

North Knapdale Community Council

Minutes for the North Knapdale Community Council meeting held on the 22nd November, 2016 at 7:30 pm at The Crinan Hotel:

In attendance: Andrew Wilson (Secretary/Treasurer), Catherine MacLennan, Kirsten Logue, Ailsa Raeburn, Heather Williams, Donnie MacMillan (ABC), Donna Mallan (Scottish Canals), Chris Breslin (Scottish Canals), Kevin Williams, Nick and Frances Ryan, Nick and Courtney Smith, Gordon Doughty, John Marsden, Will Self, John Aitchison, John Dunlop, Lottie Goodlet, Dougie Chirnside, Rory Day.

1. Welcome. Catherine MacLennan welcomed everyone.
2. Apologies: Iain Ritchie, Mike and Norma Kelly, Fergie and Anne Anderson, Ross Ryan, Christine and Geoff Richards, Nick Walker, John McArthur, Chris Purslow, Sue Hillman, Andy Grant.
3. Approval of minutes of last meeting. These were approved.
4. Heather Williams and Ailsa Raeburn were welcomed onto NKCC.
5.
 - i) Kames Fish Farms proposed farm at Dounie was discussed. Attention was drawn to Richard Luxmoore's analysis of the idea, and to the analysis of Ewan Kennedy of Save Seil Sound. Rory Day of Craignish Restoration of Marine & Coastal Habitiat (CROMACH) was introduced.
 - ii) Dougie Chirnside pointed out that he had researched the fate of the previous farm on this site. It seems that

plagues of jellyfish had crushed the nets and suffocated the fish.

- iii) The importance of the Marine Protected Area for skate was raised. The presence of 5,000 tons per annum of fish effluent would surely have some impact. The farm itself would likely have a destructive influence on the last thriving salmon and sea trout river on this coast as it would encourage the presence of sea lice.
- iv) Dougie Chirnside had dived the site, and he found that towards the coast the seabed was thriving, but that further out, the bottom had been dredged for scallops. The MPA only closes the area to dredging for 6 months in a year.
- v) John Dunlop raised the importance of fish farming to businesses such as Crinan Boats. This was noted, and the economic importance of fish farming was recognised but, it was suggested that this was perhaps not the best site.

6 Matters arising/ correspondence. None

7 Planning issues. None

8 Road issues.

- i) Parking in Crinan: new ticket machine: Chris Breslin addressed Scottish Canals' response to the issues raised. SC directors had decided that the ticket system would be trialled for 1 year. Money raised would go toward repair of the car park. This would include remarking spaces to increase capacity. The machine had already been emptied, and had produced £1,000. SC estimate the machine could produce £10,000. If the machine was successful then the option of the community taking on the car park might be examined. The urban feel of the blue light on the ticket machine and new line markings was raised. Chris reminded the assembly that there was no means

of enforcing the charges, and that SC was keen to issue resident permits. The problem of rogue parking on the narrow roads around the village was raised.

- ii) The SC toilets are not currently open to the public. The cost of extra cleaning and extra septic tank emptying were raised as reasons. It was noted that £10,000 per annum would mitigate the cost of this. It was noted that there is a council toilet, but that it does not offer disabled access. SC would discuss the possibility of taking on toilet provision with ABC. Councillor MacMillan will follow this up.
- iii) The canal has been closed on the September bank holiday weekend for some time. Frances Ryan suggested that this caused yachts to visit Craobh and Ardfern instead. It was agreed that the cost of opening might be mitigated if opening was jointly marketed by SC and Crinan businesses.
- iv) Parking at Carsaig: Tayvallich Community Company has bid for the land that the visiting campervans have been using. This includes the turning area for the bus. It is hoped that a successful resolution of the bid will help point towards a solution to the campervan problem.
- v) Parking at Tayvallich Village Hall. Andrew Wilson read the communication received from the Hall Committee. He pointed out that Leachive was not providing overflow parking, and had no interest in so doing. Any resolution of the problems with the bus turning, the continuing disuse of the official bus stop, and the overflowing of the glass bin, will require discussion with the Hall Committee. Ownership of the toilet side of the car park needs to be established. Donnie MacMillan said that the community needs to prioritise its concerns, and that we could then meet James Ross of the Roads Department to come up with a solution.
- vi) Councillor MacMillan confirmed that work on the dangerous state of Arichonan Hill and its drainage should begin before the end of the month.

9. Further Scottish Canals developments. Chris Breslin stated that the remaining sections of the towpath were to be metalled as a

result of a further grant from Sustrans. The work was to begin soon. Ardrishaig was to get safety lighting demarcating the canal edges. Bids have been submitted for development of the old Gleaner site. Meanwhile Donna Mallan was working with Kilmartin Museum and others on pop up events on the site. She noted that 1572 transits was an increase of 5% in traffic or about 70 transits. She has been working with Ken McVeigh of Sail/Cruise Scotland to organise flotillas through the canal to head toward Tobermory. She has been meeting yacht clubs and visiting boat shows and getting the canal message out there. The state of the Crinan jetty needs to be examined as it has been badly storm damaged. Chris Breslin has been in discussions with Hugh Fife about connections between the canal basin and the woodland walks.

10. Knapdale North Opportunities Trust. Nominate a trustee for MAI: Iain Ritchie was approved as the NKCC choice for Trustee.
11. AOCB: Ailsa Raeburn said that Achnamara Village were keen to look at local views on the future of Achnamara school, church, and hall. Might there be a role for KNOT in this?
12. Date and venue of next meeting. The next meeting of NKCC will be at Achnamara Village Hall on February 21st, 2017 at 730pm.