

# North Knapdale Community Council

Minutes for the North Knapdale Community Council meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 at 3:05 pm on Zoom:

In attendance: Andrew Wilson, Iain Ritchie, Richard Stein, Catherine MacLennan, Lynne Milne, Dougie Philand, Fergie Anderson, Sue Hillman.

1. Welcome: The convener welcomed everyone.
2. Apologies: Heather Williams, Tanya Jackson, Iain MacNicol, John Grafton, Sandy Taylor, Ross Ryan
3. Approval of minutes of last meeting: These were approved.
4. Police Report: Thanks were expressed to Sergeant MacNicol who has provided very helpful and interesting updates from the local Police file. Sergeant MacNicol is retiring, and he will be replaced by Sergeant Matt Shaw who lives in Crinan.

## **Crinan**

02/04/21 - Police stopped 3 men in Crinan and drugs search carried out. Cannabis found on 2 of the men and recorded police warnings issued.

## **Bellanoch**

29/03/21 - 2 vehicle road traffic collision where road splits to Tayvallich. Diesel and coolant spilled on road. No serious injuries. Vehicles recovered and council roads dept attended to deal with spillage.

26/04/21 - Report of vehicle parked in layby for 5 days. Enquiries revealed the vehicle was courtesy car being used by local resident who lived close by.

## **Achnamara**

21/03/21 - Possible Covid breach - Report received of a family arriving in village from England. Police attended, no Covid breach, carrying out essential work.

## **Tayvallich**

22/03/21 - Report received of theft of kayak from outside property. Crime report submitted and investigated but no persons detected.

02/04/21 - Possible Covid breach - A couple arrived from England to their holiday home. Police attended, no Covid breach, carrying out essential repairs.

06/04/21 - Report of black and white cow stranded. Local farmer contacted and made aware.

16/04/21 - Cyclist complaining of a vehicle nearly running into back of him on single track road. No witnesses or recording device - suitable advice given.

18/04/21 - Property left insecure and access gained and Tap and router damaged. Crime report submitted and investigated but no persons detected.

## **Other incidents of note in the area**

Bank Telephone Scams continue to be very prevalent and we have just put out a local press release which should appear in the papers tomorrow or next week depending:-

Mid Argyll Police are warning residents to be aware of both their online activity and in responding to unsolicited communications received by email and phone as there has been a marked increase in fraud related crimes in the area. Common themes and preventions include:

False listings for boat engines and farming equipment listed on eBay or Facebook, where the money is exchanged and then no product received. How can you prevent this? Use recognised registered retailers. Do not exchange money until you are physically in possession of the item or face to face; especially with high value items, physically see it before you buy it.

Emails and text messages purporting to be from a service provider such as your bank or internet company requiring you to input personal details or click on a hyperlink. How can you ensure this is true? Do not respond to the message or click any links. Go through the company's own website and only phone using the numbers detailed there. Check whether they have sent the correspondence. Also consider upgrading your security software on any devices you own.

Cold calling by companies, either at your door in person or via telephone. Responsible companies avoid doing this. The advice is clear, never buy from or pass your personal or financial details to a cold caller.

Financial service providers, advertising on Social Media, offering high value returns for investments in shares or Cryptocurrency. How can you check if they're reliable? Check the company with the Financial Conduct Authority. If a deal is too good to be true, it usually is. Reputable firms don't cold call, pressure sell, use 'mobile numbers' or offer heightened investment returns beyond the ability of trusted businesses.

Sgt Matthew Shaw of Lochgilphead Police said, "I would urge people to be cautious and not trust any unexpected correspondence. Never pass your financial or personal details to anyone unless you're 100% sure who they are and why they require that information. If you feel the need to reply to check the veracity of a contact, please, only use the company's verified official website and the communication methods detailed upon it. Especially where financial fraud is concerned, always, 'stop', 'think' and 'check' with a friend, relative or neighbour before taking any action. Any victims of such crimes, or anyone with any concerns can contact their local police station via 101."

## **5. Correspondence: None.**

6. Council Update: Dougie Philand updates us on various local issues. These are minuted under their relevant headings below.

7. Scottish Canals:

- i) Engagement with the Community Council. NKCC has been trying to engage Scottish Canals on the possibility of opening toilets along the NKCC section of the Canal to a broader public. Currently they exclude their walking and cycling customers and only allow their floating customers to use the toilets. A reply has been sent to head office asking for a meeting to discuss this and other NKCC issues which relate to Scottish Canals. Thus far Scottish Canal's engagement with NKCC has been very poor. The CEO of Scottish Canals has been copied in.
- ii) A tea trailer has opened at Lock 10. It appeared that cyclists were using toilets in the vicinity. Was this connected to the café, or simply a coincidence. Local staff are quite supportive of opening toilets more often to more people. Disabled people have passes that allow them to use certain toilets that are locked. Does this apply on the canal?
- iii) Strimming during no-mow May: there was some disappointment that this had happened along long stretches of the canal. Orchids had been damaged. Scottish Canals had an agreement with Heart of Argyll Wildlife not to mow until the end of May. SC claim that they missed mowing last year due to Covid, so this years mowing was catching up. NKCC will monitor their no-mow May in future.

8. Planning issues: None.

9. Transport issues:

- i) A&BC have erected a bus stop sign opposite the shop. This has been covered up as the bus no longer passes there, and a temporary bus stop sign has appeared at Carsaig Road end. NKCC will draft a letter to the Councillors setting out what the Community Council feels is the solution to the siting of a bus stop.
- ii) There are passing place signs missing along the Tayvallich Road. Particularly along the Gleann a Galbhain. There may be a shortage of passing places between Scotnish and Kintallen
- iii) **Jura Ferry:** The Jura ferry is licensed to carry 12 passengers. The ferry received £58,315 last financial year by way of grant funding from Argyll and Bute Council.  
£49,980 is provided to us by Transport Scotland for onward payment to Jura Ferry and we have paid out £8,315 from Jura Ferry budget.

NKCC support this funding, but wonder if there shouldn't be some funding available to Tayvallich to ameliorate ferry-related parking issues.

Regulations on parking (Traffic Management Orders) in A&B are under review generally, and recommendations for Tayvallich will be included when these are published.

10. Water Main in Tayvallich: Scottish Water have confirmed to Dougie Philand that the work is in the planning stage. No start date has been confirmed, but it will be later in the year.

11. AOCB:

- i) Kilberry Inn owner, David, who is involved with South Knapdale CC has spoken to our Convener regarding a common approach to renewables in the area being shared more equitably. Iain will pursue this.
- ii) The urgent need for a new secretary was confirmed. It was agreed to circulate a job description which the former secretary will draft shortly. This will be shared on various local community groups. There is space to co-opt a new member to fulfil this role.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> of August, 2021.