

Dores & Essich Community Council

(held virtually)

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday 9th August 2021 at 1930 hrs

1. Members Present: Ella MacRae (Chair), Angus MacLaren (Vice-Chair), Simon Pillatt (Secretary), Colin MacPherson, Duncan Manson and Anne MacLaren (Minutes Secretary)

Plus Iain Cameron, Councillor David Fraser, Adam De Silva, Ruth Bradstreet, Steve Feltham, Isobel Adams and Jeanette Murray

Apologies – Councillor Margaret Davidson and John Martin. Nothing to declare.

2. Minutes from last virtual CC meeting on 14/6/21 – they were proposed by SP and seconded by CM

Minutes from virtual AGM on 14/6/21 – they were proposed by DM and seconded by EM

3. Matters Arising –

3.1 Scottish Water – EM commented no updates. However, Cllr David Fraser has heard from Scottish Water and understands the disappointment. He will talk to EM about the situation.

3.2 Affordable Housing – letter received from Cllr Margaret Davidson and EM spoke to John McHardy from Housing and agreed terms with Church of Scotland. It's been slow but things are moving.

3.3 Cemetery Extension – as above.

3.4 Village Improvement/Traffic Calming – EM commented there may be some funding contributions from Scottish Water. She mentioned complaints about the traffic, speeding issues and lack of parking space. The Roads Department have agreed to put a sign at Strath Gardens for residents parking on one side of the road. Hopefully this will work.

3.5 Inner Moray Firth Development Plan – nothing to report

3.6 Scaniport Road Safety – there was an incident with an electric car which ended up on its roof on Friday 6th August but nothing further to report on this. Cllr Davidson suggests Cllr Fraser, CM and herself ask for an online meeting with Alistair McLeod and John Taylor from the Highland Council.

3.7 ILI Pump Storage Scheme – CM sent out an email with update and posted this on the community website. It was decided to have a separate meeting to discuss this and can now meet up for the meeting.

3.8 Broadband at Scaniport – CM to put information on website. The final scope and programme not yet determined. Waiting for Openreach to get back with more details.

3.9 Ward Boundary Changes – MSPS have been written to and received replies from 3 of them. Once all replies are received SP will circulate.

3.10 Dores Beach – Tim Francis is one of the Access Rangers working with Scottish Water and Police are to sort out the Loch Duntelchaig issues. EM commented there is a big improvement at Dores Beach. DM and SF are in agreement to this. Cllr Fraser commented the rangers are employed until the end of October, at the moment, but hopefully the Highland Council will keep one on. With debris coming in during the winter this may be possible. Adam commented on clearing the gorse. If this is caught up in fire there is a fire pump and hose in shed at Dores Inn. CC should look at payment of a shed and EM asked if Adam could price this up probably 4' x 5' size maximum.

There are no updates on the buoys at the beach per DM.

3.11 Fish Farm – EM thanked SP for sending out Cllr Davidson's email. She has spoken to the Planning Department and an enforcement notice was drawn up on Friday 6th August and should be delivered to them soon. It will take effect from 8th September and they will have the option of moving the cage back to the original site or to the new site where they have permission to move to. They can appeal or agree a time scale and could take up to 3 months. EM commented this is very disappointing. SF brought up about contacting a Public Services Ombudsman and informed the meeting that an activist group had contacted him. However, it was decided that community council will write to the Highland Council and Mowi directly. Cllr Fraser advised us to send letter to Chief Executive of Highland Council in the first instance. This being the first step in the complaints procedure. The community council agreed to do this and to make it clear to the Chief Executive that action needs to be done sooner rather than later to move the cages. SP and DM to put together a letter per EM. IC, landowner, then advised the meeting that he supported the community council and advised meeting that unless Mowi act immediately in moving the cages from the current site that he would not be renewing their lease when it comes up for renewal.

4. Police Report – this is from 7/7/21 – 7/8/21 – on 24th July there was a report of a vehicle driving carelessly on the single track road been Dores and Inverfarigaig. The driver has been warned of his conduct. On 1st August there was a report of vandalism to the gate at the private car park for Dores Inn. If anyone has information regarding this please contact the Police.

5. Planning – there have been a couple of planning applications – forestry access for timber extraction west of Pottery House, Dores and reinstate lost boathouse on existing plinth at Aldourie Castle. No comments were made.

6. Treasurer's Report – no update as Nikki, Treasurer, not present

7. Correspondence – numerous complaints were received regarding a wedding which was held recently outside at Dores. There was a firework display and loud music until 3am. Residents and Environmental Health had not been notified of this. EM to speak to the Farmer about the complaints. SP to make Police aware that residents could not get through to them on the night.

AOCB

Correspondence received from Candy Cameron regarding work which has been stalled since the start of Covid at McBain Park. SP has sent Candy an email with contact details who to get in touch with. IC advised meeting that they had made contact with the Clan McBain through their website.

Holm Mains Roundabout to Torbreck junction – JM attended an online meeting about the work by GCU/Cityfibre to be carried out. This work is now on hold but will probably be done overnight.

EM closed the meeting at 2050 hrs intimating the ILI Pump Storage Scheme meeting is to be held at the Hall. However, there is no wifi connection at the Hall.

Date of next meeting – 4th October 2021 at 1930 hrs