



# OBAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of meeting held on the 28 March 2016 at 7pm in Rockfield Centre.

1. Present: J Anfield, G Berry, D Gallant, K Green, K MacColl, J MacFarlane, M Malloy, D Martin, G Nicholson, S Russell, K Winton.

Councillors: E Robertson, R MacCuish.

Police: M Stevens.

Public: K MacLennan, S Windrum.

OT: L Glen

Apologies: MJ Devon, I MacLean, B Martin, M MacKenzie, K MacIntyre.

2. Declaration of interest: None.

3. Police Report (Area Inspector Mark Stevens):

Reported crime in the last month has included drug possession, disorderly conduct, thefts, vandalism, and drink driving.

Higher profile walking patrols are being planned over the summer, backed by 3 officers being seconded from elsewhere in Scotland for the season – 2 from Glasgow and one from Central Scotland.

There is now a new Chief Constable for Police Scotland, who wishes to move away from key performance indicators and towards policing being focussed on what communities want. There will be an online survey made public soon to identify concerns to allow this to be achieved.

Preparations for Oban Live in May are ongoing, with a traffic management plan in operation which will restrict parking by residents. DG asked if buses would be running in Glencruitten and MS confirmed that the plan would allow this.

GB queried about the new traffic islands that had been inserted on George Street as part of the CHORD works. MS felt that these would encourage traffic to slow down and increase safety, however GB raised concerns about the ability of large vehicles to manoeuvre around these.

DM asked whether there was much cybercrime locally, with KML having raised scams in the Community Council meeting last month. MS responded by saying that there was a steady volume being reported and that the Scottish Business Resilience Centre can help businesses protect themselves, with the Police Scotland website providing information to help people stay safe on-line.

MM raised concerns over use of bikes in the pedestrianised area in Stafford Street and asked if the police and council could do anything about this. MS said that as they are not breaking any laws the police can speak to them and ask them to go somewhere safer but cannot force them to leave. This prompted a discussion about the proposed skate park and it was suggested that those involved could give the Community Council an update on this.

4. Minutes of last meeting: Apologies had been received from KW and SR but were missing from the minutes.



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## 5. Matters arising:

GB noted JMK's resignation e-mail from the previous meeting, and wished it noted that Community Councillors, including him had made efforts to make her feel welcome, and was disappointed that she had felt it necessary to criticise some Community Councillors.

KMC asked if a response had been prepared on community housing. KG said he would be sending one stressing the need to have affordable housing in high demand areas including Oban and Lorn and that there should be significant amounts of housing available for social rents. RMC suggested that priority should be given for veterans and this was agreed. He also added that the money available to build housing in Argyll has been increased from £7 million to £11 million.

GB mentioned that CalMac staff have been offered parking by MacQueens for £5 which will go to charity.

## 6. Public questions and issues:

KML brought up the issue of the right hand filter at the Soroba Road junction by the High School, with the phase not always operating. He believed SMI had said there was a pad there. RMC said to contact Brian Rattray who can arrange with Transport Scotland to look into this.

## 7. Common Good Fund (Cllr. Elaine Robertson):

The Common Good Fund set up in 1913 when Janet Sinclair bequeathed property for the good of the Oban people. This is now administered by the council and trustees are made up of Councillors from Wards 4 and 5. These have been Cllrs. NMI and AMD from Ward 4, ER and IMD from Ward 5. With the recent resignation of IMD there is a need to appoint one new trustee. An observer is present at meetings from the Community Council and Oban Churches in response to calls for greater transparency about money being used for the good of Oban. Applications can be made on line or by paper application form. The trust has a million pounds of capital and only the interest on this is used. Smaller groups are being encouraged to apply for funding to help get projects off the ground.

## 8. BIDS (Cllr Roddy McCuish):

The shop signage improvement scheme and funding for the Green Machine are some of the more noticeable projects that BIDS have made possible. There is a core 2 or 3 people who work hard to make BIDS a success and more help would be welcome. BIDS will have to be renewed next year, and going forward it will be essential in Oban to promote the town in ways the council is unable to do with limited budgets.

## 9. Distribution of funding within Argyll following UK budget announcement

MM commented about Helensburgh being awarded £5 million towards leisure facilities, with LGL adding that this was to cater for personnel located at Faslane and their families and need for a swimming pool. RMC confirmed that George Osbourne has allocated money and that the suggestion of £5m being taken out of the capital funding already allocated for these facilities and distributed around Argyll was going to be looked at.



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## 10. Subgroup reports:

### a) Health and Education:

DM stated that a consultant post at the hospital had been filled. The Integrated Joint Board comes into effect on 1 April with DM being joint chair of the Locality Planning Group. KW was also willing to sit on this group as a representative from OCC. ER noted that a lot of work has been done and that with big changes are coming community involvement is needed. GB asked why the diabetes clinic at the hospital was only on Fridays as he felt this wasn't sufficient for the number of people in the area.

Following representation at the Local Planning Group it has been announced that proposed teacher numbers at Oban High School have been increased from 68 to 72.2 from 68.

### b) Transport

KW is willing to join group, this was proposed by DG and seconded by MM.

Engineering work on the West Highland Line is now finished, however it has just started at Queen Street with the High Level station closed to trains until August. As a result some times and trains have been altered – with some trains to Oban now 6 carriages long, however due to short station platforms only 4 can be used by passengers. There were meetings on 14 March about a proposed Community Rail Partnership at the stations between Oban and Crianlarich. It was stressed that Oban Station is inadequate for the numbers of passengers using it. Next meeting concerning this will be on 21 April in Crianlarich.

### c) Development, Licensing and Planning – No contentious issues.

### d) Environment

Litter around town a problem particularly the Black Lynn. MM asked KG to write to Derek Connery or Derek Crooks about this.

## 11. AOCB:

MM spoke of the loss of Tommy Grimes, Kells Councillor. She had passed on OCC condolences.

GN reported that the cinema was doing well, with a £45000 shortfall last year being turned into a £25000 this year. LGL asked whether the cinema could apply to BIDS for help with signage and RMC said yes, 50% grants are available. LGL said that Scottish Opera have asked to use the cinema for a live test screening.

GB queried the lack of Community Council procedure for a vote of no confidence or grievance. MM confirmed there isn't but suggested we can put it in the review.

GN noted the new Tarmac at Ganavan. RMC said this had been in response to complaints about the state of the car park and was funded from parking revenues. It is now free for the first two hours after that £1 an hour.

RMC reported that work was going ahead with the step ashore facility at the North Pier with drilling due to start by 19 April.

Next meeting - 25 April 2016 in the Rockfield Centre at 7pm.