

# North Knapdale Community Council

Minutes of the North Knapdale Community Council meeting held at Tayvallich Village Hall on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at 7.30 pm.

In Attendance: Iain Ritchie, Richard Stein, Lynne Milne, Alka Foster, Cllr Garret Corner, Sgt Matt Shaw, Kate Walker, Graham Walker, Lauren Taylor, Savanna Murdoch, Andrew Milne, Paul Chadderton, Fergie Anderson, Sue Hillman, Chris Purslow, Alan Hutchinson, Donald Booth, Norma Kelly, Jane McArthur, Michael Kelly, Ewan Halley, Martin Mellor, Marie Stonehouse.

1. Welcome: Iain Ritchie welcomed everyone.
2. Apologies: Tanya Jackson, Ross Ryan, Heather Williams.
3. Approval of minutes of last meeting: The minutes of the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were approved.
4. Police Report: Sgt Shaw referred to the July police report for Mid Argyll (circulated with the minutes). He also gave a breakdown for our local area beat 42 (which includes Lochgilphead, Lochgair etc). Happily, out of a total of 96 calls for Beat 42, only 7 applied to our area- mainly related to unauthorised camping & partying at Crinan Ferry.
5. Matters arising:
  - a. Argyll & Bute Executive Headship (Empowering our Educators) Alka Foster reported that she understood the item had been withdrawn from next week's Community Services Committee meeting. Cllr Corner was unaware of this. Many of those present expressed great concern about the proposed policy, that it was badly thought out and would not work in our small local schools. Cllr Corner agreed to find out what was happening and report back. The Secretary agreed to email an update as soon as possible.
  - b. Crinan bottle bank Agreed to raise with Scottish Canals - if we ever get to meet them!
  - c. Tayvallich sewage arrangements Cllr Corner confirmed this is an imponderable issue. Pressure should be put on SEPA and then raised with our MP as this is a matter for the Scottish Government.

d. Argyll & Bute Campervan Policy Cllr Corner reported that the Council had appointed a number of wardens to control campervan parking etc in Argyll. Unfortunately, they had all resigned. One new one had been appointed. Sgt Shaw reported that funding had been provided to the police to deal with inappropriate campervan parking, nuisance etc. We discussed that in other parts of Scotland – and abroad, greater efforts had been made to deal with the issues of inappropriate camping, parking. We asked Cllr Corner to renew our request to the Council to pull together a multi-agency working group, most likely a matter for Economic Development.

e. Scottish Canals Our MSP Jenni Minto is still chasing a meeting.

6. Correspondence – dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

7. Argyll & Bute Council update – dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

8. Highway/Transport issues

a. Passing places – Cllr Corner reported that passing place signage on the Moss Road will be sorted by Christmas. Agreed the Secretary will send details of the new passing place past Tayvallich to Cllr Corner. He will pass on the request.

b. Trees & shrubs pruning along the forestry side of the road from Bellanoch to Crinan – no action to date. Cars are getting scratched when they pass each other. There had been a misunderstanding about the nature of the problem. Cllr Corner will follow up.

9. Planning issues – none raised

10.Scottish Communities Climate Action Network (SCCAN)

Marie Stonehouse, A&B Regional Network Engagement Coordinator, introduced the organisation. Its aim is to bring communities together to form a network in Argyll & Bute. They plan to create regional hubs to make communities more resilient. She will be setting up a steering group which will decide which issues to take on. She encouraged those interested to contact her. [marie@scottishcommunitiescan.org.uk](mailto:marie@scottishcommunitiescan.org.uk); 07725016680; website: [www.scottishcommunitiescan.org.uk](http://www.scottishcommunitiescan.org.uk)

## 11. Community Purchase of part of Tayvallich Estate

This item was introduced by Martin Mellor who has lived in Tayvallich for 9 years. He chairs a steering group, set up under the auspices of the Tayvallich Community Hall SCIO, which is exploring the possibility of a community purchase of part of the Tayvallich Estate which is going on the market. They are in discussion with the owners' representatives.

At a public meeting in July in Tayvallich there was community support to continue to look at options to purchase the whole of Tayvallich Estate or part of the Estate. It was clear from looking at funding sources that it would be very difficult to raise the full value or partial value of the Estate as a community in the time available. The Estate has indicated that they are progressing with their planned timetable for the sale.

Tayvallich Estate has offered a gift of land to the community. This land, roughly 110 acres (45 hectares), lies directly to the south-west of Tayvallich and includes a mixture of woodland, grazing, an existing dwelling (Archie's House), and land around this dwelling, with potential development opportunities for affordable housing. The offer of the gift is dependent on the community not seeking the right to buy the rest of the Estate through a late application to Scottish Ministers.

A public meeting will be held in Tayvallich next week to discuss developments. The decision whether to accept this gift is ultimately the community's choice and will be voted on at the meeting.

The owners of Tayvallich Estate will be selling the remainder of the Estate on the open market in the coming weeks, and there is also the potential for the community to bid on further piece(s) of land/assets. A potential purchase would be based on raising funds via Scottish Land Fund and other sources. An options appraisal which is being developed for next week's meeting will also include an assessment of this, along with the possible ways of developing the gifted land.

The meeting expressed its support for the Tayvallich community's wish to progress community involvement in the future of the Tayvallich Estate and offered any assistance which would be of value.

## 10. AOCB

### a. Tayvallich Pontoon Bins

Lynne Milne and Fergie Anderson raised the issue of the large bins at the top of the Tayvallich pontoon which have historically been managed by the Tayvallich Bay Association – for the use of mooring holders and paying visitors. In the past, no payment was required by the Council for emptying them. At the beginning of 2022 the Council demanded payment. TBA agreed to pay £549.61 for the collection of one bin weekly (reduced from two) over the summer period, to be reviewed. It has become obvious that one bin is inadequate as it is overflowing, causing an eyesore and potential public health problem. It is also clear that the bin is being used by the public, not just TBA users.

As a non-profit making body, the TBA Committee don't feel able or willing to pay for the emptying of bins which are for wider public use. The meeting agreed that it was not appropriate for TBA to have to pay, and that two bins are required. We asked Cllr Corner to go back to the Council to explain that the facility is for general public use and to consider provision of funded refuse facilities (including bottle recycling) in the centre of the village.

### b. Community Council Elections

Community Council 4-yearly elections will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Nominations are now open for our 8 councillor positions until Thursday 8 September at 4pm. Anyone on the electoral register for our area aged 16 or over can stand. Nomination papers are available from the Secretary or the Council's website: [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/community-council-elections-20-october-2022](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/community-council-elections-20-october-2022) or on 01546 603264. If there are more than 8 candidates, there will be an election by postal ballot of everyone on the electoral register.

Candidates will need their electoral numbers and those of their proposer and seconder. They are available either from the Council Electoral Registration Office or from the Secretary. Iain Ritchie stated that it is important to have a proper spread of representation across the three villages of Crinan, Achnamara and Tayvallich.

11.Next Meeting – 7.30pm Thursday 17 November, Crinan Coffee Shop.