

Dores and Essich Community Council Minutes from Meeting held on 16/01/23

Apologies

Cllr David Fraser, Nikki Perrin, Anne Maclaren, Holly Kingham, Jennifer Fraser

Members Present Chair John Martin, Vice Chair Colin McPherson, Simon Pillatt, Ella Macrae, Duncan Manson, Adrienne Dempster, Claire Crosby, John Mackenzie

Members of Community present: Iain Cameron, Fiona King

Anything to Declare by Members None

Minutes from Previous Meeting held 21st November 2022

Correction to minutes handed out re. discussions on meeting with HC on the IMFLDP. Comment attributed to Iain Cameron saying he had **attended** the meeting was incorrect but he had received information **from** the meeting.

Minutes proposed by CM and Seconded by JM.

3. Matters Arising

CM and JM held a meeting with Cllr D Fraser last week in relation to ongoing points and will be alluded to on the various points going forward

3.1 Scottish Water

Works progressing at Torr Gardens and up the hill and soon towards Strath Gardens , workforce have been friendly helpful and co operative

Cemetery Extension

CM said that issues with Trees and SEPA appeared to have been the only things holding up progress but now seem resolved, so just a matter of waiting for the planning approval. Cllr D Fraser is to get in touch with the Cemetery Dept to get a meeting set up.

The Church is for sale and it was asked if there was any local feedback or interest in the sale. None noted. FK pointed out there was a lot of private interest and that the closing date was the end of this month.

3.4 Village Improvement

CM and JM had a meeting with Cllr D Fraser and this was one of the items discussed. IT was concluded that a sub committee of 3 persons to be formed to take further (EM, SP and Chair/ Vice Chair).

EM pointed out we have not heard back from JT probably due to his part time basis now and workload EM and SP to liaise and report back. There was a plan put through by R&T dept but it's too small to read (but indicated possible parking on the loch side of the main road). Discussed parking. JM mentioned parking machines with split revenue. EM mentioned previous discussion with Local tenant and Aldourie Estate of land next to the road for parking. CM said Colin Ross has been in touch with both and recalls the email discussion and will be in touch with Colin Ross to confirm.

3.5 IMFLDP

The CC can only now wait for the time when the appeals process starts to reiterate points made during the consultation ,will report on progress at that time.

IC mentioned not knowing what will happen is holding up replanting next to the hall on the proposed site. He went on to say it could be planted in stages and he wanted to have a community path from the bottom road to the top road next to the old sawmill area.

JM asked IC if the top part of the plan was rejected again would this affect the original bottom site. IC said no it is still the plan.

JM suggested getting a professional out such as the SCHAT to assess the site in its entirety being on a slope etc for building.

EM suggested getting John McHardy to look at it and provide advice.

IC mentioned that at a meeting held with Aldourie Estate JM and himself representing the CC the Aldourie Est owner had expressed an interest in building high quality homes on the site.

CM said whoever does it would take on the planning risk ahead of the IMFLDP being adopted. JM and IC said they can't see an issue and this was the position regardless of who the developer is.

3.6 Scaniport Road Safety

CM confirmed nothing further to report on the previous update, that signs had been ordered by HC but it should be soon.

3.7 ILI

JM asked IC if he had any recent contact from the Developer: nothing new to report.

On the same subject JM mentioned correspondence from Dalwhinnie CC re their request for information on a similar scheme proposed in their area.. CM has drafted a response with sources and pointers to information that was hard work for us to find as this was the first of its type, so it will hopefully help them going forward. Actual details on figures etc can't be provided due to confidentiality clauses but they will understand that.

EM asked if there was progress on getting legal representation for our ongoing ILI involvement: CM replied there were a couple under discussion and will report back.

3.8 Broadband

CM said that they have been told installation will now happen in the first half of 2023 so wait and see.

General discussion took place about broadband speeds in the village and Torbreck.

3.9 Dores Beach

EM asked if the voucher had been given to the young member of the community for the beach cleaning. JM said it is with the Treasurer and asked if EM would present it.

EM said she would and asked JM if he would write the official letter from the CC

Toilet

JM reported as of today Mon 16th Jan 2023 the public toilets would be closed due to a dispute between the Inn and HC . CM mentioned that the CC act as a broker between the parties so that a resolution can be found. The toilet for people with disabilities will still be available. It was noted that the key was missing again recently it was suggested a slide lock be installed instead of a key and JM said he would pass this on.

3.10 Fish farm

JM said that his letter to them had been replied to in a positive way and the traffic issues raised had been addressed and noticed by residents in the village. We have been invited to visit the fish farm and will invite them to a meeting in the future now that relations appear to be on better terms now.

3.11 Paths to School

The ongoing issue of the path from the village to the school was discussed at the meeting held by CM JM and Cllr D Fraser and is being pushed up the HC list. It had been suggested that a HC discretionary fund could be used towards the works but there would be a funding gap. The CC will approach the DCDDT to make an application for funding of the shortfall. The work would be carried out by a local contractor.

Aldourie Access

CM said that Aldourie Estate had taken on board our comments on their access plan for the estate apart from the link from the existing driveway to Darris road end. It was agreed that this was sensible due to pedestrian safety concerns.

4. Police Report

None received. We did receive a newsletter in the evening, circulated to CC members. Given events in the village, EM asked if we could approach

Police Scotland to get a local contact number that CC members could have but not 111 because by the time this route is taken it is sometimes weeks before it is addressed. JM will contact the Divisional Commander.

5.Planning

CM referred to an application for a garden room at 1 Loch Ness View (ref.22/05912/FUL) but does not see any issues for CC to comment on.

The project for five plots at Scaniport (17/02446/PIP) has made an application to change a planning condition. This has reopened consideration of planning gain and it was noted that funds were proposed to be applied to Hilton in Inverness. We will ask why this is the case when the application is in the DECC area (surely the gain should go to this area?).

CM will write to HC to enquire and make representations.

6. Treasurer's Report

NP emailed the report and JM read a summary

CM asked if the CC could invest in a projector in order that large plans and other visual information the CC receives could be projected. All agreed it would be helpful approx budget of £500. JM mentioned one they use at their church and would find out for CM the model etc so he can compare. CM to review options and report back.

7. Visit Loch Ness

Nothing new to report we have been receiving newsletter that are put onto the Community website will invite to a meeting during the year

8. Correspondence Nothing of note

AOCB

IC asked if there was any progress with the buoys in the Loch. CM said he had raised it as CC rep on the DCDDT meeting. DM advised this work was still proposed. JM suggested asking the fish farm if they would be able to assist: all agreed, JM to action.

EM said the prescription charges were still ongoing and that she passes the receipts onto SP for signature then passed onto Treasurer and is this still OK to continue. All agreed.

JM brought up the subject of a Locum consulting room in the village that he saw occurring in other areas and asked if it was something that could be explored for the area for the future? Agreed to consider further and establish interest..

EM asked about the Christmas tree lights and will contact HC to remove them.

Comment made about hedges in gardens over growing footpaths. It is the owners' responsibility to keep trimmed: HC can enforce but suggestion is to put a note round the village pointing out house owners responsibilities on hedges and also put it on the local Facebook page.

EM said the flower pots will be planted soon. The recent cold weather has prevented this.

EM asked if the bag and litter picker situation can be checked with those who have them to check they have enough and that pickers are in good condition.

CM mentioned thatDCDDT are looking for new directors and members and wished to highlight availability of grants for suitable projects: information only, for members to pass on.

Dates for meetings going forward:

Next Meeting 20th March 2023 7:30pm Dores Parish Hall, then 15th May, 17th July (inc AGM), 18th Sept, 20th Nov.

