

Minutes of Oban Community Council held on 26th March 2018 at 7pm in the Rockfield Centre, Stevenson Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5DE

Present: K MacColl (KMC), J Anfield (JA), D Martin (DM), M Malloy (MM), J MacFarlane (JMF), S Russell (SR), G Berry (GB).

Councillors: E Robertson (ER), K Green (KG), A Vennard (AV), R McCuish (RMC).

OT: S Neil (SN).

Police:

Public: K MacLennan (KML), N MacIntyre (NMI)

Apologies: D Gallant (DG), G Nicholson (GN), J MacGregor (JMG), K Winton (KW), J Lynch (JL)

2. Declarations of interest: None.

3. Police Report: Report of theft of tractor and trailer worth £30,000 from Pennyfuir. Two reports of assault, two people arrested. KG asked if there was a rise in violent crime. Comes around now and again but no. One car theft, somebody jailed.

4. Minutes of last meeting 26th February 2018: The minutes were duly approved for accuracy.

5. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting: KML on water testing was advised to contact Scottish Water. No water testing equipment based here. Meals on wheels finished one week earlier than planned. Dalrannoch Foods had a leaflet which meals on wheels didn't distribute. KG M Dougall has offered lifts to the soup kitchen for anybody who needs it. University town launch went well.

6. Public questions and issues: GB concerns in Soroba over rats being seen by the playpark. Oban Times printed comments on meetings behind closed doors, this causes mistrust. The tourist board have said this could be the busiest seasons ever. I again raise my concerns over the cutting of the emergency services. The roads are great well done to the council for the work that has been done. KML told of a scam involving his elderly aunt and uncle. They were told to purchase £150 of iPhone cards and they would be given £300. A person named Victoria Lodge was supposed to meet them and do the swap. However she didn't appear and they were phoned to ask for the card numbers. NMI this should be broadcast on Oban FM. The barriers on the Dunbeg Road are they of any use? ER This was raised with Transport Scotland who said the work had been done to mitigate the dangers on the road.

7. Councillor Reports: RMC extra money to be spent on roads. Its important the money from the budget for roads is spent correctly. WW1 commemoration on Islay on the 4th May. AV the money from the budget for the roads is to be split between Oban and the islands. Council tax payments can now be paid over 12 months. ER There are 12/14 yellow badge tour guides now. Guided tours for cruise ships in the area. Cruise ship committee visited the new harbour building and it is looking good. A seminar for local businesses on Eco possibilities. Meeting held at the Rockfield centre on barriers to women going in to politics. Meetings on the new GP

contracts which could affect rural GP's. Had a nice duty to perform presenting Norman Nicholson with a quaich, acknowledging his 40 years with the Bach choir and orchestra. NMI raised concerns over the area where cruise ship passengers disembark. Suggested a bigger mural at the old Argyll hotel site. ER Perhaps BIDS? RMC Oban Live was going to do something. Needs improved. Regent hotel needing painted too. They could contact BIDS as grants are available. KG Council supporting rural GP's on new contracts. Budget has some good things in it not all bad. Supporting families and children, children being kept in their local communities rather than being sent away. Money saved on maternity services with scanning locally. Corporate services reducing travel costs. Contentious items such as closing resource centres, old folks centres, Knapdale ward in Mid Argyll. Services closing because of the lack of workforce.

8. Health and Social Care: NMI Years of not acting coming home to roost, political decisions. Care in the community is not working. MSP has even said the management was not working. Cant make health services political. MM I am concerned that Oban hospital could close and Oban people would need to travel to Fort William. RMC Hard political decisions weren't taken years ago. That brought down the SNP council in 2012. It is not possible to make health workers redundant. MM There are too many chiefs at the hospital. KG There is a 5.3m budget gap. A deficit of 12m, on top of 8m. With any service changes people would be assessed and provision made for them. Wednesday there is a vote on the proposals. The Scottish Governments strategic plan means they want to see care in the community. No decisions are final as yet. Some of the proposals may not happen. NMI Young kids being trained for care jobs this is not going to happen. Care homes are what is needed. KG Budget is rising it just doesn't meet demand.

9. Licensing: Two Applications. One for the Corran Halls and one from the Distillery. OCC decided to support these.

10. AOCB: DM New parking restrictions? RMC Not up and running yet as the new machines are not ready. I shall try to get a date. NMI Any further forward on car parking, possible multi storey. RMC There is interest from companies on this. Millpark depot is to be used for car parking. Also like to commend the litter pickers who have been out and about in Oban doing a great job.

11. Date of next meeting: 23rd April 2018.