

## **LISMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 08/09/22 at Lismore Public Hall**

#### **Present**

Archie McGillivray (AM) Convener; Mandie Currie (MC) Secretary; Donald MacColl (DM) Treasurer; Mark Willis (MW).

#### **In attendance**

Kieron Green (KG) A&B Councillor; Rosemary Barry (RB) Minute taker; Andy Hough (AH) representing the Community Trust and five members of the public.

#### **1. Apologies**

Andrew Vennard A&B Councillor.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

DM depending on ferry issues coming up

#### **3 & 4. Minutes of meeting held on 16/06/22 and matters arising**

These had been previously circulated and were proposed by MC and seconded by MW. There were no matters arising not already included on the agenda.

#### **5. Scottish government reaching 100% broadband**

Julian Wormleighton (JW) noted that he had not received any further communication on this. Stuart Ross volunteered that the cable had been laid which was affirmed by DM. MC said that according to her latest email early 2023 was now the given date for completion. DM added that there were different companies involved with the sea and land works.

#### **6. Health and social care**

Health care:

MC reported that the meeting with the medical practice had been interesting but not very fruitful, in terms of the community's requests. The one day per week of surgery time on the island had now been extended by one hour. A leaflet had been sent to those on the island registered with the GP Practice, outlining the various services being delivered, which was noted. Although it was mentioned that some services e.g. blood- taking for testing were being carried out on the island, some patients were still going to Appin as apparently not all procedures were being carried out on the island. Some also preferred to go to Appin, the problem being the limited surgery availability on the island.

It was noted that there was a need for evidence before following this up. MC noted that apparently, the Practice contract with the NHS did not specify a surgery on the island. KG stated that he had raised matters with senior officers in NHS Highland/ A&B Health & Social Care Partnership but his impression was that there was a shortage of GPs generally and that some work was being done by other people. It was symptomatic that branch surgeries were having reduced hours. JW praised the Community Council for continually pressing on these matters. Sebastian Tombs (ST) added that there was a need to be proactive and that people needed to be encouraged to ask to be seen on the island by, for example, a notice being put up outside the shop. DM queried why it was not possible for more flexibility. There followed a discussion on the leaflet that had

been sent. It was felt that it would be better if there was definitely a weekly Monday session with a nurse available plus the GP surgery on Thursday. JW queried if the surgery was short staffed. KG replied that he was not aware of this being the case. MC mentioned the possibility that if anyone left they might not be replaced and added that there was perhaps a need to be more objective. KG reiterated that nationally, GPs were a scarce resource and made the observation 'use it or lose it'. MC mentioned that the surgery did cover a large area. ***It was decided to bring the issue on to the next meeting for any action.***

Social care:

AH advised that he was aware that there was going to be a meeting between current care workers, their current employer and Argyll and Bute council. It was noted that there had been an idea for a pool of people who could 'assist' on a paid basis, as required. MC mentioned that the Council had indicated that they would look at this as a potential model and ***she would chase this up again.*** MC commented that if the meeting AH had referred to was concerning contracts it was not appropriate for the Community Council to attend, unless specifically invited. AH felt that the wider community should be represented.

## **7. Ferries**

### **a) Ferry update**

The ongoing issues of tidal timetable changes; restrictions to carriage of fuel lorries after dark and the limit to numbers of vehicles carried were discussed. The tidal restrictions now include high as well as low tides. The cancelling of the last ferry created problems for residents who work on the mainland and had left visitors stranded who had not booked online and were not aware of the situation for their return journey. It was generally agreed that the current boat was not fit for use. JW queried the cost of tying up at the North pier and felt it was necessary to dig out the undertaking that had been made to improve the Oban slip. KG replied that funding had been earmarked for a study but it had dropped out of being actioned. DM reiterated that the service was not fit for purpose. ***MC to reiterate the request for additional ferries to make up for cancellations and to enquire what was happening about the Oban slip.***

DM mentioned the difficulty in getting additional ferries and JW brought up the Ferry Users Committee. MC replied that there was the Calmac Community Board but queried how useful this was for islanders. KG stressed the need to pursue the matter with both Calmac and the Scottish Government. There is a new Area Manager in place at Calmac and it was suggested that a meeting with them was important, once the new LCC convenes after the elections. KG made it clear he was happy to support the island in their concerns and that if Calmac was written to, his support could be mentioned. He also suggested that other Councillors could be approached. He stressed that ultimately, it was the Scottish Government that held ultimate responsibility.

### **b) Oban harbour**

KG mentioned that the intention for the harbour was to coordinate the various traffic that was using the bay area.

### **c) Achnacroish pier**

MC queried the intentions for the pier. AH reported on behalf of the Trust that they were looking into the regeneration of the pier area and that a survey was required into the condition of the pier. A&B had stopped any maintenance and could no longer guarantee its safety. The cost of a qualified survey was expensive, in the region of £10,000.

## **8. Boreholes**

MW reported that there had been 38 requests but some were not achievable and some had been withdrawn. It was a slow process. There needed to be a dry spell to do that water divining and site checks. Once a list had been finalised, MC would liaise with Glensanda about availability of the drilling rig.

**9. Church** AH reported that the working group had met and that there had been a meeting the previous Monday the minutes of which would be available next week. The intention was to then call a meeting in October to report on progress. MC said a structured consultation exercise was required and queried whether the church could be secured without a common vision. ST suggested that it was a huge challenge but it could be viewed very positively.

## **10. Education leadership model**

It was noted that this scheme was not happening, as proposed in the model that had been consulted upon.

## **11. LCT funding**

This was referred to the first meeting of the new council.

## **12. New correspondence**

AH brought up the new planning guidance on short term lets. MC mentioned that this was still at the planning stage and that LCC had decided not to respond when Scottish Government initially consulted on the issue. KG added that there had been a consultation on the overall strategy. Legislation was coming in on October 1<sup>st</sup> regarding any properties that fitted the criteria in control areas to be registered by April next year. The size of the property was relevant and also such matters as how many can stay overnight and was it the owner's own home or separate. This requirement was separate from planning regulations. KG went on to say that there was to be a further consultation on control areas and that the Community Council could be a part of that response. He further advised that the Transient Visitor levy (aka the tourist tax) could be back on the table.

## **13. AOCB**

There was a mention of the problem of overhanging branches on several sections of road. KG explained that this was likely to be the landowners responsibility. The matter of the wall on the Achnacroish brae was also brought up and the difficulties encountered by some large lorries in negotiating the bends and gradient. KG replied that if it was unsafe there was a need to consider options. The pot holes, especially those outside the shop were also mentioned (this has subsequently been sorted).

The date of the next meeting was not arranged due to the forthcoming elections. JW thanked the Community Council especially for its efforts during the pandemic.