

Dores & Essich Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday 29th January 2024 at 1930 hrs

1. Members Present: Colin McPherson (Vice Chair), Simon Pillatt (Secretary), John MacKenzie, Duncan Manson and Anne MacLaren (Minutes Secretary)

Plus: 8 members of the public

Apologies – John Martin (Chair), Ella MacRae, Claire Crosbie and Fiona King

Nothing to declare.

2. Minutes from last CC meeting held on 20//11/23:- proposed by JMacK and seconded by SP

3. Matters Arising –

3.1 Statkraft Pumped Storage Scheme – Statkraft has now acquired ILI's interest in the Red John development. The CC has had some discussion with them regarding community benefit and other aspects of the project and a further meeting is due this week. A decision needs to be taken by the CC as to whether to seek to vary the current agreement reached with ILI. CM explained that the CC remains bound by a confidentiality obligation for the time being and so further discussion would take place in private after the meeting.

3.2 Affordable Housing – no update. John McHardy has now retired and will now get new contact.

3.3 Cemetery Extension – Alan Yates, Highland Council has replied to correspondence and work to start some time in 2024. The Community Council will be informed of progress made.

3.4 Village Parking – no update but CC will push for action while quiet and before tourist season.

3.5 Scaniport Road Safety – CM spoke to Colin Ross and signs have been delivered. Work delayed by the contractors because of the weather and illness. Work to start mid-February.

3.6 Dores Beach – Claire has been dealing with this and an email has been received commenting that Aldourie Estate is doing the work to clear top bit of beach. Tim Francis and Ella have agreed beach signage as previously discussed.

3.7 Path to School – Highland Council are reviewing signage this month. JMCK has cleared the path of leaves. We should contact John Taylor of HC Roads in the spring to remind need for ongoing maintenance.

3.8 Public Toilet – CM commented that JM is dealing with this and was going to speak to Development Trust about ongoing funding. .

3.9 Citizen of the Year Award – to be actioned

3.10 Letter to Jessie Jappy – to be actioned

4. Police Report – no report now received but access to newsletter available online.

5. Planning – no new planning applications. Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan - the objections to the amendments from the Community Council have been largely overruled and will need to be reviewed when drafting our Local Place Plan. The Loch Kemp pumped storage scheme is a substantial project and SP, JM and CM are to review relevant content and submit comments on behalf of the CC by 23rd February.

6. Treasurers Report – JMCK is now Treasurer and both he and SP are new signatories. JMCK cannot access the bank account yet until everything confirmed. Provisionally there is £6,983 of free funds in the bank account.

7. Provision of Care in Dores - JM is dealing with this and has reported positive discussions with Boleskine Community Care. Potential for sharing of these facilities as an interim measure are being explored.

8. Visit Inverness Loch Ness – there is now a new CEO and so we should send a repeat letter requesting a meeting.

9. Correspondence – no new correspondence. Noted that Adrienne Dempster has tendered her resignation from the CC. This has been acknowledged and the CC wished to record its thanks for her work to date.

10. AOCB –

1. The repair work at the steps to Torr Gardens has not been done yet but will now be done by community members.

2. Letter received from Yvonne Fraser regarding the new cycle path Holm – Torbreck. The Highland Council have commented it wasn't designed as a cycle path and so cyclists use this at their own risk. A reply will be sent to Yvonne.

3. Re. the clearing of bushes on the verge at top of Darris Road where a local boy gets the school bus, there will be an update prior to the next meeting – EM was to contact Lavinia at Aldourie Estate about this.

4. Clare Cuthbertson commented about the cancelled buses at the last meeting. She has since drafted a letter about this and sent to JM.

5. Clare Cuthbertson commented on the poorly maintained playpark and the climbing frame should be cleared of the growth around it. CC to approach Adam da Silva first and may get a few folk together to help clear this.

6. Fiona Cairns commented about Strathglass's bid for a proposed National Park in the Glen Affric/ Loch Ness area and should the whole of the Loch be included?. CM to look into whether the CC should comment.

7. Dores Hall WIFI has now been installed.

8. Dates of 2024 meetings – CM to speak to Heidi about finding 6 dates (ideally on a Monday) during the year, to include the AGM, and to liaise with Cllrs Fraser and Ballance.

CM closed the meeting at 2020 hrs

No date of next meeting to be confirmed.