

LISMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2024 in Lismore Public Hall

Present

Archie MacGillivray (AM) Convener, Mandie Currie (MC) Secretary; Donald MacColl (DM) treasurer; Rosemary Barry (RB) notetaker and 5 members of the public

Apologies

Cllr Kieron Green (KG) A&B Council, Clare Howarth (CH)

Declarations of Interest

None

Minutes of meeting held on 16/05/2024

Circulated previously; the minutes were proposed by MC, seconded by AM and adopted as a true and accurate record.

Matters arising

RB reported that she had passed on the decision concerning the notice boards to the relevant member of the Community Trust.

Cost of scrap lorries on the ferry - MC reported that she had contacted Calmac but had not yet had a substantive response. There Area Manager has changed. **AP: MC to pursue with new Area Manager.**

Scottish Government R100 project

Virtually everyone was now sorted apart from a few technical issues or some properties that had not been on the original list but which will receive full fibre. Julian Wormleighton (JW) had been following up with Openreach and the Scottish Government. There was a query concerning the likelihood of problems in future. When the copper wire is removed in 2025, anyone not opting for fibre broadband will no longer have access to a phone line and all phones will be vulnerable in prolonged powercuts, in the event that the back-up battery in the router runs out. This is a reserved matter (UK Government responsibility).

Ferries

MC reported that she had written yet again to Transport Scotland. TS had advised previously that a harbour review was to be undertaken, which would include the Oban slip for the Lismore ferry. There was a query concerning the Working Time Directive and the possibility of running a passenger -only service when the first and last sailing were removed due to tidal restrictions. Calmac have said previously that additional sailings could be arranged for livestock sales and this has been arranged for the September sale. **AP: MC to contact again re livestock transport and passenger-only sailings when there are tidal disruptions.**

DM reiterated the especial problems re getting on for sales, mentioning specifically the tidal restrictions on the 17th September and the need for extra livestock sailings. DM suggested the need for a volume of complaints. There was a query that perhaps a protest with local/national media coverage might be useful. MC mentioned that we were not the only community with similar issues and that she had written multiple times. There was a suggestion that there needed to be a coordinated effort rather than just individuals contacting Calmac separately.

Roads and car parking

a) road repairs

Some road repairs have been completed but more still to be done. MC advised that she had enquired about the timescale and awaits a response. Sebastian Tombs (ST) reported that only one signpost to the broch was now left. **AP: MC to contact Council about repairs and signage**

b) dangerous trees

MC reported that she had written to the Council but hadn't been advised on how / when this would be dealt with. The matter had been highlighted in the past and it was important that they were dealt with before they were completely dead. Note: Since the LCC meeting, Council have been out to assess the trees.

Campervans, visitors and dogs

MC reported that the community referendum notices, regarding participation in the processes already operated by Calmac on other islands for campervans/ motorhomes and regarding a byelaw for visitors' dogs being leashed, were ready for distribution to island residents. There would be a box in the shop for completed voting slips with a deadline of July 12th. Volunteers were needed to distribute these. With respect to the campervans, the bunkhouse accepts campervans / motorhomes and tents but there are potential business opportunities for others to provide camp sites (serviced or un-serviced) to avoid the fly camping on verges or in car parks, which is a problem.

Boreholes

MC reported that she was waiting to hear back from Glensanda. Such projects now had to go to headquarters to be decided at a Senior level. Note: Glensanda have since confirmed that the work will go ahead and will undertake a recce in July/August.

Church

ST reported on the public meeting that had been held where those present from the community endorsed the Church Futures Group (now Kilmoluag Liosmor SCIO) to carry on with the project and continue the negotiation with the Church of Scotland. The Business Plan had just been completed but funds were required for an independent valuation of the Church House, which is required by funders. The position of the CoS Trustees had hardened and they had intended that the Church House be put on the open market but a successful case had been made for both to be offered to the Lismore community at market value. At this stage, other technical surveys were also required on water / drainage; legal boundaries and possibly a structural report. The SCIO/ Group would come back to the Community when all the information was to hand and then there could be a final discussion with the CoS. It was a slow process as it was technically complicated. The CoS meanwhile was notionally in charge of both properties (insurance and any maintenance) but the precise interim arrangements were not clear. One of the complexities was that when the Church ceased to be officially a place of worship it would be covered by current legislation. The Church House acquisition was considered necessary to complement the proposed usages of the Church.

Graveyard extension

This was now happening with apparently space for 60 to 70 more graves.

Planning Applications

MC reported that she had not seen any new applications. The fish farm applications had not yet been submitted. The consultants had a long list of questions that had been submitted by the joint

CC working group and various other stakeholders. Apparently, eventually, they were looking at five or six sites in Scotland.

Local Place Plan

Argyll and Bute Council have invited Community Councils to prepare a Local Place Plan for their community. This considers spatial planning matters and informs the Local Development Plan; it is not quite the same as an Island Plan. This should involve island groups, particularly the Community Trust. The topic needed to stay on the agenda and would require separate meetings as well as a public meeting(s). ST suggested the possibility of finding the money for a professional consultant.

MC to contact island groups. Then there could be a public meeting to follow.

Resilience/Emergency Plans

There was a query that the Care issues on the island had not really been addressed. Social care used to be a standing agenda item. **MC to place this on the next agenda.**

The working group for the Emergency Plan (previously agreed as Sebastian Tombs, Liz Buckle, Clare Howarth and Mandie Currie) needs to meet soon. Previous work on the Plan will be revisited and the emergency / resilience plans prepared by other islands can be looked at. MC commented that different communities have taken different approaches and in fact, Lismore was one of the first to have an emergency planning event, which had been organised by A & B Council and attended by a wide range of emergency services and agencies. She thought it might be a possibility to revisit the idea of an island emergency generator with SSE. **AP: MC to organise emergency plan / resilience working group meeting**

New Correspondence

MC reported that all new correspondence had been forwarded previously; there were no significant issues arising to discuss.

AOCB

It was noted that the verges and hedgerows had recently been cut by the Council and that this was a bad time for this, especially in relation to priority plants such as orchids setting seed and nesting birds. It was suggested cutting be limited to where there were sight line issues. **MC to write re the timings and locations.**

Dates of future meetings

These were provisionally fixed as:

August 22nd

October 17th

November 28th

January 23rd

March 13th