

NORTH KNAPDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING

TUESDAY 12th FEBRUARY AT CRINAN HOTEL AT 7.45 PM

MINUTES

Attending: Hugh Semple (Chairman), John Clark (Vice), Jilly Wilson, Bennie Brigland, Tim Hedley, Carol Bennett, Cllr Donnie MacMillan, Cllr Alison Hay, Cllr Douglas Philand, and 4 members of the public.

- **1. Apologies**

Fiona MacArthur, Frances Ryan.

- **2. Minutes of the previous meeting**

One correction was noted to the minutes of the meeting held on Tues 13th November 2007 at Cairnbaan Hotel:

Under section "Proposed Wood-Fired Biomass Energy Project - Achnabreck", fifth point under "Responses to Questions from the floor"; "The site will NOT burn re-cycled timber" should read "The site will not burn commercial waste". With this correction, the minutes were proposed by John Clark, seconded by Tim Hedley, and signed by the Chairman.

- **3. Matters Arising**

Biomass Project. The planning application for this project has been received, and following the previous meeting, NKCC reported to the planners that the broad consensus had been "pro" the development. However, some concerns have been raised:

- The building is larger, and with potentially more visual impact, than had been thought.
- There is concern over what will happen to the waste water from the plant (although this will, no doubt, be considered by SEPA).
- There is concern that, although the plant is expected to reduce traffic on the roads generally, that there will be a local impact on traffic.
- There is also concern that the project may not have the support of Forest Enterprise.

ACTION: NKCC TO RAISE THESE CONCERNS WITH
ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL (A&BC)

- **4. Correspondence**

- Planning Application for Biomass Project, Achnabreck As discussed above, planning application is currently with John MacArthur.
- A&BC Development Services re: Development Management Forum 2008. To be held on 14th Feb at Cairnbaan Hotel at 10 am. The meeting is regarding proposed changes to Planning Service Delivery and it was hoped that a member of NKCC would be able to attend.
- A&BC re: Mid Argyll & Kintyre Housing Market Study; informing NKCC that this study is underway.
- A&BC Guide to local health services. The guide is with Hugh Semple.
- SNH re: Taynish Nature Reserve Consultation; reporting the responses to the consultation. This document is with Hugh Semple.
- POSTER re: use of old school & sports centre at Lochgilphead. A public meeting is to be held at the new joint campus on Wed 20th February to discuss options.

- **5. Planning**

The weekly lists since the last meeting were read out, and no particular comment was made on any applications.

- **6. Roads**

- “Temporary” Traffic Lights at Bellanoch. Tim Hedley has been advised by Julian Green, at A&BC Roads Department, that slow progress is being made with this problem. It is a SSSI area, and the outstanding issue appears to be the moving of two BT poles in order for the road to be moved away from the canal.
- Potholes. There is continuing frustration about potholes on the roads, as well as the manner in which they are ‘repaired’. Often, fresh tarmac is simply thrown into a hole, and then driven over with the Roads vehicle! Anyone seeing this ‘work’ should report it to A&BC and, if possible, take photos. Tim Hedley was advised that it costs A&BC £1,000 per hour, for a team of workers to patch potholes. As visual evidence shows this job being carried out poorly, and considering the ‘lack’ of finance, why can the road not be repaired once, properly? A reminder was given of the website www.fixmystreet.com where some success has been achieved by reporting problems.
- Road at Kilmahumraig. This section of road has been a disaster, with ‘repairs’ made 8 weeks ago already disintegrating. A&BC Roads Department has promised this will be rectified within the next two weeks. Other sections of roads needing repair are still outstanding, despite being promised before Christmas.
- Carsaig Road, Tayvallich. This road has been in a poor state for some time. A ‘tar & chipping’ machine was used 3 months ago to ‘re-surface’ a section of road, which is now in a worse state than it was previously.
- Tayvallich Road. The visibility on this road in spring/summer is poor, and A&BC do not cut back growth often enough. A suggestion was made to organise a work party to tackle some of the worst corners in the spring.
- Crinan Harbour – risk of flooding. Ditches have been neglected for too long, and there is a real risk of flooding from the road.
- Cairnbaan – Speed Limit & Pavement. Carol Bennett noted the community’s appreciation of the new speed limit and pavement. She asked when the remainder of pavement (to reach the bus stop) would be completed?

