

North Knapdale Community Council

Achnamara - Bellanoch - Crinan - Cairnbaan – Tayvallich

Minutes of the public meeting held at Achnamara Village Hall on 7th August 2007 at 7.45pm

Attending:

Hugh Semple (Chairman), John Clark (Vice Chairman), Fiona MacArthur, Jilly Wilson, Tim Hedley, Francis Ryan, Bennie Brigland, Alison Hay (A&B Councillor), Douglas Philand (A&B Councillor), and 8 members of the community.

1. Apologies

Donnie MacMillan

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2007 at Tayvallich

The minutes were proposed by John Clark, seconded by Hugh Semple

3. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising

4. Correspondence

a. From Argyll & Bute Council (A&BC) Operational Services re: Speed Limit at Cairnbaan

The proposed speed limit was the subject of correspondence and discussion at the previous meeting. No Cairnbaan residents were present on 15th May, and subsequent discussions revealed their views were not as strong as the meeting had determined. It appears that A&BC are going ahead with their initial proposals.

b. Mid Argyll Partnership Meeting Minutes

These are available for anyone who would like to read them

c. From A&BC Operational Services: Roads & Amenities Questionnaire

Questionnaire concerning road cleaning, parks, horticulture, etc. NKCC did not respond

d. From Paul & Alison Raeburn: Agreement re Car Parking at Cairnbaan

NKCC has been in discussion with the Raeburns for some time regarding their claim for title of land that was previously used as public car parking at Cairnbaan (see previous minutes). The Chairman gave a review of the situation for the benefit of the new A&B Councillors.

The essence of the agreement is that the Raeburns will lay a new car parking area to replace that which was lost, and NKCC will not pursue a claim to the original site.

The feeling from Cairnbaan residents at the meeting is that the 'new' space that has been surfaced is too small – half the size of the original area.

There is also some concern about the way in which the new area has been surface, and that stones may trickle on to the road. The Chairman had received a call from a resident asking whether A&B C Roads Department had been consulted.

ACTION:

1. **NKCC will speak to Roads Department regarding permissions**
2. **NKCC will pursue a community claim for title of the remaining land, which is larger than the laid surface for car parking. If/when successful, NKCC will seek grant assistance to increase the car parking area.**

e. From A&BC Development Control regarding proposed changes to the planning approvals system.

As this is a substantial document with great detail, Alison Hay gave a summary of the proposals as follows:

The Scottish Parliament has established a new Planning Act that will come into force in 2009, the essence of which is to delegate powers from elected members of Local Authorities to the Directors of Planning in order to more centralise the planning process.

In the meantime, local proposals are that the planning process be streamlined so that Area Committees do not consider trivial matters such as minor departures, etc. Further, a single planning committee is proposed – to be drawn from the existing 36 councillors.

Mid-Argyll Councillors do not welcome the main proposals (there are some proposals for delegation that they do agree with). The suggestion is that planning should be kept at the area level as this keeps accountability issues clear.

The meeting agreed that more centralisation will mean less community involvement in the decision-making process, although it was made clear that when the Planning Act comes into force in 2009 changes will be made.

ACTION: NKCC to respond to A&BC stating a preference for Status Quo in the meantime.

- f. A'Chruach Wind Farm – invitation to attend exhibition on wind farm proposals.**
This event has now passed, and is out-with NKCC area
- g. Taynish National Nature Reserve Consultation (response requested by 21 Sept 2007)**
Copies of the consultation document are in the Tayvallich Shop. A copy is also with the Crinan NKCC Councillors

ACTION: NKCC to respond. Members of the community to communicate views to NKCC councillors.

- h. From the Scottish Parliament regarding Post Office Services in the Highlands**
This is a follow-up to a questionnaire NKCC responded to in April. Tayvallich is the only village still with a post office, and from the information in the letter appears to be 'safe'. This is on grounds of distance from an alternative post office, but also dependent on the core viability of the business in which the post office is based.

5. Planning

The chairman ran through a list of applications which had been received during the last three months, the following applications were discussed:

- a. Tayvallich Village Shop** - Change of use of part of class 1 shop to extension of class 3 coffee shop.
The application involves reducing retail space, and increasing coffee shop space. The opinion of the floor was that as long as a shop remains, the owners should be supported to improve the business as they see fit.
- b. Crinan** - Erection of single storey staff facility and installation of new septic tank (amended position of proposal)
British Waterways (BW) has been consulting with NKCC Crinan Councillors regarding this building, and has moved it as a result of initial objections to its position. BW will peg out new location for the community to consider. There is still resistance to the look of the building and concern that it is not in keeping with the village.

ACTION: NKCC to continue liaising with BW in order to achieve the best result

- c. Tayvallich – Site for erection of a Dwelling House (Mr John Roberts)**
The application is for the site between Waterside and the Village Hall car park.
The application is available to view on the A&BC website.
- d. Tayvallich - Site for erection of a Dwelling House (Mr and Mrs Christopher Todd)**
The application is for the site between the Todd's house and the School.
The application is available to view on the A&BC website.

6. Roads

Tim Hedley is continuing to liaise with A&BC Roads Department regarding known issues. Specifically discussed:

- a. **Potholes** There is a particularly bad pot hole at the Dunardry car park – a tyre was lost last week. Tim advised that the council has new machines for filling potholes which are supposed to save up to 50% of man-power and time when filling potholes.
- b. **Traffic Lights at Bellanoch** Tim advised that the solution is to move the road away from the canal. The Forestry Commission will give up some land to facilitate this.
- c. **Keills Road.** The un-made road from Ivy Cottage to Keills Jetty has been 'temporarily' repaired using road planings. Some parts of the road closer to the village are in a very bad state. They were marked out several months ago but no action has been taken.
- d. **Plant Growth** Some parts of roads are very dangerous due to high growth. On the Tayvallich road, particularly bad is the long corner at Oakbank Farm where there are few passing places.
- e. **30 mph limit at Crinan.** The meeting agreed that Crinan should get a 30mph limit as all the other villages have this, and with a growing number of young families speeding is becoming an issue.

ACTION: NKCC to pursue these issues

7. Local issues

a. Achnamara

Achnamara residents are still concerned about speeding through the village, which gets worse in the summer months. Speeds of 60/70mph are not unusual.

ACTION: NKCC to pursue action on this from either A&BC Traffic & Development Officer or our Police Community Liaison Officer.

b. **Bellanoch** - No issues

c. **Crinan** - No issues

d. **Cairnbaan** - No issues

e. Tayvallich

Dog fouling is becoming an increasing problem in the village – either being left on the ground, or put in private bins. Dog bins were discussed.

ACTION: NKCC to contact Dog Warden

8. AOCB

- a. Deborah Bryce from the Jura Community Council has been attempting to contact the Chairman. Although no direct contact has been made, it seems she and some colleagues will be in Tayvallich this coming weekend to canvas views on a ferry from Jura to the mainland. There appear to be several proposals on the go regarding a landing site on the mainland.

Post meeting note: in Tayvallich, Deborah Bryce was collecting views on the proposal for a passenger ferry to land in Tayvallich Bay.

- b. Steve Benham asked whether it was possible to see previous KNCC responses regarding planning applications. All correspondence may be available either in paper or electronic format.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 13th November 2007 at the Cairnbaan Hotel at 7.45pm

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