

South Cowal Community Council

Meeting held on 13 March 2019

Present

Michael Breslin, Eleanor Stevenson, Dot Braham, Alistair Lennie, Alan Stewart, Sophie Gillen, Lisa Marle, Linda Payne

In Attendance

Cllr Forrest, Liz Seabrook, Claire Hendry (Police) , Jack Gillespie (Police), Cllr Good, Cllr Anderson.

Apologies

Martin Anstess, Kyle Armstrong, Gill Judd, Vicki Walkingshaw, Helen Campbell, Joyce McEwan

Declarations of Interest

None

Police Report

15 reported incidents and 2 crimes. Volunteers needed for Rural Watch, especially in Innellan. Leaflets will be left for this in the Lido. Rural Watch signs are available at £6 each, to be discussed later in the agenda.

Minutes of last meeting

Approved by Alistair, seconded by Dot

Matters arising not on the agenda

Defibrillator training is on hold. Admin grant from A&BC has not been paid as yet. Scarlett Gaze received her certificate. No progress with the war memorial.

Planning Matters

3 issues: one for new house at Glenstriven, invitation to Ardtaraig windfarm meeting (Sophie volunteered,) and lastly, tree felling at Castle Toward. Brian Close involved on last item. Works are imminent to install new bridge to allow public access through Castle Toward grounds.

Condition of Sea Walls

Eleanor had reports of further issues with the sea wall, one opposite the Osborne and the other opposite the bottom of Newton Rd. Cllr Anderson to report these. Action is being taken on the earlier reported issues.

Community Council Finances

Joyce is on holiday but Eleanor reported £4,726 in bank, of which just over £3k is for the trim trail and £600 for the shares in the Lido. Data Protection Register fee was paid out this past month.

Dunoon Hospital

Community Council Caucus met to discuss the hospital and a letter is being drafted to send to the IJB. There is concern that the hospital is being closed by stealth, with staff not being replaced and beds being reduced. It could be that savings in the current financial year are being made so perhaps things will change from April. There was discussion on the number of people who could be moved back to Dunoon Hospital but who can't be moved due to the lack of beds. Very hard to pin this number down, not least due to patients not wishing to complain. There is a lack of knowledge of the Highlands & Islands Travel Scheme (for the refund of travel costs to and from hospital) locally.

Oil Rig Decommissioning

Alistair updated the meeting on the issue but the summary is that concerns remain about the plans, for both Hunterston and Loch Striven. Cllrs present were asked to discuss the issue with Cllr Moffat in Bute. Question is whether permission is needed to carry out any work if rigs are in Loch Striven.

School Transport

It seems that some of the cuts by the council affect transport for activities carried out within school hours, eg Riding for the Disabled. Cllr Forrest will investigate.

Speed Surveys

There was discussion on the speed survey and the claim that the equipment was accurate, despite the strange results in the survey carried out in Toward last year. This led to a discussion on the proposed new bus stops in Toward and whether or not the bus could always go to the sailing club.

AOCB

- A lamppost fell in Innellan and a query was raised by the local media. Many of the new lampposts were already showing signs of corrosion near the top of the post.
- It was agreed to buy 20 Rural Watch signs at a cost of £120 plus delivery. Claire to be asked to order them.
- Cllr Anderson said the bins at Sandy Beach will be replaced. New lines will be painted in various places.
- A speed survey at the foot of Mathieson Lane apparently warrants a school sign being erected to try and slow drivers down. Cllr Anderson to investigate.
- A query was raised about the community festival but there appears to be little enthusiasm for running it this year, although the pet show may be run by the school and the open gardens run by Inspiring Innellan.
- The resilience plan will be reviewed and will be a topic at the next meeting.
- Cllr Good said that the drain cleaning machine was out of commission due to its dual role as a gritter.