

# North Knapdale Community Council

Minutes of the North Knapdale Community Council meeting held at Achnamara Village Hall on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.30 pm:

In Attendance: Iain Ritchie, Richard Stein, John McArthur, Fergie Anderson, Lynne Milne, Tanya Jackson.

1. Welcome: Iain Ritchie welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies: Sgt Matt Shaw, Andrew Wilson, Catherine MacLennan, Heather Williams, Cllr Sandy Taylor, Mike & Norma Kelly, Ross Ryan.

3. Approval of minutes of last meeting: The minutes of the meeting on 25 May 2021 were approved.

4. Police Report: In Sgt Shaw's absence the report was read out. (Copy attached).

5. Correspondence:

i) Letter was sent on behalf of the Community Council objecting to the planning application for a new house opposite the Tayvallich shop. We have been notified that the application has since been withdrawn.

ii) Scottish Water works for Tayvallich. We are informed by Cllr Philand that he has heard from Scottish Water that the likely start date for the works will be around October 2021, with an expected duration of around 5 months.

iii) Community Council councillor cover. Cllr Philand advised that Cllr Sandy Taylor will be attending our meetings for the next 6 months.

6. Council Update: Covered under various headings

7. Scottish Canals:

As agreed at the last meeting, in May, the Convenor wrote to the Head of Customer Operations at Scottish Canals to follow up the exchange of

correspondence between Scottish Canals and Cllr Philand regarding the lack of public access to the toilets along the Canal, and in particular the toilets in the Crinan Basin.

In the email we set out our surprise that although SC claimed all users of the Canal to be their customers, they only provided toilet access to those paying to go through the Canal in boats. This approach was challenged.

As no response had been received by late August, a chase email was sent copying in the Scottish Canals Chief Executive. This had the desired effect, prompting a speedy reply! However, the response was again unhelpful.

At the meeting we discussed next steps to press for wider use of the Canal toilets. We agreed the next steps would be to discuss the way forward with Lochgilphead & Ardrishaig Community Councils which are also affected and to meet with the local canal manager at Ardrishaig. We will then consider whether to write to the Squeak before replying to Scottish Canals & taking up the offer of a meeting.

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

9. Transport/parking issues:

i) New Off Street Traffic Management Order

We noted that Argyll & Bute Council are consulting on a new draft order to regulate off street parking places. This includes the Crinan Harbour and Tayvallich car parks. The draft order merely limits the categories of vehicles that can park to cars, motorcycles & disabled vehicles, but no charges are to be imposed. Worries have been raised that it would be easy for the Council to amend the order once it is in place to impose charging.

We raised these concerns with Cllr Taylor. As he was required to self-isolate, he was unable to respond at the meeting. In his email, he confirmed that the reason for the new order was to replace a number of old orders made by Strathclyde Regional Council and to streamline the controls in all of these non-charging car parks across Argyll & Bute. The main aim was to help to deal with problems caused by traders using car

parks and overnight stays by campervans and motor homes, with the associated waste issues. He has been assured that there are no plans to introduce charges.

Cllr Taylor did suggest that we might investigate imposing charges to deal with the long stay parking problems in Tayvallich caused by people using the ferry to Jura.

ii) Long stay parking in Tayvallich. A lengthy discussion followed about the problems caused by long stay parking of Jura ferry passengers in Tayvallich. Given the nature of these specific problems, it was difficult to see how charging would assist, without causing difficulties for other users and in particular local residents.

iii) An incident was raised regarding an abusive and threatening camper van owner in Carsaig. The police attended early in the evening, but when called again later when the person became extremely threatening, they failed to attend. Agreed the Convenor will raise this with Sgt Shaw.

iv) Passing places beyond Tayvallich. Agreed we will raise the need for a further passing place on the road from Tayvallich towards Keills with Cllr Taylor.

#### 10. AOCB:

i) Following Andrew Wilson's resignation from the Community Council, Richard Stein is willing to take over as Secretary. Agreed.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm at Tayvallich Community Hall