

North Knapdale Community Council

Minutes for North Knapdale Community Council meeting which was held on the 23rd August, 2016 at 7:30 pm at Tayvallich Village Hall:

In attendance: Iain Ritchie (Convener), Andrew Wilson (Secretary and Treasurer), Ross Ryan, Kirsten Logue, Heather Williams, John McArthur, Fergie Anderson, Anne Anderson, Mike Kelly, Norma Kelly, Donald Carmichael, Christina Carmichael, Kay Miller, Andy Grant, Roly MacArthur, Hans Unkles, Richard Luxmoore, Will Self, Mark Smith, Sue Hillman, Chris Pursloe, Duncan Abernethy, Iain Gibson, Lynne Milne, Geoff Richards, Christine Richards, Stuart Cannon, Councillor Donnie MacMillan, Councillor Sandy Taylor.

1. Welcome. Iain Ritchie welcomed the assembly.
2. Apologies: Ailsa Raeburn, Catherine MacLennan, Chris Perring, Graham and Kate Walker.
3. Approval of minutes of last meeting and AGM. These were approved.
4. Mr Stuart Cannon, Kames Fish Farms, MD: proposed development at Salen Mor Bay, north of Carsaig: Stuart Cannon delivered a presentation on their proposal to develop this site.
 - i) Kames has experience fish farming worldwide. They manufacture fish farm equipment as well. They specialise in farming large rainbow trout in salt water. Kames have 20+ employees in the UK, and support other suppliers and hauliers.

- ii) They sometimes contribute funds back into the communities in which they work.
- iii) The proposal at Dounie is for a 12-14 cage farm and feed barge. The cages would suit trout or salmon and could produce up to 2,500 tonnes of fish per annum. Rainbow trout are the preferred option at present. The feed barge could be bright and obvious, or grey and discreet. This would depend on planners' preference. Dounie would work in conjunction with a site at Craignish- where the small fish would be raised. Dounie would be fallow for up to 8 months at a time at this stage.
- iv) Stuart was keen to emphasize that the site would be hard to see even 1 kilometre away at sea, and would only be seen when one was nearby from the shore. There would be 'little visual impact,' but the site would have to be lit in accordance with Northern Lighthouse Board diktat.
- v) Fish would start at 100-120g at Craignish for 6-7 months, and then be moved by wellship or helicopter to Dounie at about 500g. They would be at Dounie for 16 months and then be harvested. The site would then be fallow. The currents are too strong for farming in most of the Sound of Jura, but not at Dounie because a small salient which provides shelter. Cage integrity is good. The cages are designed to withstand 4x predicted forces. The site would employ 4 full-time and 2 part-time. [including Craignish?] Most activity would be by sea.
- vi) A ship would deliver to the feed barge. The barge holds up to 160 tonnes of food. A workboat would be used on a daily basis, and would come from either Crinan or Carsaig. The feeding process is almost silent, and the hours on the site would be a maximum of 5am-8pm in summer.
- vii) Fish farming is regulated by the Scottish Government and Marine Scotland. They are concerned with licensing, and about escapees and medication. The ground is leased from the Crown Estate, who demand

that all equipment is removed (but not the footprint) if operations cease. SEPA (Scottish Environmental Protection Agency) conduct Benthic analysis on the bottom under the cages, and model the dispersal of effluent from a site. They are concerned with medicating for sea lice. A production of 2,000 tonnes of fish per annum would produce up to 5,000 tonnes of faeces alone. Stuart pointed out that the steep sea bed and tide would flush much of the waste away. The floor raised the accuracy of models in the Sound due to the strong tides, and it was conceded that models are not perfect, but give a good indication of the likely impact. The safety of skate in the Marine Protected Area below and downstream of the farm was raised.

- viii) SEPA has precautionary models for sea lice. Vaccines are used and not anti-biotics. In feed medications are favoured. The floor raised the dangers to wild salmon and trout making their way to important systems like the River Add. The company would also take account of other important species such as cetaceans, seals, birds and otters. They consult Historic Scotland, SNH, West Highland Anchorages and Moorings (WHAM), the community, land owners, and river users. The cages are protected from predation by nets underneath. Persistent seals might require acoustic devices to scare them off. The most modern of these should not annoy other species. Kames has had to resort to shooting seals only once at Shuna, Loch Craignish in the last three years.
- ix) Large fish mortality events were discussed. These are most often caused by jellyfish strike or algal blooms. These would be removed by wellships. Regular mortalities are dealt with on an on-going basis, and are removed to be macerated and incinerated.
- x) Stuart concluded that 50% of UK fish consumption is now farmed. Fish farming contributes £1,000,000,000 to Scotland's economy. It is second only to whisky. This

project has projected fixed costs up to £1.5 million, and working capital of £2.5 million.

