

OBAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ZOOM MEETING 29TH JUNE 2020 AT 7PM

1. PRESENT: Marri Malloy (Chair), Duncan Martin, Keith Miller, Cynthia McKeown, Jessie MacFarlane, Stewart MacIver, Sue Barnard, Laura Corbe.

COUNCILLORS: Kieron Green, Andrew Vennard, Jim Lynch, Elaine Robertson, Roddy MacCuish. Mary-Jean Devon

OBAN TIMES: Seonaidh John MacKenzie

PUBLIC: Lynn Macrae, Tom Hayward, Colin Cooper,

Apologies: None

2. Declarations of interest: None

3. Police Report: None

4. Banners: OCC & Bid4Oban have co-funded new physical distancing banners for town. OCC has contributed £500.

7. Paths: DM reported that whilst investigating an issue about a blocked path with Jolyon Gritten (Access Manager, A&B Council) it was discovered that the stretch of woodland at the Ardbhan Craigs path belongs to the council. It is therefore up to them to resolve the issue. Council may view the woodland as a liability & will require it to be inspected for safety. A discussion took place around possibilities of the Woodland Trust taking it over or a Community buy-out. The path is not mentioned in the Core Path network reported on by the Land Reform Group but it has a number & was included in a 1984 booklet.

ACTION - DM to circulate the email from the Council. To be an agenda item next meeting.

5. COVID-19: The funding from SSEN has been transferred from Owen Sails to the Ardchattan Centre. 800+ masks have been cut by a team of volunteers & will be ready for distribution shortly

6. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

R McC. Council meetings have been held by Skype successfully & will continue to be held this way until review on September 24th.
Exploring how to continue services under current restrictions.

MJ Information gathering every week. Working with partners from all sectors.
Setting up an Inner Hebrides group of 14 islands to look at the way forward after lockdown. Concern about what will happen when Calmac relax restrictions & have reduced capacity. Uncertainty of what will happen in a medical emergency.

- JL Area Committee issues
Balance between safety & the economy.
Protocols - toilets etc.
Virtual connectivity for shielded.
Council workers group with virtual meetings.
Grants for employers.
More people will become vulnerable if they have no job.
- KG. Meetings about business continuity for quick decisions.
Support to prevent homelessness. Decisions about events & festivals. Covid-19 grants. Has top up money come to the Council from Scottish government?
IJB will have a considerable gap in its finances.
- AV Preparations underway for schools reopening in August.
- ER Very busy time. Area Committee is meeting virtually every week covering issues such as Black Lives Matter.
KG & JL are on Oban FM every Wednesday
Amenities dept. have put up the hanging baskets & planted the beds as well as power washing the pavements.
When & how public toilets will reopen. Focus on North Pier & Ganavan.
Workforce capacity has been reduced. Compliments to the community for rising to the challenge of supporting the vulnerable.

8. Questions Arising.

- MM Needles have been found near where children play in Balvicar Road. What can be done about this?
Action LMcC (temporary police person) said that she would report the issue to colleagues. JL & RMcC asked to be kept informed.
- DM asked when the library will reopen.
Likely to be August.
- MM A community group may be prepared to take on the cleaning of the toilets at Ganavan.
Action Information to be submitted for consideration on Wed 1st July Council meeting.
- TH Upset at ongoing issues about car parks & parking
KG responded that a multi story car park was under consideration for Tweedale.
The possibility of partnership working for a multi story car park/hotel while preserving the number of current parking spaces & using the space more effectively.
- L McC Has been collecting litter from various places while she was here.
Action - look at organising more litter picks when restrictions are lifted.
- CC Spoke about the latest water supply interruption. The need for new pipes should be reinforced. Rumour of the green space in the road to become a turning circle for buses.

JL to continue dialogue with Scottish Water about upgrading the infrastructure. There are no plans for a turning circle, it will be a lay-by. SJMacK said it was to be part of a planning application for 2 houses which has now been abandoned.
RMcC. Stop to other developments because of the water.

CC also spoke about the screening of visitors & how can Oban be protected?
KG Nothing can be done. We have freedom of movement. We have to hope that people will be sensible. 99% are. ER BID have notices with public health notices on them as well as banners jointly funded by OCC in hotspots.

Question from GB re keeping more frequent bin collections.
It was noted that Soroba has more frequent bin collections than any other area but cars are often parked in front of the bins & refuse is often sorted into incorrect bin and household junk e.g is found in large bins.

Action - JL to continue going into the area. Possibility of more recycling bins. LC happy to share any messages on Facebook.

KM OCHD association - a community interest company take off soon.
SB Commented that some councils have been praised for planting their verges with wildflowers. As well as looking good this cuts down on maintainance.
KG there are no plans currently in this area. The Council would have as many complaints that the verges had not been cut as there would be about how good it looked.
JL thought it was worth exploring.
ACTION - LC to explore issue on Facebook.

RMcC Council are hoping to fast track (14 days) planning issues for businesses to safely reopen in compliance with restrictions. outdoor cafe spaces. Roxy's looking for permission to use outside space on Airds Cr. This may mean loosing 2 parking spaces. Council departments need to work together on such issues.
Action - DM to write a letter of support from OCC.

10. **Next meeting - zoom Monday 27th July 7pm.**