

North Knapdale Community Council

Minutes of the North Knapdale Community Council meeting held on the 20th November, 2018 at 7:30 pm at Achnamara Village Hall:

In attendance: Iain Ritchie, Andrew Wilson, Richard Stein, Catherine McLennan, Heather Williams, Iain MacNicol, Lynn Johnstone, Fiona Kalache, John Aitchison, Susan Osborn, Christine Richards, Charlotte Goodlet, Chris Todd, John McArthur, Stephen Devere, Pete Creech, Steve Benham, Mark Smith Hazel Manson, Donald Carmichael, Donald Booth, Alan Hutchison.

1. Welcome: Iain Ritchie welcomed the assembly.
2. Apologies: Councillor MacMillan, Grant Lees, Ross Ryan, John Grafton, Fergie and Ann Anderson, Mike and Norma Kelly, Graham and Kate Walker, Sue Hillman, Chris Purslow.
3. Approval of minutes of last meeting: These were approved. Proposed, Richard Stein, seconded, Iain Ritchie.
4. Police Report: Sergeant Iain MacNicol:
 - i) Tayvallich had seen the arrest of an individual in breach of bail conditions, an RTA at Keills resulted in a car ending up on its roof leading to a charge of Carless Driving, and a family dispute was successfully resolved. Crinan saw a cancelled call out to a confused elderly man. Bellanoch was the scene of serious injury to a cyclist. Police attended Achnamara to the aid of a lost and disorientated deer stalker and, on another occasion, to a false burglar alarm.
 - ii) Telephone and Email Scams continue to be prevalent across Argyll: The best advice is to be aware of scams and don't believe unexpected callers on the phone who

tell you about an issue with your Bank account or Computer etc.

The latest scam is often directed at companies as well as individuals and is where False emails are being received asking for bank account details to be changed to pay wages or bills into a new account. The email appears to be genuine and appears to come from a genuine contact. Always check such emails by phone with someone who would have sent the email.

More info and advice can be found at

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/keep-secure-online/>

5. Matters arising/ correspondence: these would be covered among the other topics.
6. Mid-Argyll Youth Development Services: Lynn Johnstone and Fiona Kalache. Fiona and Lynn outlined the great work that MAYDS do in the community. MAYDS is a charity and a company limited by guarantee. They cater to the needs of those 0-26.
 - i) They offer diversional and sports activity to youths: things such as swimming, drama and so on. They offer drug and alcohol education. The group help MAKI Young Carers.
 - ii) Their remit includes employability; trying to help those not in education, employment, or training. They have helped 25 into schemes, and 10 of these are in fulltime employment, and 8 are serving apprenticeships.
 - iii) They have managed to secure funding to bring a trained counsellor to the area to help with mental health and self-harm issues. Lynn Johnstone is meantime training as a counsellor in order that local provision will be available.

- iv) MAYDS rely on charity and lottery funding. For example, Whisky Action Fund supports Street MAYDS on a Friday and Saturday night to approach youths who are drinking and offer them safer alternatives.
- v) MAYDS have gradually increased their space from the original building opposite the Community Centre into the builder's yard next door; they have now acquired the land up to the Argyll Hotel.
- vi) They have plans to build a covered skate park and climbing wall and a youth play area. They had brought with them very impressive drawings of what the new facilities will comprise. They are putting in for planning next week. They have funding from the Lottery, Leader, and the Robertson Trust to meet the £800,000 cost.
- vii) Iain thanked the MAYDS team for their interesting presentation and the crucial services they provide.

7. 'Argyll Coasts and Islands', as a Mission Blue 'Hope Spot'. <https://mission-blue.org/hope-spots/> presented by John Aitchison:

- i) Mission Blue was founded by renowned U.S. oceanographer and marine biologist, Sylvia Earl. There are 7 Hope Spots in Europe; 5 in the Mediterranean, and 2 in Scandinavia.
- ii) Hope Spots are a designation which recognise the importance of the marine environment in the lives of communities. The applications are community led, and recognise the economic importance of sustainable development.
- iii) The applications are community led, and recognise the economic importance of sustainable development, as well as the vital role the health of the sea plays in underpinning all such development. Hope spots are intended to inspire other communities worldwide to value and protect marine life in their own local waters.

