



OBAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Minutes of meeting held on Monday 29th February 2016, at 7pm in the Glencruitten Church Centre

1. Present: K Green, S McIver (Chair), K MacColl, G Nicholson, J MacFarlane, D Martin, D Gallant, J Anfield.

Councillors: N MacIntyre, I MacLean

Police: A Simpson

OT: L Glen

Scottish Health Council: A MacCrossan

Public: K MacLennan.

Apologies: M Malloy, G Berry, K MacIntyre, A Vennard, E Robertson, R McCuish, J McKenzie, MJ Devon.

2. Declaration of interest:

None

3. Police Report (A Simpson):

3 individuals have been reported trying to use counterfeit £50 notes.

2 males reported arriving on train with Class A drugs.

AS talked about an initiative in schools giving advice on internet safety and drugs awareness talks.

KML queried police position on naming people who slander or send abusive messages. AS said this is usually a civil matter.

KML also asked about cold calling and scams affecting older people. AS said the police continue to try and educate by putting information out to the public on this, and would always advise to not give out information.

AS also warned of dangers of credit and debit card cloning which has been seen elsewhere.

AS apologised as he would need to leave promptly as there was an ongoing mountain rescue.



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4. Minutes of last meeting (25th January 2016):

A correction was noted to the date of last meeting (which should read 25 January 2016) and the date of the meeting before (which should read 30 November 2015)

Proposed JMF. Seconded DM.

KG read out JMK's resignation from Oban Community Council as a result of being elected as an Argyll and Bute Councillor. SMI congratulated JMK on winning the seat and wished her a good term in office. He commiserated with AV and KG and hoped they would stand again at some point in the future.

5. Matters arising:

JMF asked about the Premier Inn. IML reported that the roads department had raised concerns about parking but these had been resolved.

DG reported that the bus used by children from Mossfield to Park Primary School had not turned up on 3 occasions with West Coast Motors not informing council or school that there would be no bus. NMI had not had any complaints about this but would follow it up.

KG reported he had submitted a reply to Argyll and Bute Council satisfaction survey sent out to Community Councils.

6. Public questions and issues:

A MacCrossan from the Scottish Health Council was at the meeting keen to find issues and get comments from Oban –

MM discussed how she had submitted a question on maternity services to the Cabinet Secretary. AMC spoke of focus groups in Oban, Dunoon and Campbeltown to review maternity services in Argyll, the findings of which will feed into a national review which will be published and distributed in due course. Consultations to be held before Christmas with CC's being involved.

The Health and Social Care Integration was raised with worries over gaps in communication on this. ER, who sits on the board has provided updates to Oban Community Council about the process and AMC said that ER is keen to have feedback from communities.



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It was felt important to involve young people more in care services and to encourage them to consider jobs in this sector. Some at present might not be aware of self directed support and the options now available for care in the community. To achieve this more training and information will be needed in schools. Community Councils can potentially help by involving young people.

DM felt that we need to get away from mindset of changes being imposed on communities and there should be more done in planning stages in cooperation with communities.

SMI thanked AMC for attending the meeting.

LGL spoke as a member of the press having written to all Community Councils regarding Argyll and Bute Councillor attendance at Community Council meetings. KG had replied on behalf of OCC to say that Oban meeting were usually well attended.

7. Leasing of Ganavan:

IML reported that there were 2 interested parties in leasing ground at Ganavan. This could include the existing toilet block, area of grass or both, and would see a new café/restaurant being built. SMI asked why the old restaurant was closed and would access be maintained to Ganavan, JMF emphasised that the area belongs to the people of Oban, and KML queried how much land was being discussed. IML clarified the extent of land proposed to be leased, with DM adding that he felt this could end up benefiting the community.

8. Housing consultation:

KG read out information about the proposed housing strategy which Argyll and Bute Council are conducting a consultation on. This proposes 550 affordable homes being built across Argyll.

NMI was unsure where the money will come from.

There was concern over where the houses would be built, with Oban and Lorn having a shortage of social and affordable housing, while there is spare capacity in other areas.

It was asked whether the design of houses could be improved so they weren't just 'white boxes'.

LGL spoke of a letter to the Oban Times stressing the need for social housing, as some houses called affordable have higher rents. KG said the consultation appeared to encompass all affordable housing, including social housing. It was felt however that as there was no mention of the number of social houses that this should be added.

NMI felt that it would be beneficial if the council could build housing as well as housing associations.



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DG said that the strategy is unrealistic and asked what the plans were for implementation.

DM felt the plans depended on the money available.

IML commented on the cost of sites, and that the Local Plan should be identifying and freeing up areas for social housing.

KMC noted that the cost of building across Argyll can vary enormously.

KG will prepare a response on behalf of the Community Council.

9. Report from Community Planning Group (D Martin):

A presentation had been given to the group by P Bain (Headteacher, Oban High School). MM had asked about the staffing at the school and PB had said that if the school was restricted to 68 teaching staff then they wouldn't be able to offer as wide a variety of courses. There had also been a presentation on the playpark by Atlantis which is now open.

10. Subgroups:

a) Health and Education – No report

b) Transport

DM raised issues of CalMac staff needing long stay car parking, which will increase with the new RET Summer Timetable having more ferries. IML said that council had discussed with Atlantis about the possibility of using the car park there.

SMI spoke of the confusion on parking restrictions in Breadalbane St with the sign on pavement saying 4 hours but the machine only 2. IML will write a letter to Jim Smith, head of roads at the council about this.

DM said that there is a meeting about possibility of a Community Rail Partnership on 14 March.

c) Development, Planning and Licensing

Query over upgrades to blaze pitch. NMI said this is to do with the new high school.

d) Environment – No report

11. AOCB none

12. Date of next meeting 28 March 16.