

Dores & Essich Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday 17th July 2023 at 1930 hrs

1. Members Present: John Martin (Chair), Simon Pillatt (Secretary), Colin McPherson, Ella MacRae, Claire Crosbie, Adrienne Dempster,

Apologies Cllr Ballance Cllr Fraser Duncan Manson, John Mackenzie, Nikki Perrin, Jennifer Fraser, Holly Kingham Gavin Findlay, Anne MacLaren

Plus: 2 members of the public

No interests to declare.

2. Minutes from last CC meeting held on 15/5/23:- proposed by CM and seconded by EM.

3. Matters Arising – Housing in the Glebe next to cemetery no further news at moment but referring to previous conversation concluded a 50 50 mix of social rent/affordable housing. Question from floor about numbers , approx 16 but depends on plans.

3.1 Affordable Housing see discussion in 3

3.2 Cemetery Extension – formally approved by planning as of last week. CM had checked on HC Planning website if the car park could be extended ref points about parking provision in the village at the last CC meeting. Confirmed not possible due to drainage and existing trees. IC asked if the entrance to Glebe could have some parking bays and could it be the possible site for the Toilet facilities. Will be added to consultation comments

3.3 Village Parking – CM summarized points raised at last CC meeting, Temp car park, parking restrictions, extending existing temp car park at the Church, and reinforcing existing signage. AD commented the sign to the existing car park is getting overgrown and not very noticeable. CC noted seeing cars entering the car park and then leaving to park closer to the beach on the pavements.

CM went on to expand on the idea of a temp car park at the site used by Scottish Water next to the hall. It would be very quickly deliverable ,given how long other solutions will take. It was noted that cars have already been seen parking at the hall. IC said he has a machine on the land at the moment and could easily get it to grade the ground to make a rudimentary path to the hall from the site of the proposed temp car park.

JM mentioned the entrance to the temp car park would be within the new 20mph zone currently being rolled out in the village.

IC raised the issue of overnight parking. JM said this could be monitored and if it became an issue signs and locking off of park overnight could be arranged.

EM had been keeping a note of the number of cars parking on the bottom road and whilst the weather has not been good this month and holidays not yet in full swing between 13 and 19 cars parking daily. There has also been a van and trailer parked up for days on end with the trailer with a wheel lock. The van has sign writing on it and will be emailed to point out they are blocking the junction heading up the hill and it also overhangs the footpath and road.

3.4 Scaniport Road Safety – CM commented that there is now a hold up with the speed restrictions due to new criteria by the Scottish Government and the roll out of the 20mph scheme and the calculations of the speeds around these zones. It is to be reviewed at a meeting being held by HC next Thursday and CM has already made strong representations to continue with the previous proposal. The road marking will be done but as yet until the meeting we won't know what speed limit will apply. AD mentioned the number of near misses of local traffic slowing to turn off at their driveways through Scaniport and how vehicles have gone to overtake at speed the vehicles turning right. Other residents have reported the fear of the traffic travelling at excessive speed when walking on the footpath. CM concluded that Cllr D Fraser has been very supportive and proactive in the road safety scheme at Scaniport and will be keeping close attention to the ongoing situation.

JM raised the issue of the 60mph speed limit still applying to the Torbreck road and how a number of school children traveling to school on foot or bicycle are affected. CM said it was an example of anomalies ie there will be 20mp at Holm Burn then 60 mph on the Torbreck safer to school route. Wait and see the result of the meeting review by HC next week.

3.5 ILI Pump Storage Scheme – CM commented there is no change.

3.6 Dores Beach – Email from Tim Francis HC highlighting the issues with the beach and inviting stakeholders to form a liaison group. These would be land owners (Dores Inn and Aldourie Estate, the local community and the Highland Council. We said we would discuss this at this meeting. CC volunteered to represent the CC and all agreed and thanked CC for doing this.

3.7 Path to School HC have said they won't replace roadside bollards: discussion on whether two have already been done? JM will get clarification on this as the CC member looking into this on holiday.

CM mentioned the Community Payback Scheme Service confirmed they can help to maintain the path from the village to the Aldourie School but their resources are stretched. CM to follow up with Donald Coghill.