- iv) In this case the application has been led by Friends of the Sound of Jura, Save Seil Sound, CROMACH, and CAOLAS. The area under consideration is from Loch Sunart to the Sound of Jura. It unites a number of Marine Protected Areas. Hope Spot status is an accolade which should enhance an area's appeal to tourists. This application is the first in the UK and should gain significant media coverage if successful.
- v) Local waters are the 2nd most bio-diverse in the UK after St Kilda. The designation has no statutory influence. It recognises that sustainable seaweed harvesting, creel fishing, diving, and tour businesses etc. enhance the area. Hope Spot status is a representation of an area's pride in its marine assets. It is an international recognition of quality.
- vi) Richard Stein proposed, and Heather Williams seconded, that NKCC support this Mission Blue Hope Spot application.

8. Achnamara update: 2 years ago, Achnamara Village Hall Committee (AVHC) surveyed residents regarding their views on the future of the community.

- i) The survey looked at the future of the Achnamara School (mothballed,) the Hall, surrounding woodlands, and the pier. AVHC is currently the vehicle for progressing ideas, but eventually they hope to hand the work to Achnamara Community Trust.
- ii) A meeting is to be held next week to look at how views have developed. This is to be run by consultants in order to ensure there is no bias.
- iii) Ideas include (should the school close permanently) other uses for the school building, acquisition of the forestry around the village for woodlots, woodland crofts, and as a source for wood fuel, developing a hydro scheme on Barnagad burn, exploring new housing ideas, and improving the water sports offer around the pier and foreshore.

- iv) The Achnamara Hall land lease from Forestry Commission Scotland has 2 years to run. FCS have now granted a 2 year lease on the shed next to the hall. The shed will be used by Achnamara Rowing Club to build a skiff over the winter.
 - v) A defibrillator has been installed at the Hall.
 - vi) A decision is still to be made regarding Ashfield Primary School. There is a key meeting in December to decide the next move (the Community Services Committee meeting of Argyll and Bute Council.)
9. Planning issues: There have been very few local applications recently.
- i) The planning application for the pulling up of boats for storage and/or maintenance has been withdrawn. The situation reverts to the *status quo ante*.
 - ii) The planning application for housing in Crinan has been approved for the development of 2 houses. A pond is to be included for amphibians.
10. Knapdale North Opportunity Trust: There are no new developments.
11. Parking: Bus turning at Tayvallich Hall, bus shelter....., line painting at Tayvallich Shop.
- i) Line painting is now handled by contractors. The line painting at the Tayvallich Shop carpark is on the list, but road painting is prioritised.
 - ii) The situation regarding the parking at the Hall is dependent on the negotiation of the ownership of the land on the far side from Tayvallich Estates.
 - iii) New rules for short stay at the Shop car park require a Traffic Regulation Order. The Roads Department are short staffed, and the Order is in the pipeline.
 - iv) The bus route will need to remain as it is for the time being. The Hall have agreed to allow access and parking for builders' vehicles while the new house north

of the Hall is being built. Also, any restoration of the old route would require resolution of the parking issues.

- v) The Council have taken on board the need for a bus shelter. Tayvallich has been included on the list for such a development. This, of course, is resource dependent.

12. Road issues: Keills sign missing at Tayvallich Hall junction. Achnamara and Crinan road surfaces.

- i) The Keills sign will not be replaced. The need for it has been superseded by better signposting at Carsaig junction.
- ii) Despite Councillor Taylor's efforts, and assurances from the Roads Department, Achnamara road is still in poor repair. Expensive to repair subsidence on the canalside near the former Cairnbaan Stores has soaked up most of the Council's local road budget. Achnamara road remains a priority.

13. AOCB: Crinan Canal management too busy to attend.

- i) Despite an invitation being sent back in August, Scottish Canals were unable to attend this meeting. It was agreed to ask Scottish Canals to attend the next meeting to be held in **Crinan**. This will likely be Tuesday, May 21st 2019. Ample time is available now for Scottish Canals to ensure that someone will be able to attend.
- ii) Councillor Taylor doubted that much action would be taken in relation to Dunardry bridge due to the expense involved.
- iii) Councillor Taylor suggested that the Convener should arrange to meet senior staff from Scottish Canals when they were in Ardrishaig supervising developments there. Councillor Taylor would help to arrange this if requested so to do.
- iv) On another matter: flooding was reported at the Gleann a Gealbhan. A drainage pipe has 'been left open' after

recent amelioration work. Councillor Taylor agreed to follow this up if the Secretary reported it.

14. Date and venue of next meeting. Tayvallich Hall, February 19th, 2019 at 730pm.