**GLENORCHY AND INNISHAIL COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Community Council Meeting**

**Held in Portsonachan Village Hall**

**Tuesday 15th March 2016 at 7.00pm**

**Present**: - Martin Goodwin, Jim Wilkin, Pam Whitehead, John Kerr, Catriona O’Keeffe, John Ogden, Cllr Elaine Robertson, Cllr Julie McKenzie, Kieron Green, PC Darren Miller and 19 members of the public.

**Welcome –** Martin welcomed all our guests. Martin recorded our sadness at learning of the death of David Fellowes on 27th January, 2016. David had been the Convenor of G&I CC for 15 years, taking over at a time when the CC was at low ebb and turning it, with dedicated members, into the active organisation it is today.

**Apologies –** Received from Jamie McGrigor MSP, John Miller and Jeni Rankin.

**Declaration of Interest** – JK in respect of a grant application by BofO Hall, JW and JO in respect of a grant application by GICO. Catriona O’Keeffe in respect of a Carraig Gheal micro grant application by SLACC.

**The minutes of meeting held 13th January 2016** – Accepted as a true record, proposed by John Ogden and seconded by Pam Whitehead.

**Police Matters** – PC Darren Miller reported that since our last meeting, 10 road traffic offences, I theft and 1 arrest for possession of knives and blank firing pistols had occurred. 10 RTC’s and 2 further traffic incidents had been reported (no injuries). There have been 2 successful mountain rescues and 10 other weather related reports (fallen trees, road closures, etc.). PC Miller had been approached by a lady who was being harassed by youths outside her home. This has been dealt with and the message is that if you are having problems, let the Police help you. There have been three detailed reports of suspect vehicles and occupants, the message is to remain vigilant and report suspicious activity. There is concern over the bottle re-cycling bins in the surgery car park attracting other rubbish. The bins were moved from the mart car park which is now locked, on a temporary basis until the Community Centre was completed when it was hoped that re-cycling facilities could be included in their plans. Currently volunteers from the PO are trying to keep the surgery car park clean. It would be a pity if Dalmally was to lose all re-cycling; however it is not a decision that can be taken by this CC. We will ask if a general rubbish bin can be provided next to the bottle bank and explore the possibility of moving the bins to the Community Centre. PC Miller also reported fly tipping in the grounds of the old school house. The removal of rubbish is the responsibility of the land owner; we have reported problems with this neglected site to A&B C Building Control without success. The Loch Awe community was surprised by a full scale Army Exercise on land, air and water on 21st February. This was a scheduled event but regrettably the local community had not been informed, resulting in reports to the police. Concern over a car frequently parked for long periods at the bottom of Keppochan Hill. The Rural Watch programme is a little behind schedule. Our thanks to our community policeman!

**Local Issues**

SSE is disseminating information on “North Argyll Reinforcements” to their high voltage infrastructure. Proposals include a 200m x 150m substation above Ardbrecknish and Upper Sonachan, and a new high voltage link to the Scottish Power network at Dalmally. As the plans have not been formulated G&I CC cannot make an objection per se, but it certainly will express grave community concerns to SSE about current scoping in an environmentally sensitive area and would encourage everyone to get involved. Cllr Julie McKenzie noted approaches from residents of Glenview about health issues relating to SP pylons and high voltage cables close to houses and the primary school. Infrastructure has been moved in the past and G&I CC would support any campaign.

G&I CC have been asked to support an application to have Loch Awe designated a National Scenic Area. Martin Faulkner of SNH gave a talk to G&I CC in May 2015 on this subject as an NSA is in place north of BofO. NSAs predate the National Park designation and we were told that no more designations under the “old” NSA would be made. Landscape is already protected within the current Argyll & Bute Local Plan which is still being modified, and of course, the agreed planning framework. Martin had warned of “polarisation” of communities within the NSA designation. Members of G&I CC took a vote on this request and agreed not to support it by 4 votes to 2. We will supply contact information about the Argyll & Isles Coast & Communities Trust (ACT) who may be able to develop some ideas with our correspondent.

