

**Minutes of the Ardentenny Community Council
Held in the Village Hall on 7th April 2009**

Present

M Bartley	J Reilly
V Kennedy	B Marshall
E Connell	M Cormack
D Menzies	B Cormack
M Menzies	K Hacking
A Wilson	D Gower
T Forsyth	V McDowall

Apologies None

Declaration of Interest None

Val opened the meeting and welcomed everybody and suggested that we allow Martin to give his police report following the adoption of the minutes.

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the previous meeting and were proposed by Eileen Connell and seconded By Val Kennedy.

Police Report

Two crimes in the period, one where a caravan was broken into at Glenfinart Caravan Park and various items stolen

The second incident was the theft of wooden steps and pallets from the bowling club which were found to have been burned in a fire at the beach.

At this point both Ann Wilson and Jeanette Reilly gave their account of the problem with the youths at the picnic area which happened on Saturday night and again on Monday night. The scenario is that 40 youths came to the picnic area by bus and car and started to cut down trees for a fire and they appeared to be drunk even as they were under age for drinking. When the police were called they came quickly but could not prosecute anybody for the damage to the trees as they would need to be caught in the act. Ann asked if it would be possible to call the police on a local number as when she called the call centre they put her through to the Dumbarton Station.

The reason for both Ann and Jeanette calling the police was that they were getting abuse from the youths and also they were leaving bottles all over the place. Although the majority of the youths went home on the last bus there were still some there the next morning.

Mike asked if this is a regular occurrence and Martin said sometimes in the summer.

When the police came the second time they had to take one of the youths home for his own safety.

Bruce said he would take this up with the Police Inspector and also with West Coast Motors to see if the drivers could be more responsible and refuse under age drinkers on the bus.

Dougie is also going to write to the bus company and also to Douglas Blades Transport Manager at Argyll & Bute Council.

Bruce told us about an initiative where each shop selling alcohol will have a mark to identify where the drink was purchased and hopefully this will help to stop drink being sold to under ages.

Martin also said that the police and the local rangers will be arranging more regular patrols.

Bruce then explained about an operation in place in Loch Lomond where some park rangers have been trained as special constables.

Martin had an update on Malcolm's request to have better signs approaching the Larach and the traffic dept agreed that they should be replaced.

Action from Previous Minutes

Mike and Brenda Cormack had submitted a letter to be discussed regarding the fenced off area across from the church and Brenda read out a letter giving us an overview of the situation.

It appears that the land in question belongs to the Argyll Estates and Mike and Brenda are paying them a lease to allow them to use this land for parking.

Bruce then mentioned that he had further information from Councillor Dick Walsh and Hugh Blake at the council's Legal Services which puts the ownership in doubt.

If this information is correct this will mean that the fence will have to be taken down, but Mike is adamant that he has done his homework and checked this out with the land registry.

As far as the situation with Bruce where he advised Neil Barnes to take down the fence this is going to be taken further by Mike.

Also Mike and Brenda have no objections to anybody either walking past the fence or sitting on the seat provided by the National Park .

It was also discussed that we had written to Mrs Barnes explaining that the Community Council could not get involved in this dispute.

The ideal solution is to have designated overnight parking spaces for residents of the cottages in the car park and Bruce is going to support this if Mike puts the request in writing to the council.

Malcolm gave us an update on the progress on Baron MacInturners Cairn and we now have a site plan and will contact the Council and the Forestry Commission to discuss this.

Keith explained that he has written to the National Park about the consternation caused in the village with the proposal to build 36 houses as shown on the Draft Local Plan. He already has a bland reply from them and will write again and hope they understand our concerns.

Bruce added that if the villagers don't want the houses then they won't be built and he will contact Susan Brookes with our feelings.

Dennis asked about the public meeting we were promised, but no details are known yet.

The condition of the roads came up once again and Bruce explained that our constant appeals have his support but the budgets are restricting proper repairs.

Keith mentioned the holes in front of his house which have been filled three times since December. Val also mentioned the poor condition at the bend at Barnacabber.

The question about community care where we think Ardentinny is getting an inferior service to other parts of Cowal was discussed and a letter from Catherine McLoone disputes this and she is not aware of any concerns. Teresa explained that as an example Mrs Gray is now getting three calls per week rather than four and that Tina's workload is being spread out more.

Dougie brought up the subject of the nursing service in the area and after speaking to Tommy Somerville he explained that the service has got worse and he is getting visits every three weeks where it used to be every week. Bruce said he would look into this.

Treasurers Report

Malcolm gave us a copy of the detailed and audited accounts for the year 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009. This shows our bank balance as £1,989.29

Secretaries Report

Dougie explained that he had received a questionnaire from Hexagon Research & Consulting about the review of the scheme of Community Councils in Argyll & Bute and had completed it with our views.

Apart from Steve all the rest of the committee would like to keep our Community Council as it is and Dougie asked Bruce what our chances are of this and he said that the council want to cut the number of Community Councils in Argyll & Bute by half so it will be a fight to survive.

We have received a donation from Ardentenny Hall Association of £1, 000 which was from the funds they received from the Community Trust when it folded. This is to be used for projects like the maintaining of the village tubs and work on Baron MacInturners cairn.

Information has been received from The Scottish Government about the changes in the Scottish Planning System which will allow more involvement by community councils at the pre-application stages and how the applicant intends to consult the wider community. This will take place from 3rd August 2009.

Dougie read out a letter from Dorothy Bruce about the experience of a discovery tour of Cowal available on Wednesday 29th April to anybody interested.

A Community Futures Goes Green event is being held on the 25th April about energy efficiency and renewables at Carrochan Balloch from 9.30am-4pm.

Councillors Report

Bruce said most of his report has been covered in our previous discussions and handed out leaflets on Cowalfest which takes place 9th-18th October.

AOCB

The ongoing problems with Glenfinart Caravan Park were discussed and the up to date situation is that the National Park Planning people have turned down the application for more caravans and the owner has appealed this. The next stage is a visit from the Reporter which takes place on the 23rd April and he will asses the situation from both sides and make an unbiased recommendation. Jeanette Reilly asked if the community council would write to the Reporter before his visit with a lot of the villagers concerns about the number of caravans on the site at present and also the condition of the sewerage and water supply. It was agreed to support the proposal and write. Also copies of letters written by other concerned villagers are on file.

The re-planting of the felled trees has to be completed and Dougie will write to Iona Hyde at the National Park to see if this is being done

Brenda is concerned about a hole on the grass verge left by BT which could cause an injury to somebody if they don't notice it. Dougie will write to BT to get it filled up.

Next Meeting 2nd June