

## DUNADD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Dunadd Community Council held on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 via zoom.

Present- George Stewart (GS) (Chair), Hazel Fuller (HF), Willie Beattie (WB), Sue Maclean (SM), Jo Cole (JC), David Smart (DS)

In attendance: Jan Brown (DP) (representing A&B Council), Grace MacLeod (GM) (representing Kilmartin Museum), Rowena Ranger (RR), Marion Pallistar (MP), Catriona Gorrie (CC), Charles Gorrie (CHC).

### AGENDA

#### 1. Apologies

Di Roberts, Dave Bracken, Sue Creech and Sharon Webb

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

JC advised she has an interest in the Ford microgrant request and will not be allowed to vote.

HF and DS advised they have an interest in the DCE microgrant request and will not be allowed to vote.

#### 3. Minutes of previous meeting

DS proposed the minutes of the meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 as accurate and JC seconded.

**HF has created an update tracker in excel and will add this with the minutes.**

#### 4. October flood - questions update and next steps

Since the last meeting, HF submitted the questions to the council and posted the response to the questions on the website at the end of 2023. GS asked if anyone had any comments or questions to make. A discussion took place and the following points and comments were captured -

A meeting took place earlier in the month by the Kilmichael Flood Group in the Kilmartin hotel to go over the stakeholder meeting in December and to decide next steps. Since the meeting JB has spoken to SEPA about what we can do to help the river recover as there is a lot of damage to the river banks. A huge number of rocks and boulders have come down into the river and changed the course and depth of the river. It was suggested that this will mean that the river will take longer to overflow due to the change in depth. SEPA have advised that it is up to the local authority to inspect the river and to clean parts that they think are causing damage. The landowners who own parts of the river – it is their responsibility to ensure that their

section is cleared of any debris that could cause any further damage. To do any work on the river, you have to be registered with SEPA, an assessment needs to be done. The council can remove things from the river and have done near the bridges.

Rivertrack – flood alerting system for resilient communities. You have to be registered and assessed for this. JB has approached SSEN renewables to ask if there is any funding to pay for Rivertrack.

JB and A&B's community resilient manager went to visit Kilmichael. They drove around where the flooding was.

The emergency planning team are very keen to help Kilmichael install small community resilience plans – they are happy to help put one in place. They are looking at potentially using the school as a base and would provide essentials etc camp beds etc. Also potential to look at getting walkie talkies.

Each CC has a community resilience pack/ plan – Kilmichael Glen need to have a plan as more susceptible for flooding. HF advised that last year we tried to get a list together and did a plea on social media and the website but there were no responses. The current lists that Jim Malcolm put together will be out of date. HF suggested we look to have a person in each area of Dunadd put together a list.

SEPA, A&B Council, SSE, Forestry – Scottish National Heritage sent their apologies to the stakeholder meeting. There will be a further meeting of the Kilmichael flood group.

JB is going to speak to the police to understand what their involvement is in the event of a flood.

If there are any further questions from the next Kilmichael group meeting, they will get in touch with HF.

Climate change is with us and we need to do things to counteract that. Over the centuries the river in Kilmichael has straightened, it is not in its natural state. There are many places in the country that have been doing re-wilding. It was recommended that rewilding of the river is done and some bends are put back in the river to take away some of the energy. It was suggested that a hydrologist assesses the river.

A request has been put forward that sensors are put into the River Add to give a warning of flood.

**HF will send the following response to Argyll and Bute Council –**

- 1. Request a copy of the de-briefs/ lessons learned that have already taken place**
- 2. Ask if the flooding mailbox is manned 24/7 and if not what is the contingency.**
- 3. Will this mailbox be permanent**
- 4. Could the council arrange for a hydrologist to assess the river?**

**5. The river in Kilmichael is not in its natural state – could it be assessed to see if some of the bends could be put back in it?**

**HF will speak to Jolyon Gritten at the council re the landowners**

**HF will share details of the SEPA consultation once this becomes available.**

There is a flood forum which has suggestions on how to protect your home [The Scottish Flood Forum - Supporting Flood Risk Communities](#)

The burn in Lochgilphead that goes across the meadows is also causing issues and floods several times a year.

