

Dores & Essich Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting

Dores Parish Hall at 1930 hrs

Monday 9th March 2020

1.Members Present: Ella MacRae (Chair), Angus MacLaren (Vice-Chair), Simon Pillatt (Secretary), Iain Cameron (Treasurer), John Martin, Colin MacPherson, Duncan Manson, Anne MacLaren (Minutes Secretary), Cllr Margaret Davidson

Plus 4 members of the public – no apologies received

2. Minutes from last CC meeting on 20/1/20 – an amendment to add to AOCB in the Minutes – Lorien Cameron-Ross from Loch Ness Spirits provided a statement about her company's Intellectual Property dispute. She wanted to clarify the current position and ask DECC to consider if more needs to be done in the community to protect local heritage and provenance. The Minutes were then proposed by JM and seconded by AM.

3. Matters Arising -

3.1 Scottish Water – no updates to report but EM commented it will probably be late Autumn before work starts.

3.2 Affordable Housing – the land is being valued. A full update will be made at next meeting on 27th April. Gail Matheson to get in touch with IC.

3.3 Traffic Calming – nothing much to report but CC have agreed on a zebra crossing in the village.

3.4 Cemetery Extension – as in point 3.2 above

3.5 Inner Moray Firth Development Plan – everything the CC requested is on the development plan, the 2 areas for housing at the Hall along with the woodland between. IC informed us he is going to apply for a felling licence. This is a special landscape area and green space is to be confirmed and included in the green space audit.

3.6 Cycle Path Maintenance footpath/Clune Farm – Millcroft – CM commented maintenance has started on the cycle path. Regarding Clune Farm – Millcroft IC and JM attended a meeting on 6th March with Tim Kirkwood of Wildland who factors Clune and Aldourie Castle land. Also, Lavinia the Manageress at the Castle attended. A few questions and answers were discussed and they are as follows:-

It was asked if there were any plans to develop the zoned area at the north end of the village in the near future. The reply was Wildland inherited the site but is not an area they would like to develop. Once the other two sites are full this is the only building area left. The point was raised that the owner Anders Polvsen would be interested in a high quality affordable housing scheme. This is something well worth pursuing. Regarding Dores beach informal permission was granted to fence off the beach and track as an area for public amenity. However, it was felt that the existing situation was probably beneficial for owner and tenant farmer. They promised to tackle the knotweed clumps at top of beach.

Regarding the tidying and scrub clearance path from Millcroft to Clune Farm and onwards to McBain Park road, Lavinia is to walk this and discuss with Magnus Grant. For parking in the village in the Clune field alongside the road this was not greeted with enthusiasm although Lavinia to have a look. As there is a realistic alternative there is no need to push this at the moment. For access plan at Castle they seem to be accepting of the fact that people can more or less go where they want. There is scope for negotiation in view of the fact that they may well be applying for further planning consent to build a Gate Lodge by the main road. Tim and Lavinia were both thanked for agreeing to the meeting and hosting it.

3.7 Scaniport Road Safety/Path at Scaniport – Cllr Davidson still to arrange a meeting with both the Police and Roads Department. Regarding the path at Scaniport the CC are still awaiting a reply from Alistair Davidson, Bowls. SP to follow this up.

3.8 Designation of route 78 – SP and JM asked for removal of a condition in part of the agreement between Highland Council and owners of the land at Ness Castle.

3.9 Grass Cutting – EM has shown John Falconer the area of grass to be cut and he is preparing a quote for the CC.

3.10 ILI Pump Storage Scheme – there is nothing further to report at this stage and are awaiting a date for a meeting.

3.11 Loch Ness 360 – Graeme Ambrose to attend next CC meeting. There are volunteering packs available.

4. Police Report – report received as nil.

5. Planning – there was a planning application for 2 dormers to be installed at Aldourie Castle.

6. Treasurer's Report – IC handed out the bank report and pointed out there was £7,895.45 in the Bank. There is not much change from last CC meeting.

7. Correspondence – The South Loch Ness Tourist Group sent an email organising a litter pick covering as much of South Loch Ness as possible on Sunday 15th March. They are looking for volunteers to help with this and to contact Fiona Cairns.

Car Parking Charges – email received regarding a new policy to consider the introduction of charging in off-street car parks. The key aim of the new policy is to provide a clear and transparent way to consider the introduction of charges. Letter to be submitted to the Highland Council and CM to compose.

As agreed at the end of last CC meeting a meeting was arranged to move workload forward and the following was discussed:-

Christmas Tree – it was agreed not to plant a tree this year. It was suggested to move from the area it is usually placed and get another light socket. A quote for this will be arranged and to put in the connection. The £1,000 received from Malcolm Sutherland from the Loch Ness Etape could pay for this work and a new website.

To save money on website hosting it was suggested to get in touch with the UHI for advice as this should be a cheaper option.

Louise Robertson has been consulted with over the last 2 years regarding the new primary school to be built at Ness Castle.

The Development Trust will be approached to request payment for delivery of prescription charges for another year. This amounted to £416 in the current year.

AM and DM to stay on as CC reps to the Development Trust.

Strategic plan for Loch Ness was discussed at a meeting with Cllr Davidson and a number of interested parties. Various items were discussed one being community transport scheme run by Highlife Highland. It was agreed to support this. We are awaiting Minutes of the meeting.

AOCB

The subject of coronavirus was brought up. People living on their own may take up help with offers of shopping. EM will prepare a list of volunteers to help with this. A letter to be sent out to all members of the community and if anyone needs anything just to ask. CM suggested we should update database.

After thanking everybody for attending EM closed the meeting at 2110 hrs.

Date of next meeting 27th April 2020 at 1930 hrs