

Dores & Essich Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday 19th August 2019

Dores Parish Hall at 1930 hrs

1.Members Present: Ella MacRae (Chair), Angus MacLaren (Vice-Chair), Iain Cameron (Treasurer), Simon Pillatt (Secretary), John Martin, David Mason (Associate Member), Colin MacPherson, Duncan Manson and Anne MacLaren (Minutes Secretary)

Plus 10 members of the public

Apologies: Jeanette Murray (Associate Member)

2.1 Affordable Housing - there was a meeting with John McHardy, Highland Council, looking at the site and cemetery extension. The HC thought the Church of Scotland actually owned all the land behind Torr Gardens. This has now been corrected. There are no drawings as yet. When the sale of the land goes through work on cemetery will start within 6 months. IC commented there are 2 housing sites being looked at for development for nearly 30 houses. CC will look out for this. John McHardy will provide updates.

2.2 Traffic Calming - there was nothing to report

3. Minutes from last CC meeting on 1/7/19 - they were proposed by IC and seconded by CM.

4. Police Report - there was nothing to report

5. Matters arising:

5.1 Scottish Water - letter has been sent to Gavin Steel for update. No reply as yet but they have been busy with the impacts of the recent intense rain.

5.2 Cemetery Extension - this has already been discussed

5.3 ILLI Pump Storage - IC declared an interest. At the planning meeting on 7th August the application was refused. EM has been in touch with the planning department and advised that the outcome of planning meeting has been sent to the ECDU in Edinburgh to take this forward. Everyone will be kept up-to-date with the process. Advice was received from David Mudie, Area Planning Manager. EM read out Cllr Margaret Davidson's conditions which are below:-

Red John Pumped Storage Scheme

Conditions

Safety

Review safety of the reservoir and confidence that the village of Dores is protected.

Roads

Before work commences the Developers will agree and implement a Roads Improvement Plan. To be agreed with Planning Authority.

Landscape

Before work commences an agreed landscape plan plus timescales to be agreed with the Planning Authority and the Community. Additionally, a landscape consultant to be employed by the Developer for the duration of the project. For Energy Consent Unit and Public use, much clearer visuals to be prepared for years between 1 & 6 and for year 8.

Tracks

Before works commences a network of tracks to be agreed. The aim to be minimal visibility and to include minimal width and a dark coloured finish.

Work Camp

Layout and Size

Before work commences a suitable layout for the work compound is agreed with an aim of reducing visibility. The Developers to agree to a Workforce Travel Plan that will minimise the number of private vehicles accessing the site and hence minimising car parking.

Buildings

Before work commences, the size and finish of any above ground buildings to be agreed. Finishes to be of local stone and slate as standard.

The colour and size of temporary buildings also to be agreed with the Planning Authority.

Lochside Buildings

Before work commences, all above ground structures to be agreed, including finished appearance and landscaping.

Noise

Before work commences, a network of permanent Noise Monitoring Stes to be agreed with the Planning Authority. Noise monitoring to include devices at Ach Na Sidhe, and also at Abriachan and Lochend on the North side of Loch Ness.

Lighting

The work site to be a dark skies site. All security lighting to be movement activated.

Materials

(Spoil) Plan

Before work commences a much clearer plan be agreed about disposal of soil spoil within the site.

5.4 Dores and Holm Community Council Boundaries - letter sent to Alison Clark

5.5 Inner Moray Firth Development Plan - letter has been sent with everything that has been discussed. Charles Stephens to be asked to organise meeting.

5.6 Cycle Path Maintenance - CM sent a letter to Ali Nairne, Highland Council, about the maintenance and noted it was only the grass cutting that had been done.

A letter has also been sent to Tim Kirkwood requesting a meeting regarding Aldourie Estate. One of the items to be discussed is the maintenance of the footpath from Clune Farm to Millcroft.

5.7 Scottish Land Commission - CM and JM attended a meeting at HIE about community land legislation. CM is looking for volunteers to complete a survey. JM and IC have put their names down for this.

5.8 Scaniport Road Safety - SP has sent a letter to the HC asking for a site meeting to be arranged.

6. Planning - there was an application for erection of a biomass energy centre at Aldourie Castle, new signage at Makar Construction and removal of a condition of original planning application at house site at Innistore. Fiona Cairns advised the CC her future planning application for a log cabin style gift shop to be erected at the old petrol pump site at Dores.

7. Treasurer's Report - IC handed out the bank report and pointed out the £830 income from Groove Ness has now been banked and coins from the telescope at the beach, from just over a year, is showing the bank balance to be better. It was agreed to give £500 to the Gala towards toilets and security. The bank balance is now showing a healthier £8,981.99.

8. Correspondence -

8.1 - letter from Morgan Cowley about the parking at Dores junction and pavements. CC to write to John Taylor, Roads Department and the Police about this and arrange a meeting.

8.2 - letter received from Maria, Lochardil CC, about the suggestion for the designation of route 78 of the national cycle route as a new core path. Our proposal is on the other side of the road from the one she mentions. A copy of letter will be sent to Stewart Easthaugh.

8.3 - Operational Strategy - correspondence from John Taylor, Roads Operations Manager, regarding cleaning up landslides and slips caused after significant rainfall. This is a lengthy operation and the repairs operation will continue.

8.4 - correspondence regarding the Loch Ness 360 trail. A new website has been set up www.lochness-360.com and includes lots of information about the route.

8.5 - Tourism levy - it was pointed out there is an online consultation survey about this from HC. This is open until 20th October 2019 and will be sent to everyone.

8.6 - Since the last meeting another bin has been received for the rubbish at Dores Inn. This is being emptied one week on a Thursday and one week a Friday. If there is an overspill this will be bagged and picked up. A close eye will be kept on this. All head teachers had been written to make sure all pupils tidy up their litter. A letter will be sent to Adam about the rubbish, number of campervans and noise at events. If people raise concerns about this and wish to make a complaint they should speak to Adam himself or contact Environmental Health.

AOCB -

Noticeboard at bus stop is needing repaired and Gavin Finlay has offered to do this.

Gavin owns the buoys at the loch moorings and will be charging £5/night to use the buoys and money will go to the beach fund.

As the HC is on a budget for grass cutting Gavin made a suggestion if they provided equipment volunteers could maybe carry out the work in the village. EM to make enquiries.

After thanking everybody for attending EM closed the meeting at 2125 hrs.

Date of next meeting 7th October 2019 at 1930 hrs