ACTION: NKCC TO ENQUIRE AT ROADS DEPT.

- Speeding in Achnamara David Armstrong (community liaison, Strathclyde Police), has intimated he would take the lead on installing a monitoring device on the road through the village. There is no evidence of this having happened.

ACTION: NKCC TO REMIND DAVID ARMSTRONG

General Discussion regarding roads:

- It is very frustrating dealing with the Roads Department, as there seems to be little finance, no clear leader, and no motivation. Tim Hedley has been given to understand that Donnie MacLeod (the local Roads Department Manager) is leaving his post, and that Julian Green will be picking up his work. However, Cllr Alison Hay corrected this as follows:
- The Roads Department is going through a transitional stage, and the launching of a new scheme “Street Scene” is imminent. This will involve the creation of ‘Road Squads’ who will have responsibility for particular ‘patches’ of the road network. It is anticipated that this will lead to better motivation and concern amongst the squads. The councillors understanding is that Donnie MacLeod will be overseeing this new scheme, and that Stewart Clark will be stepping into Donnie’s role.
- Cllr Donnie MacMillan advised further that A&BC is in the middle of its budget process, which will finish next Thursday (21st Feb). He advised that, thereafter, things should become clearer with regard to who is leading the local roads workers. He advised that there is a lot of outstanding work throughout the region.

- Cllr Douglas Philand asked that Cllrs be copied into correspondence regarding roads issues. This was welcomed by Tim Hedley. Further, he suggested a meeting on site to see some of the issues, and suggested taking the evidence directly to the Director of Roads.

ACTION: CLLRS TO MEET WITH TIM HEDLEY ON WED 20th FEB AT CARSAIG AT 1 PM

- **7. Local Issues**

Achnamara

Digital TV. Those communities living at ‘the edge’ of Knapdale, and who do not receive television signals, will not receive digital TV without the output of transmitters being boosted. This has cost implications, and as the Jura transmitter is community owned, may not happen. Digital ‘swap-over’ is 2012 for this part of Scotland. This was noted, however, no-one present knew any more. May be worth investigating with the community council on Jura.

Bellanoach

No further issues.

Cairnbaan

There was a question about a piece of land between the Forestry Yard & the Dalriada Project. Donnie MacMillan though planning consent had been given for houses about 9 months ago.

A member of the Cairnbaan community has voiced concern that the new speed limit at Cairnbaan will lead to the presumption that the limit is 40 on the north side of the canal where the road is such that this would be dangerous. It was considered that it is actually difficult to drive that quickly on this road, and that 15 miles an hour is fast enough. However, no consensus was reached.

ACTION: CAROL BENNETT TO CANVASS COMMUNITY FOR OPINION.

NKCC TO INVESTIGATE MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP OF ROAD AND SEEK ADVICE ON INTRODUCING SPEED LIMIT SIGNS.

Crinan

No further issues.

There is a beach clean & bonfire planned for Easter weekend.

Tayvallich

Several passing place poles on the Tayvallich road have been knocked down. Can we ask Roads Department whether they can re-erect them?

ACTION: NKCC TO ASK A&BC

- **8. AOCB**

A&BC Local Plan. The date previously given for the outcome of the PLI's, and the instigation of the new Local Plan (March 2008) is unlikely to be met, as the PLIs are still on-going. No new date is known.

- **9. Date of Next Meeting:**

TUESDAY 13 MAY 2008 AT 7.45 PM AT TAYVALLICH VILLAGE HALL.

These minutes are a true record of the meeting held on 12th February 2008.

Signed.....Dated.....

Signed.....Dated.....