AD raised the issue of bushes overgrowing the path at Scaniport and could this be done also. CM said that this part was under the responsibility of HC and believed budget was available as part of the road safety project works. CM encouraged AD to try reporting issues through the HC online portal as it is recorded and should receive a response.

EM raised the moss still on the paths in the village that has been attended to after some time but that it wasn't successful and it was agreed that this would be included in the issue report through the portal to be made by AD.

3.8 Public Toilet – Latest update is that the Community Trust has offered funding for the existing toilet for July and August and then review again, with a note about cleaning rota sheets being completed.

JM went on to give examples of toilets he had visited in the Highlands including some supermarkets and noted they had no cleaning rota sheets. He then went on to say that contract with the HC and the toilet had some mistakes in it as it applies to Dores within their stated matrix as Dores was included as a 'rural' site and not 'high volume'. The CC will write to the HC as this may impact how much the HC will provide as their contribution towards the total cost of the toilet facilities.

JM then went on to talk about the Foyers new toilet facilities recently opened. Funded in part by HC and other stakeholders it was an example of what could be done but noted this had been as a result of almost 10 years of meetings work and pressure to get to completion. CC to investigate other options as we can't wait 10 years. CM to look at alternative sites with pros/ cons of each, with a view to then engaging professional help to take proposals forward.

All of this will be in the scope of the Community Action Plan/ Local Place Plan which needs to be complete by end June 2024. Sources of funding for this were discussed: whilst Government funding may be a possibility, so too were ILI (per Red John) and Dores Community Development Trust. Agreed that both will be approached and CM agreed to progress with tender invitations for the appointment of a consultant.

4. Police Report – None received: now a newsletter. We have made representations to the Police through HC Councillors as this is an issue with other wards in the Highlands. Specifically having a local contact to report to get an occasional visit etc. Have been directed to using the 101 service. There is a forum now being setup that will have CC members attend once every so often along with the Police and AD had volunteered to attend the next meeting that is held via Teams in September. The CC thanked her for her offer.

5. Planning – no current applications. It was noted about a potential breach of planning at a site in Scaniport which had been reported and was being managed by the owners affected. JM asked if any of the residents had contacted Planning Enforcement and confirmed it has been

6. Treasurers Report – Since last report the CC has made the following payments. £35 for ICO Data protection. at total of £395.39 refunded to SP for the costs of the annual hosting and domain registration and in addition for this year covering the next 3 years email provision for the doresonlochness.com domain. Domain £21.56 p.a, email £129.17 covers for the next 3 years, £244.66 hosting unlimited package.p.a.

£999 to Dores Inn Ltd for the toilets and £104 for the collection and delivery of prescriptions in the village

The CC has received £55.41 in digital donations through the newly set up QR code payment accepting service and £420 in cash donations. Funds currently stand at £8328.80 of which £7253.33 are unrestricted.

The treasurers post to be discussed in future as current treasurer will be on maternity leave in a short while .Election in November for all posts

EM mentioned she has been given the latest money from the visitor donations for the toilets and has ordered a pay in book.

7. Visit Loch Ness. JM had mentioned our (unsuccessful) attempts to contact the Chair of VILN to discuss local issues as we are paying them to attract people to the area but are left with the cost of the side effects. We have noted the current Chair has stepped down for another post so will write to the new post holder once known.

CC mentioned she had seen a number of local facilities promoted by VILN on their Instagram page and had been helpful in promoting a Pokemon fun day held in the village that proved to be very popular with local school children currently on holiday

8. Correspondence email noted in 3.6

AOCB

AD raised the flooding on the B862 especially this month with the rain we have had. There have been attempts at clearing the verges and ground gullies. CM pointed out that whole road drainage system is not fit for purpose. JM went on to describe the many water springs in the area that bring a lot of water into the ground and flood the road.

AD will again use the HC online portal as previous attempts to address issue have gone unresolved

AD had received good feedback about the Doresonlochness website on how much info was available on it.

CC mentioned that Gavin Findlay still has some new rope left over from the buoys installation if anyone wants to buy any.

IC mentioned that the community could have a think about the style of planting of trees in the area next to the hall. He has plans to make a path to the top road lined with trees and if there are suggestions for species of tree to be planted as this will have to be done soon.

JM closed the meeting at 21:11 hrs

Date of next meeting 18th September 2023