- xi) Iain thanked Stuart. He noted that there were concerns in the room about the ocean floor, the farm's interaction with other animals and fish species, and the Marine Protected Area. He stated that NKCC would welcome ongoing discussion. Would a site visit be possible? Iain hoped that NKCC would be kept up to date. Stuart stated that more formal scoping would continue for 3-4 months.

5. By-Election: forms would be issued in September. Ailsa Raeburn and Heather Williams are standing. It was noted that it would be welcomed for others to stand. We still have one space free to have an uncontested election in the autumn.
6. Matters arising/ correspondence. It was noted that Julie Young of AICCT had been in touch to thank NKCC for joining, and it was noted that AICCT was to be a main driver of the Council's Single Outcome Agreement Outcome 5: to improve the health and well-being of the people of Argyll.
7. Should NKCC join Heart of Argyll Wildlife Organisation? This would cost £30, and it was agreed.
8. Planning issues (if any.) Nothing of note.
9. Road issues. Parking in Crinan and Tayvallich. Crinan: new ticket machine. Tayvallich: Hall car park, access to glass recycling, cars at Jetty, turning circle at Carsaig blocked by camper vans etc.:
 - i) The new ticket machine at Crinan had been installed by Scottish Canals without notice or consultation. A charge of £2 a day is to be levied. The NKCC meeting felt that the machine was an unnecessary innovation. A meeting is to be held in early September with the Canal. It is

hoped that, at least, a short stay would be free, and that there would be a permit for residents. Consideration should also be given to fishermen.

- ii) The Tayvallich Hall Carpark had been full for a large part of the summer. This had caused issues relating to the emptying of the glass recycling which had over-flowed. The 425 bus had been unable to safely turn due to volume of parked cars, and was no longer stopping at the shop. Cars had been abandoned at the front green, and it was felt that this could impede emergency vehicles. Cars here also inhibit the launching of boats. Double yellow lines should be considered at the green side of the road. The Church has been blocked for long periods. Much of the extra parking is related to the Jura Ferry, and it was felt that Nichol could be clearer with his passengers about the best parking options in the village. NKCC need to establish who owns the land around the Hall Car Park, and examine options for extra (payed) parking in the playing field or elsewhere.
- iii) Campervans and tents have proliferated at Carsaig Green. Some campers had been abandoned for days, while people were on Jura. Hygiene issues were raised relating to people camping so far from public toilets. Local people are losing amenity due to this impromptu camp site. The bin lorry had been unable to get through, and buses have had difficulty turning. In order to proceed, NKCC need to establish who owns this ground also.
- iv) The C42 Achnamara road had had some work done. Councillor Taylor, who had asked for this, was hopeful the road would be included as a capital project for next year. This should lead to further improvement.
- v) There are issues with flooding and erosion near Arichonan on the Tayvallich road. Where FCS has recently cut, a considerable flow of water has developed across the road. This will lead to a serious ice danger on a steep hill in winter. The flow of water is steadily

eroding the verges, and steep cliffs have developed at the side of the road. A dangerous bend warning at the bottom of the Gleann a Gealbhan would be helpful.

- vi) The passing place poles on the Tayvallich road are few and far between. It would be desirable if these could be replaced by passing place signs.
- vii) Further speed restrictions in Tayvallich were discussed as unlikely in May 2015. Would some sort of flashing 30 mph sign be welcomed as people arrive in the village?

10. Knapdale North Opportunities Trust. It was noted that this had been incorporated, and that Andy Grant had agreed to be Company Secretary.

11. AOCB:

- i) It was noted that Achnamara needs to come up with a site for a glass recycling point. This may particularly be missed as we approach three-weekly refuse collection at the end of the year.
- ii) Tayvallich Bay Association has applied to renew its license for the harbour set-up as it currently stands. NKCC would be consulted on this.

12. Date and venue of next meeting: Crinan, venue to be confirmed, on Tuesday 22nd November, 2016.