We heard a brief report on Digital Argyll & Bute and local provision nets. This really is a key community issue.

We have received the bad news that the community led proposals for a car park and viewpoint overlooking Kilchurn Castle seem to have stalled at a very late stage of development because of a demand by FCS to meet all legal fees over access. This may be in contravention of the FCS obligation under the National Forest Land Scheme and G&I CC will seek some way forward, but it may already be too late.

**Outcomes and Updates**

A number of updates were considered on local roads which are as bad as or worse than ever; particularly on how to report hazards and claim compensation for vehicle damage. It is important that hazards are reported before any claim, if the report is not acted upon then a complaint to A&B Customer Services can also be made. Links: -

Jim Wilkin will report trunk road problems in Lochawe to Bear Scotland.

Jim Mallen has had some contact about the current closure of Stronmilchan Road, not satisfactory, but hopefully all over in 2 weeks.

We were unable to make reports on our community resilience plan, the pathway at the Duncan Ban Monument or the proposed public meeting about the Lochy Hydro Community Benefit Fund to be hosted by the Dalmally Community Company.

**Planning**

9 planning applications were noted without comment.

**Correspondence**

We received the Funding Alert, a copy of the Lochside News, a consultation on “supplementary guidance 2” (possibly some help with the Glenview pylon?), Information on the fate of “Lady Rowena” (potentially an excellent community project with skills opportunities?), a letter from NAVCS thanking us for our financial assistance and with the good news that much of their A&B C funding has been spared in the “service choices” review.

We also received a letter from 4 householders in St Conan’s Road, Lochawe about trees on property owned by a third party. We will pass this to Scottish Power, the owners. We need to make sure that all 28 households on St Conan’s Road are agreed before taking further action.

Jim Wilkin gave a positive update on a number of rail issues and related activities that have been taking place, including a “kick start” to the proposed Helensburgh to Oban Community Rail Partnership, where there may also be support from A&B Council.

We asked Cllr Elaine Robertson if someone could come to Dalmally to explain the Local Housing Strategy before the end of the month. Although housing is an important issue in our area, the proposed strategy does not seem to adversely affect the current position.

We received information on the Locality Planning Group – Health and Social Care from Duncan Martin of Oban CC. There will be limited community representation in this group for a number of reasons. However we would encourage the idea that there should be direct access to a member of the group to express local concerns or issues.

We noted that G&I CC had been mentioned in a parliamentary budget debate – perhaps a first!

**Any Other Business**

Consideration of grants applications: £150 for SLACC from the An Suidhe micro grant, approved. £800 for G&I Community Orchard from CC funds, approved. £820 for BofO Village Hall from CC funds, approved. £250 for Lochside Neighbours Group from the Carraig Gheal micro grant, approved. £250 for SLACC from the Carraig Gheal micro grant, approved.

G&I CC has funded the servicing and updating of all 4 community de-fibrillators although some formal annual maintenance programme should be developed. There is still a need for a public access machine in Dalmally. The old Dalmally phone box will not be used for this on cost grounds. The phone box will be sold and appear rejuvenated as an information display on Lochawe Station.

A well-executed restoration of the Dalmally Cemetery gates was noted, although we do not know who carried out the work!

Our treasurer confirmed that funding due to the CC from RWE Npower will be received shortly, for which we are very grateful and the funds will be used to benefit the community.

The meeting heard that local residents of Portsonachan were very pleased to see the road bank strengthening proceeding south of the village hall. Cllr Elaine Robertson asked if she could pass this comment back to the roads engineers as an appreciation by the community.

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.45pm, with thanks to all.

**Date of next meeting and AGM. 11th May, 2016 at Dalmally Church Hall. Note there will be no July meeting.**

**Any views published in this document do not necessarily represent the views of anyone present or identified in this document.**