

North Knapdale Community Council

Minutes for North Knapdale Community Council meeting held on the 27th January, 2021 at 3:00 pm on Zoom:

In attendance: Kevin and Heather Williams, Fergie Anderson, Christine Richards, Norma and Mike Kelly, Ewan Halley, Lynne Milne, Richard Stein, Andrew Wilson, Louise Logue, Iain Ritchie, Ross Ryan, Catherine MacLennan, Dougie Philand, John McArthur.

1. Welcome: Iain Ritchie, Convener, welcomed those attending. Thanks were expressed to Sandy Taylor whose Zoom we were using. Note was made of the disruption to the previous days Dunadd CC meeting which was gatecrashed. The waiting room system Sandy set up shout prevent interlopers.
2. Apologies: Sgt Iain MacNicol, Sandy Taylor, Sue Hillman, Chris Purslow
3. Approval of minutes of last meeting (18/02/2020): These were approved.
4. Police Report: The Police report provided by Sergeant MacNicol was read out. It will be attached with these minutes.
5. Council Update: Councillor Philand gave an update.
 - i) There is great concern about about budget cuts which may be even more deep this year.
 - ii) Covid vaccination has got underway, which is encouraging. Councillor Philand was disappointed to note that 16 doses had been wasted. [This has, on investigation been confirmed as untrue.]
 - iii) The Ward boundary change proposals were discussed. It is proposed to include Tarbert and Skipness in Mid-

Argyll and increase the number of councillors from 3 to 4. While these proposals are preferable to the previous one whereby NKCC would join Kintyre, it was asked if this much enlarged ward was representative, and if 4 councillors could adequately cover it.

- iv) Councillor Philand has had a number of queries about pylon workers coming from outwith the area to work in Mid-Argyll. The work has been deemed essential and Balfour Beattie are implementing hygiene best practice.
- v) Councillors Philand and Kelly have petitioned for an HGV ferry service from Ardrossan to Campbeltown. This would be a lifeline in the event of issues with the OMR and A83.

6. Public toilets: The Crinan and Tayvallich toilets are under threat and were closed during the first lockdown.

- i) Ewan Halley of Tayvallich Hall Committee said the Village Hall had had discussions with A&BC. The Hall would include the toilets in the Hall cleaning regime. The Council were to provide £350 and maintenance support. NKCC thanked Tayvallich Village Hall Committee for taking on this important community asset.
- ii) Richard Stein, NKCC Treasurer has been leading the discussions with A&BC regarding the Crinan toilets. The toilets reopened in August following pressure from NKCC. They closed again in October. Crinan is always busy and before this reopening and since closure there have been real problems with people having to relieve themselves in inappropriate places.
- iii) For next season A&BC propose offering £350 for consumables and maintenance support to volunteers from the community. Firstly, the stipend is insufficient and secondly, there is no enthusiasm to volunteer. Crinan is an important tourist magnet for this area and it is inconceivable that the village is without toilet provision.
- iv) Scottish Canals have very serviceable modern toilets. They refuse to allow public access to them. It has

previously been minuted that the Canal and A&BC had an agreement, perhaps as part of the planning and funding for the new toilets, that the toilets be open to the public and the old Council toilets be closed. Regardless, surely Scottish Canals statutory amenity obligations mean that the kayakers, cyclists and walkers that their Transport Scotland etc. grants were meant to encourage are as much their customers as their paying, floating clients. Scottish Canals have been quite obstructive and unhelpful in their dealings with NKCC. It is felt that now is the time to really increase the pressure on this organisation. Councillor Philand will follow this up.

7. Planning issues: There have not been many applications recently and no issues have arisen.
8. HIE Covid Funding: NKCC applied to the HIE Covid Fund for funds toward PPE for defibrillators, community deliveries, and food parcels. NKCC were awarded £6,850. In the end, only £956.31 was claimed. This is testament to the deep community spirit in North Knapdale where the population organised ourselves through community sites.
9. Road issues: Drainage and Passing Places: Usual seasonal repairs required. It was thought that the jet patcher could solve most of the issues. One particular issue was noted, near Achanamara, where a recently resurfaced area has already deteriorated. Does this have anything to do with FCS closing off a forest road with a bund which is interfering with drainage? The moss road is very potholed in the older sections near Bellanoch Bridge.
10. Water Main in Tayvallich: Councillor Philand was asked to follow up with Scottish Water as nothing had been heard in some time.

11. AOCB:

- i. Ian Oliver has resigned from NKCC. It would be useful to co-opt someone from Achnamara. There is only one CC member from Achnamara while Tayvallich and Crinan have 3 each. Catherine MacLennan is to follow this up.
- ii. The issue of 2 boats which had broken away from a single mooring at Achnamara has been noted. The Secretary has been in touch with Andy Grant of Achnamara Mooring Association to offer NKCC support. Andy is working with the boats' owner to find a solution. The cabin cruiser has been beached, but the steel workboat has sunk. No hydrocarbons have been leaking from the vessel.
- iii. The issue of relining the Tayvallich Shop carpark was raised. This was part of a suite of issues related to parking. NKCC will revisit these issues. It would be easier to reline now when the carpark is empty.

12. Date and time of next meeting: the next meeting will be on Zoom; March 24th, 2021 at 3pm. We may include last year's AGM if this is allowed.