were none not already included on the agenda.

Ferries

CalMac had put on an extra sailing, for livestock-only, on the 16th September. MC emphasised that they needed to be asked if such extra sailings were wanted.

MC reported that she had emailed Calmac about transporters for scrap cars being eligible for a cheaper rate and Transport Scotland about the possibility of passenger-only sailings when there were schedule restrictions due to tidal amendments.

MC advised that Jenny Minto is running a surgery on the island on October 16th and ferry matters could be raised with her then.

DM enquired about new ferries, also the anticipated work on the Oban slip. KG replied that he had not heard anything about work being carried out in Oban and that Lismore could expect to continue receiving older Loch class ferries. MC said that Transport Scotland had advised that a strategic harbours review was to be undertaken but no further information has been received. KG suggested that it was better to contact MSPs rather than MPs. ***MC to write again with islanders' concerns.***

Roads and car parking

a. Road repairs

Some repairs have been carried out but MC reported that she did not have a time frame for the rest of the necessary work.

b. Dangerous trees

MC reported that some dead Ash trees had been dealt with but others close to the road would need to be felled if they pose a risk to road users.

c Car Parking – Point and Appin

MC reported that she had emailed the Council about the replacement sign for the NHS

parking space; vehicles abandoned / left in the car parks long term; car park resurfacing and no-overnight-camping signs but had not yet received a response. **MC to follow this up.**

There was discussion on the problem of fly-camping in vehicles at the car parks – taking up parking space that is in short supply; inability to achieve the required three metre distance from other vehicles; lack of facilities for toilet waste disposal; proximity to houses; negative impacts on residents; unleashed dogs etc.

Referendum – next steps

a. CalMac – camper vans/ motor homes

A clear majority of those who had responded wanted Lismore to participate in the scheme operated by Calmac for other islands, whereby Calmac request those travelling with campers/ motorhomes or similar to be booked into organised sites. CH mentioned that she had two spaces available. It was considered that provision of small sites (which could be unserviced if advertised as such) could be a business opportunity for others on the island.

b. Visitors and dogs

The result was 46 people voting yes and 41 no to a bye-law on leashing dogs. The problem, according to notations made on some of the forms, was the concern over residents' dogs being included in the need for them to be on the lead at all times. DM considered that it was the landowners' problem to solve and that there was national legislation that dealt with the issue. KG said that dogs needed to be under close control. MC considered that the law was insufficient as there was no clarity as to how 'close control' should be interpreted. It should mean walking at heel but some people did not follow this and considered good recall sufficient. Some people seemed to think that it was alright for the dog to chase sheep as long as it didn't bite them. There was a question if a byelaw could be drafted that only covers non-residents' dogs. MC pointed out that if a byelaw was in place, it would help to provide clarity, which would assist if landowners/ managers are speaking to visitors about unleashed dogs. A Police Scotland representative had suggested that a byelaw might be an option.

Sebastian Tombs (ST) asked if it would be possible to find out if there are any places where such a byelaw is in place and how this had been implemented. CH said she thought self-regulation might work more effectively if more residents were willing to talk to visitors who had dogs off the lead, to point out the dangers. **MC to write to the Council to see if they have suggestions on how to deal with the issue of unleashed visitors' dogs and the conditions under which a byelaw might be possible.**

Boreholes

MC advised that Glensanda had confirmed that they were going to drill the boreholes. They had been due to undertake a recce in July but she didn't know whether they had been across or not. **MC to chase to find out time scale.**

Church and graveyard

Sebastian Tombs (Chair of the Church Future's Group and Kilmoluag Liosmor SCIO) reported that there was an endorsement from the community to press on. An application for £10,000 funding had been put in to the Scottish Land Fund for drainage, sewage and valuation reports for both the church house and the church; also to cover lawyers' fees to do due diligence on the boundaries. He was hopeful of hearing back in early September so the

necessary work could be set in train and then hopefully by mid-November when the situation with the Church of Scotland was clear, a bid could be put in for funding for purchase of the properties. There was a need to engage with the CoS by then. There was a concern raised about missing slates. ***ST to take up the missing slates issue with the minister and the Lismore elders.*** CH thanked ST and MC for all the hard work that they had put in with regard to the acquiring of the church and church house for the community. ST emphasised that he felt we had a good case but we needed to identify the needs of the community for the Land Fund bid including opportunities for local businesses.

The graveyard extension work had been completed and it was felt a good job had been done. There was apparently a rare fungus on the adjacent wall which had caused problems for a while but this was now sorted. The grass was coming up and the site had been left very neat.

Health and Social Care

There was a need for a notice for the NHS/ GP car parking space (covered earlier). There had been a query about transport for GPs on the island and the Transport Group were looking at assisting with this. However, a replacement vehicle had been found. The nurses' car (also used by the GP Practice) will eventually need to be replaced with an electric vehicle and there was a query if this could be charged at the hall.

Local Place Plan

Community Councils across Scotland are being invited to prepare Local Place Plans for their geographical area. Once completed, these need to be verified and registered by the Local Authority and they feed into the Local Development Plan. Community Councils in Highland Region are further ahead in the process and there are examples of submitted and registered Plans.

MC suggested a consultation exercise (including an event) to give the community opportunity to consider issues relating to spatial planning on the island - possibly during November. This would be open to everyone but it would be particularly useful for island groups to have an input. The Plan needed to be registered by June 2025. ST suggested the possibility of getting someone from Duror who had already carried out this exercise to come over. ***MC to circulate a copy of Duror's Plan.***

Resilience/Emergency Plans

It hadn't been possible to move forward on these Plans but these could feed into the work done on the Local Place Plan (although they are not spatial plans). There was a need for a date around the same time to look at the Resilience issues.

Finances

The funds for the feasibility study on the church project have now all been spent, although a final invoice from the consultants was still to be paid (at the time of the meeting). As there is now a SCIO with its own bank account, there is no longer a need to use the LCC account for any future funds related to the Church.

MC suggested that there is a need to prepare a budget, to identify - and plan expenditure of - any remaining LCC funds. DM reported that there was £6,456 in the account including £1,500 remaining of the Government Resilience money plus funds to be paid to the

consultants for the Church project. It was pointed out that the LCC Council grant for the year had not yet been received.

MC said that there was now only one person who was a signatory on the account and who was still on the community council. It was agreed that the signatories in future were to be Clare Haworth, Mark Willis, Mandie Currie and Archie MacGillivray (who is an existing signatory). In future, regular bank statement would need to be sent but the signature question must be resolved first. MC reported that she now had a contact phone number and she had been advised that the change could be done through the minutes. MC went on to say that it is important to identify what remaining money was available for LCC activities or to support particular island projects.

Scottish Government R100 project

There was apparently still some snagging to be sorted out and for some people, the system did not seem to be working as well as expected. ***MC to liaise with Julian Wormleighton on contacting Openreach.***

Planning applications

None had been noted.

New correspondence

MC explained that a Glasgow University student had been in touch with reference to a survey on resilience on islands. ***This was handed to CH to undertake.***

AOCB

CH raised a question on fund raising for the upcoming Apple Day on October 4th and whether it would be possible for funds to be paid into the LCC account. There was some discussion on the possibilities of this and how it might work in practice. It was agreed that this could occur in principle and it was left to the organisers to sort out the practicalities.

Next meeting 17th October (since revised to 31st October).