West Dunbartonshire council have info on the flood forum and funding [Flood Protection | West Dunbartonshire Council \(west-dunbarton.gov.uk\)](#)

5. Matters arising from the minutes:

5.1 Traffic problems

HF has received updates from the previous traffic problems – please see excel with updates attached.

6. Reports: 8.10-8.20

6.1 Police Report

No police in attendance. LB42 – November stats- 75 calls – 19 of which were crimes.

6.2 Treasurer's Report

HF read the treasurer's report in DR's absence -

DCC Acct balances reconciled to the bank accts are as follows:

General acct- £2,481. DR has since been reimbursed (£24) for the agreed gift for the account verifier for 2022/23.

Kilmichael defib. £1,037. Outstanding projected costs £815, potential underspend £220, this has decreased from last report as the training costs were more than expected.

Micro Grant acct - £2,658. The awarded £250 for 19<sup>th</sup> Argyll Scouts has since been paid.

Innogy acct - £3643. There is an outstanding electricity bill which Amber is querying. This is likely to be around £2,400.

6.3 Planning Report

Loch Awe management plan – no comments made

FLS – HF will email with the following responses and any further responses received via email before the end of the February –

**The C38 is a single track – can we have advance warning of when the vehicles will be going through and will they be going via the school?**

- 1. Why are they not using the back forest roads near Minard?**
- 2. The feedback sent in from local residents**
- 3. Will they be upgrading the C38**
- 4. How will the access be managed on the single track?**

Donald MacNeil from Forestry Scotland was a suggestion for DCC to speak to regarding the consultation.

#### 6.4 Kilmartin Quarry extension

**GM will contact Macleods to get an update on the quarry extension and find out if there are plans for any increased movements.**

#### 7. Updates:

##### 7.1 Kilmartin Museum (including 6 monthly engagement meetings)

GM gave the update on behalf of the museum.

The museum had to close early in December due to a power failure. As a result of this, some of the precious artifacts have had to go back to Edinburgh.

The heating is better but not back to standard – the museum need to wait for this to come back before the artefacts can be returned.

Currently, the builders are in and are working on snagging. The museum are hoping to be re-open by Easter.

Café operator – hoping to get lease signed and café operator in post at the beginning of March for opening Easter.

There will be some job vacancies coming up including managerial and visitor experience.

The Kilmartin Cross will be in the museum by February. This is being funded by HES.

The Museum have been awarded £44k from museums and galleries Scotland, this will fit out collection store – this will happen by July.

A question was asked regarding the Glebe field parking application and an update. GM advised that she believed that idea has been shelved following

concerns from a road engineer re access at the corner. The museum remain committed to an overflow car park and there will be a meeting in Feb between the Council, Museum and HES to look at alternatives. Because it has been so long since the last consultation regarding the overflow car park it maybe that a new consultation will be suggested.

It was advised that the Kilmartin Museum website still has the Glebe field parking on the website – GM will look into this.

## 7.2 DCE update

DS advised AGM took place on 11<sup>th</sup> January – really successful and positive. DCE have secured new directors.

DCE have presented first iteration of the community plan – meant to be 2 supplementary consultations – 1<sup>st</sup> in Ford was postponed due to weather, 2<sup>nd</sup> one tomorrow is postponed. The next consultation is in Ford on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

DCE have developed a new community plan and are looking for suggestions and feedback which forms the community consultations.

Hopefully the plan will be signed off by Easter and then the plan is to put a funding proposal together to get a development worker.

DS advised a question they have had at the consultation is that there is an understanding the church in Kilmartin may be going back on the market. DCE will not do anything pre-emptive, DCE currently have no interest in doing anything with the church, this option was explored before. Unless there is a really strong support from the community, then the church will be put up for the sale.

## 7.3 19<sup>th</sup> Argyll Scouts purchase of Uillean – update

DS advised that the Scouts have now purchased Uillean.

DS did a presentation. The following points were captured –

1. The 19<sup>th</sup> Argyll Scouts have now purchased part of the Uillean land. They own a third of an acre and the barn. This was concluded in January.
2. Scouting now spans 216 countries and is the largest non-curriculum organisation.
3. The 19<sup>th</sup> Argyll Scouts are 75 years old and consist of 108 young people and 23 adult volunteers. Age ranges start at 4 and finish at 18.
4. Currently there is no premises in the area large enough for all 108 young people
5. In 1865 Uillean was the size of Bridgend, there were some homes and a barn. In 2020, the Scouts visited Norway who had a hut in a wood and that's where the vision for the 19<sup>th</sup> Scouts to do similar, began.

