

Dores & Essich Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday 18th March 2024 at 1930 hrs

1. Members Present: John Martin (Chair), Colin McPherson (Vice Chair), Simon Pillatt (Secretary), John MacKenzie, Claire Stirling, Cllr Chris Ballance and Anne MacLaren (Minutes Secretary)

Plus: 5 members of the public

Apologies – Ella MacRae and Cllr David Fraser

Nothing to declare.

2. Minutes from last CC meeting held on 29/1/24 - proposed by SP and seconded by CS

3. Matters Arising –

3.1 Statkraft Pumped Storage Scheme – Statkraft are now funding the Community Action Plan and will be setting up a Community Liason Group. They have agreed to pay for consultants Grantscape to help set up a mechanism for managing community benefit funds.

3.2 Affordable Housing – No update. John McHardy has now retired and CC requested advice of new contact from Cllr Chris Ballance.

3.3 Cemetery Extension – No update. Delivery still anticipated during 2024.

3.4 Village Parking – Discussion was held about temporary car park beside the Hall and future parking restriction south of the Inn. This would require a planning application to be made. IC would have no objection to land being used on a temporary basis. Some concerns expressed about preventing overnight parking by campervans. Cllr Ballance to arrange a meeting with the Parking Manager, Highland Council, to discuss potential parking restrictions.

3.5 Scaniport Road Safety – Work has now started as of today 18th March.

3.6 Dores Beach – Claire has been dealing with this and arranged a meeting with Tim Francis, Lavinia, Aldourie Castle and Highlife Highland. A litter pick has been arranged for 4th April to clear the top end of the path at new clearing including the path and beach area and are looking for volunteers. Claire has asked the Development Trust for some funding for drinks for people helping and asked the CC for funding to purchase a couple of extra long

litter pickers. This was agreed. A roadside litter pick has been arranged for 13th/14th April by Fiona Cairns. Cllr Ballance informed the CC that funding for the Countryside Rangers has been withdrawn by Naturescot.

3.7 Path to School – JMck commented that the surface is not good on the path. He is going to take photos and send these to John Taylor, Highland Council and request remedial work.

3.8 Public Toilet – JM making further application for funding to the Development Trust. .

3.9 Citizen of the Year Award – Still to be actioned

3.10 Letter to Jessie Jappy – Still to be actioned

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

5. Planning – CM commented no new planning applications. Comments were submitted regarding Loch Kemp Pumped Storage scheme by the due date.

CM commented that Scot. Govt. had allowed the appeal and granted planning permission in principle for three houses at the Old Mill, Dores site.

JM commented due to flooding and landslide recently in the area two houses at Millcroft were badly affected and households had to be evacuated with early return not possible.. John Mck has been in touch with Lavinia to clear the ditch. JM suggested an emergency fund to help out in the future: to be discussed with the Development Trust.

6. Treasurers Report – JMck is now Treasurer and both he and SP are new signatories. JMck commented all bills have been paid and currently there is £8,574.50 in the Bank account.

7. Provision of Care in Dores - The meeting heard an impassioned report by Norma Morrison regarding the dire lack of support for a neighbour and how as a volunteer she was having to give daily help. JM is dealing with this and has reported positive discussions with Boleskine Community Care. JM shocked to learn there was no provision of care in Dores itself. He has spoken to NHS Highland and commented there is money there for funding this. Ongoing.

8. Visit Inverness Loch Ness & Changeworks – No further invitations have been sent as yet. Ongoing.

9. Torr Gardens Steps – CM has been in touch with Highland Council twice about the work needing to be done but still no action. CM to give Cllr Ballance the reference number to enable further enquiries.

10. Darris Road End Verge – Work appears to have been carried out to clear an area of undergrowth., sufficient to provide a bus waiting area.

11. Buses – No new issues to report.

12. Playpark - Clare Cuthbertson commented on the condition of the playpark and the climbing frame should be cleared of the growth around it. CM had spoken to Adam (Dores Inn) about this: he is aware and has plans for maintenance but he would welcome any help from the community. CM to write further to Adam.

13. Dates of 2024 meetings – an email has been distributed with dates (13th May, 15th July, 16th September, 18th November).

14. Correspondence – Email received regarding Ultra X Scotland which is an international sports event business. The ultramarathon race will take place over 4th and 5th May finishing at Dores. They are asking the CC to help promote the event and encourage people down to the race for support.

15. AOCB –

It was discussed and agreed that money coming in from the Etape this year should be shared with the Hall.

Discussion took place re. the SSEN Beauly to Peterhead overhead line project which is proposed pass across the Scaniport area. Angus outlined discussions with Scaniport Estate and it was agreed that the least disruptive or obtrusive route would be through Cullaird Wood (north of the farm). CM had also circulated email to neighbours to this effect. Agreed that SP will submit representations to SSEN on behalf of the CC and it was recommended that individual residents submit their own comments as well.

JM closed the meeting at 2115 hrs

Date of next meeting – 13th May 2024 at 1930 hrs