

Dores & Essich Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday 18th September 2023 at 1930 hrs

1. Members Present: John Martin (Chair), Simon Pillatt (Secretary), Colin McPherson, Ella MacRae, John McKenzie, Claire Crosbie, Duncan Manson, Adrienne Dempster, Cllr David Fraser and Anne MacLaren (Minutes Secretary)

Plus: 4 members of the public

Apologies – Nikki Perrin (Treasurer), Holly Kingham, Cllr Chris Ballance and Gavin Finlay
Nothing to declare.

2. Minutes from last CC meeting held on 17/7/23:- proposed by AD and seconded by EM.

3. Matters Arising –

3.1 Affordable Housing – JM understood there has been an amendment to the planning for car parking. (Post meeting note: application is for Roads Construction Consent, pursuant to planning approval). CM to press for meeting with John McHardy, Highland Council to establish project timing and scope.

3.2 Cemetery Extension – EM commented that locals are asking when the cemetery extension is starting and can it be utilised before the road goes in.

3.3 Village Parking – CM confirmed that the new car park at the cemetery extension could not be extended owing to drainage pond and existing trees to be retained. There was discussion about a temporary car park at the Hall and some objections were voiced and noted. EM remains concerned about street car parking with increased number of lorries passing through the village. CM proposed that the CC should apply for planning permission for a temporary car park and this was seconded by EM. A meeting will also be sought with Highland Council to discuss potential parking controls and this will be arranged through Cllr David Fraser.

3.4 Scaniport Road Safety – CM commented the signs and road markings for the 40mph limit have now been ordered and work is to be started soon. There was discussion about the need for speed limits on the Torbreck Road (safe route to school) and Torbreck to Holm B862 and agreement that these should be followed up separately.

3.5 ILI Pump Storage Scheme – CM commented there is no update regarding the project but that the Community Action Plan has confirmed funding.

3.6 Dores Beach – CC attended a meeting with Cllr David Fraser, Tim Francis, Adam and Lavinia to discuss fires and litter on the beach which are a concern. There was a big fire in June. Tim suggested more permanent stable signs go up showing no barbeques and fires. He indicated he may not be available next year as a beach warden. He proposes to create a firebreak at the end of the beach and get rid of gorse and to provide open space for a potential community project. If the gorse is cut this will have to be managed and maintained. Cllr David Fraser commented that guidance on this would be needed. CM commented that works such as gorse removal should be done by landowner who will have a duty of care to users. CC to get in touch with Lavinia about beach management proposals. There was general support for the role of the beach warden (and Tim Francis in particular) and DM agreed to write to HC to confirm.

3.7 Path to School – Concern was raised regarding safety of children on the shared use path to Aldourie, in that some children have reportedly been knocked by cyclists on the path. Could signage be provided? AD to send Cllr David Fraser an email

3.8 Public Toilet – JM commented that the Development Trust is currently donating £125 per month towards this. EM banked the donation box money received. JM suggested improved signage is needed. The HC money will drop to £100 per month at end of October and so a winter management strategy is needed. The meeting was in favour of retaining the current provision, in the absence of any alternative at present.

4. Police Report – AD attended a meeting on 5th September when only the 20mph speed limit roll-out was discussed. Resources are not available for Police to attend CC meetings. It was noted that the 20 mph signs are not being adhered to in Dores. JM to write to the HC about the dot matrix speed signs (still showing 30mph), which are reportedly for the street lighting team to action.

5. Planning – CM commented no new planning applications registered since the last meeting. AD commented on a landowner at Scaniport felling down some of their trees and some others without permission: a Tree Preservation Order is now in place. Tyres were put along the site entrance onto the B862 but the HC asked for the tyres to be taken away and rocks are now down. The ditch remains to be reinstated. CM agreed to write to HC. JM reported that a Local Place Plan should be presented to HC by 24th June 2024 and funding has been sought from the Development Trust. The need for careful management of costs was made and noted. This work will necessarily follow the Community Action Plan and CM requested volunteers for a small steering group to help oversee this.

6. Treasurers Report – report sent from NP; JM read this out stating there is currently £8130.91 in the Bank account with £7055.44 unrestricted funds. He commented that a new metal donation box is to be purchased to replace the glass box.

7. Visit Inverness Loch Ness – Chief Executive had been invited to attend a meeting. Difficult to get hold of them and JM will send a further letter repeating the request.

8. Meeting with Wildland (Aldourie Castle) – meeting took place with Tim Kirkwood (Chief Executive), Lavinia Turner, JM and CM regarding the Aldourie land allocated in the Local Plan for potential community use. Nothing was agreed but a short term licence may be considered once further proposals area available. None of the land is available for asset transfer.

9. Correspondence – work needing done to repair the steps to Torr Gardens – this is a Health & Safety issue and to be reported to HC via the online portal. If no early response, the CC will action directly owing to the safety risk.

There is a licensing application at Ness Lodges to hold outdoor events. There will be traffic generation issues. CM had proposed comments and SP will send letter to HC by 3rd October.

10. AOCB –

Curry night being held at Dores Hall on 30th September

Minutes to be installed on Notice Board

Citizen of the Year Award – EM nominated Calum Crosbie for this for all his work in the village

CC to send letter to Mrs Jessie Jappy, (Church organist) for recognition of her work with the Church .

Election notice to be put on Notice Board and election forms to be submitted by 3rd October. There needs to be a minimum of 5 and maximum of 8 people to form a new Community Council.

JM closed the meeting at 2125 hrs

Date of next meeting – 20th November 2023 at 1930 hrs