6. The vision – the Uillean site is to be a green field camp site, this will be low impact using light weight tents with the barn will be used for storage. The site is off-grid with no power, water or sanitation; the Scouts will improve the site by putting in waterless toilets. Once work is complete, the site will be made available for the local community to use.
7. Uillean was selected as a potential site for acquisition due to its location, the Barn onsite, space for camping, its distance from neighbours, the ability to access by emergency services, mobile phone coverage and the ability to undertake a myriad of activities associated with the Scouting 'Skills for Life' agenda. Whilst the barn requires extensive refurbishment, it is dry and the roof timbers are in good condition.
8. In 2020 19<sup>th</sup> Argyll began discussions with Forestry Land Scotland and in January this year 2024, the sale concluded.
9. Timelines – the area will be secured, the hope is that camping will start at the site in March 2024, the toilets will not be available by then. There is currently a planning process taking place to change the use to recreation to allow construction and erection of the waterless toilets.
10. It is thought it will cost approximately £15-20k to put the toilets in, there will be fundraising for this and the barn upgrades which are estimated at £80k – this will be 2025/2026.

DS asked if there were any questions – the following was captured –

1. A question was asked how are the Scouts going to make the ground safe where the school and other buildings have recently been demolished. DS advised that a full risk assessment will be done. The scouts already do green field camping. Slips, trips and falls are constantly discussed. All leaders are currently going through mandated safety training – this includes how to undertake and utilise risk assessments.
2. There are people disappointed that the Forestry Commission demolished parts of Uillean – DS noted that this was a decision for FLS and was not on the Scout property. Their objective is to refurbish the barn and see this building and the site given a new lease of life.
3. There is a concern over safety issues including access to the barn and the cattle in the fields. DS advised that the Scouts have the responsibility to ensure the safety of all who use the site. The plan is to walk into the site, either across adjacent fields (discussions with the landowner have taken place) or via the forestry track. The preferred route is across country via the fields; if the field has cattle in then it will not be used. If the forestry track is being used, participants will be dropped at the Primary School and will be walked in single file down the Glen Road to the Forestry track turn off. Regardless of the route, all participants will wear hi viz, adult leaders will be at the front and rear of the group and good practice when walking on un-paved roads will be followed in line with written risk assessments.

4. Concerns were raised about cattle accessing the site and being on the tracks – DS noted that there is no need for a stock fence in the purchase agreement, but this would be investigated to see how the site could be secured. If cattle were encountered, the group would make a decision based on the situation as how to proceed using dynamic risk assessment.

**GS asked that concerns be looked into and will come back to it.**

## Correspondence

### 7.4 C38 update

HF advised that the next Timber forum is in April. HF will send a list of questions to add to the next meeting for the C38. Local residents have also sent excellent feedback in.

### 7.5 Funding requests

David Bracken - £250 for DCE to go towards Community Consultations

SM proposed and JC seconded.

Sue Creech - On behalf of Ford Village Hall I'd like to apply for a microgrant of £ 161.97 to replace the adult defibrillator pads which are due to expire.

SM proposed and WB seconded.

**Both micro-grants were approved, HF will contact DR for payments.**

## 8. Public questions

HF advised that an email has come in for the defib in Kilmichael to be serviced. HF advised that the defib needs to be sent away. HF asked what other areas have done given that we would be without the defib for a week or two. Ford advised that they have sent it away.

A discussion took place and it was agreed that DCC will wait until June to have the defib serviced and will contact other places in the area with defibs to see if there was enough uptake, then pay a servicer to come up and service all the defibs in the area. JB will pass HF details on for Bill Nelson in Inveraray.

HF also advised that legislation was passed in England that all schools were to have a defib installed by 2023. Scotland did not adopt this. JB has spoken to the council and they have advised that if DCC purchase a defib for Kilmichael school, then they will have it installed. **HF and JB will look into this.**

## 9. AOCB

None

10. Date of Next Meeting – **27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Ford**