

Minutes of Oban Community Council held on 25th November 2019 at 7pm in the Rockfield Centre, Stevenson Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5DE

Present: D Martin (DM), M Malloy (MM), J MacFarlane (JMF), L Grant (LG), J Anfield(JA), N MacIntyre(NMI), S McIver(SMI), R Wynd(RW), M Wilkins(MW).

Councillors: K Green (KG), J Lynch(JL).

Public: K MacLellan(KML), A Rennie(AR), P Hammerton(PH), A Spence(AS), G Nicholson(GN), M Cooper(MC), S Barnard(SB), L Corbe(LC), G Berry(GB).

Dunollie Woods: R Woods(RW).

Apologies: A Vennard(AV), S Russell(SR), C McKeown(CMK), R McCuish(RMC), K McColl(KMC), E Robertson(ER).

2. Declarations of interest: None.

3. Police Report: No police.

4. Minutes of last meeting: The minutes were duly approved for accuracy.

5. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting: P1. DM Harbour meeting 26/11/19. PH Still meeting with the council re their intentions. P2.JMF Whats happening with Mossfield? Meeting 27/11/19 for stakeholders. JMF How did the Soroba public meeting go? JL Not so well. If people don't turn up there is not much I can do. I am happy to discuss this issue with anyone who wants to.

6. Dunollie Woods: RW Looking to to move the woods back from non native species to native species. Clearing out bamboo and rhodedendrons. Want to use local contractors. Also the removal of Larch which will help clear disease. Fences to be erected, tree planting and bracken control . Looking for 16 volunteers to help. At the Corran Halls a board will show walking routes. Engagement with OHS, get schools involved. Also links to Oban Beautiful. Consultation as it is important to know what people think. Bealachan Righ has some dangerous trees. So work will be done to remove these which will cause some traffic disruption.

7. Parking; LC FB survey to gather opinions on parking. Also now an FB discussion group for OCC. LC Shows people are willing to pay but for a reasonable cost. PH What about non IT folk? Possibly use the Oban Times. DM We can gather this information then possible have a public event. MM What about the notice boards in the town such us Gibraltar St? AS BIDS will be updating these boards soon, and OCC welcome to use them. What are the timescales for this consultation? LC We are talking December. DM TRO process in the New Year. AS BIDS has done a lot of work on this. Been having meetings since January and all has fallen on deaf ears. Most commented problem is long stay parking. KG Changes to the charging will impact council budgets. AS We need something to happen can't have another year of complaints. LC How do make sure this work is not ignored? JL Councillors need to push it. Survey will hopefully make them see this is not just a few grumbles but peoples opinions.

8. Local Development Plan; DM Out for consultation. As yet no word of local events. OCC hold something? Meet with someone from the council? JL to find out more.

9. Locality Planning HSCP: DM Been no health care forum. Not heard of anything happening.

10. Planning: SMI Two houses at McKelvie Heights. Looks like green belt land. Lonan Drive. Contractors now have new architect from Glasgow. Houses up from 35 to 45.

11. Electric bikes; MM Contacted by the National Organisation there is a pot of money we can bid for to buy 5 bikes. Where would they go? Make a bid or not? AS Been talk of this for a while now. Business in the town in negotiation. Its more complicated than you would think, all sorts of obstacles. They need looked after. We need more provision in town for locking up bikes. The trains will soon have new carriages for up to 30 bikes.

12. Councillor Reports: KG Council has new Chief Executive Pippa Milne. MM Has the council had a clear out of middle management? KG Yes been going on for several years. JL Remembrance parade I helped get it organised. Thanks to the sea cadets and everyone else involved. Council looking at where they are with regards to climate change. Next meeting 22/1/20. Budget consultation closes on 16/12/19. Dealing with benefit enquiries. PH The community of Oban has gather up plastic waste from around the area. This has now been dumped by the council on the other side of Loch Etive. KG It is up to the community to deal with it. Council have been storing it. Community needs to sort out what is happening with it.

13. Motion to co-opt new members: OCC unanimously agreed to co-opt 4 new members LC, GB, GN and SB.

14. Public questions and issues: MM OCC has objected to the building of two houses at the busy entrance to Soroba. Exit for the proposed 6 cars is opposite the bus stop. AS Last year of funding for Christmas lights. BIDS have done them for the last 2 years with Argyll and Bute grant. Next year there is no provision for tree and lights. Only definite will be the solar Christmas trees. Council may or may not source trees next year. New equipment is needed. Money needs to be raised. Possible costs up to £8000. We need to look to the community. BIDS are meeting with contractors to get costings. BIDS also happy to administer any fund which the community comes up with. No lights next year if community doesn't rally to this. AS Also issues with the floral displays next year. MW Keep Oban Beautiful, getting a proper group together, and have agreed with D Crooks to do the displays at the Corran Halls. KML MMC still doing well. Now looking to get their own premises.

15. AOCB: DM Thanks to our Parking sub-group. LC, KM, SMI and DM.

16. Date of next meeting 27th January 2020.