

North Knapdale Community Council

Minutes for the North Knapdale Community Council meeting held by Zoom on the 24th March, 2021 at 3:15 pm:

In Attendance: Iain Ritchie, Richard Stein, Andrew Wilson, Catherine MacLennan, John McArthur, Dougie Philand, Fergie Anderson, Ross '751473' Ryan, Gordon Doughty, Lynne Milne, Heather Williams.

1. Welcome: Iain Ritchie welcomed everyone.
2. Apologies: Sergeant Iain MacNicol
3. Approval of minutes of last meeting: The minutes form 27/1/2021 were approved.
4. Police Report: There are no crimes of note for the North Knapdale area.

There were a few incidents including a few reports of persons apparently breaching Covid regulations in the the area:-

01/02/21 - A case where a man is building a house was reported twice and Police attended and were informed that the man is a builder and this is his main occupation now, he attends that site with provisions and stays on site and does the work. This person has been previously reported to Police and on this occasion, Police management discussed the matter with Argyll and Bute Council and both Police and the Council are of the opinion that no breach of Covid regulations has taken place.

09/02/21 - Anon report of a family staying at a second home in Tayvallich. Police attended and were told that they were there to carry out essential maintenance and checks on the house due to the cold weather and they would be leaving in a couple of days.

Sgt.MacNicol saw this incident and tasked the officers to revisit and get more of an explanation as to why the family needed to be there. The officers revisited and were shown some areas where work was needed but other work was deemed not

essential. They were told and agreed that they must leave the following day or the morning after that.

23/02/21 - Report of fallen tree blocking road near Achnamara. Police control room had contacted the Council roads dept and asked them to attend and clear the tree.

05/03/21 - Report of two vehicle having apparently been abandoned in the car park at Crinan basin. Officers were making enquiries with owners but incident not updated with result.

07/03/21 - Report of vehicle at house on road to Tayvallich with caller suspecting owners staying at second home. Police attended but unfortunately the result is not detailed on the incident report.

10/03/21 - Officer attended a report of a confused woman having arrived in Crinan at 6.00am via Taxi from Glasgow. Due to concerns about the woman, she was taken to hospital by officers and left in the care of staff there.

16/03/21 - Report of persons staying at their second home in Tayvallich. Police attended and were told that they were there to carry out essential repairs and checks on the house and they would be leaving on the following day.

Other incidents of note in the area

On Wednesday 17th March, persons from the north of England have travelled to Kintyre to steal Quad bikes. 3 Quad bikes were stolen but found by Police with 2 vans that the thieves were using, there were no persons with the vehicles when Police arrived and all vehicles were seized by Police.

A search then started for the thieves and over the next couple of days, three persons were arrested and later released. Forensic and other enquiries are ongoing into the thefts.

Please advise all to keep Quad bike and other vehicle secure with keys removed and hidden.

5. Correspondence:

- i) Tilhill Consultation regarding forest harvesting at Ashfield Farm. It was noted that only one public response had been received regarding the impact on the road. The

Council and Tilhill consultants have drawn up a traffic plan which should mitigate impacts on the road.

- ii) Campervan Consultation: The secretary noted that information had been received regarding an A&BC consultation on wild camping in campervans. This has been an issue in places, and efforts were made to disseminate the details to those who have most interest. Individuals and local groups can respond with their own experiences. The link is:
<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/motorhome-and-informal-camping-survey>

6. Council Update:

- i) Councillor Philand noted that options had been presented regarding a solution for the A83 at the Rest and Be Thankful. These all pass through Glen Croe. If individuals wish to examine or comment on these information is here:
<https://www.transport.gov.scot/publication/recommended-preferred-route-corridor-and-possible-route-options-march-2021-a83-access-to-argyll-and-bute/>
- ii) Dougie addressed a number of other issues. These follow under their appropriate headings.

7. Public toilets: Funding has been found to reopen the toilets in the NKCC area from early April, but the funding is for one year only.

- i) The toilet in Crinan suffered a burst pipe due to frost.
- ii) Scottish Canals had been approached about opening their Crinan toilets to the public. Dougie Philand had received a response to the effect that the canal toilets were only for the use of paying yacht traffic.
- iii) Scottish Canals have been approached on a few occasions to engage with NKCC and had failed

satisfactorily so to do. The meeting felt that the Canal response regarding the Crinan toilets was poor. Richard Stein agreed to follow up and to try and get someone from SC in Glasgow to attend the next Zoom meeting. It was noted that SC have had substantial funding to put in a Kayak trail and a tarmacked towpath to encourage walking and cycling amenity use of the canal asset. Where are these canal customers meant to relieve themselves? Crinan has a lock keeper on duty at busy times of the year.

8. Planning issues: there have been very few planning applications in NKCC recently.

9. Road issues:
 - i) Patches had been made on the Tayvallich road after the January meeting. These had not lasted. The Jet Patcher would have done a better job. Dougie Philand offered to raise this with the roads department.
 - ii) The Achnamara road has had nothing done, but the good news is that large amounts of expenditure have been approved for it. Dougie Philand advised that NKCC must make sure that this allocation was spent. Dougie will raise this with Council.

 - iii) Parking in Tayvallich: TCO and Lines in Tayvallich Shop Car Park. Councillor Taylor had raised the car park lining with A&BC. The surface is too poor to re-line and the Council are looking into resurfacing first. NKCC hope to be consulted on any traffic control order as changing the rules at the shop will have broader implications throughout the village.

 - iv) A much larger vessel has been purchased for the Jura Ferry this year. Does this represent a significant increase in capacity? This could have significant impact

for Tayvallich. It was felt that Jura benefited immensely from the Ferry and that some felt the impacts on Tayvallich were largely negative. Using a volunteer system, Tayvallich Village Hall had mitigated the worst impacts of the busy Jura weekends.

- v) The Jura Ferry has brought parking issues throughout the tourist season, and often it was a struggle for parking for Hall events such as the OAP lunch club.
- vi) The Jura Ferry only makes a very small contribution to the Tayvallich Bay Association for the use of the pontoon etc. Dougie Philand was asked to find out more about the basis of the Ferry contract. Was there a subsidy from A&BC? What was the role of Transport Scotland in the establishment of the service. Could means be found to mitigate the worst impacts of the Jura service on Tayvallich?

10. Water Main in Tayvallich: Scottish Water have confirmed to Dougie Philand that the work has been approved. No start date has been confirmed. Dougie agreed to enquire if they had any more specific information now.

11. AOCB:

- i) Co-option of Tanya Jackson from Achnamara: it was agreed to co-opt Tanya Jackson of Achnamara to take the remaining space on NKCC.
- ii) Iain Ritchie noted that the Citizens' Advice Bureau had moved into Lochgilphead from the pool, and that the community should be aware that their services are still available.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday 18th of May at 3:15 pm on Zoom.