

## OBAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES of MEETING on 30/1/23

PRESENT : Frank Roberts (Chair) Sue Barnard, Emily Firth, Dougie Graham, Marri Malloy, Duncan Martin, Jessie Macfarlane, Neil McIntyre, Stewart McIver, Cynthia McKeown.

Kieron Green, Amanda Hampsey, Andrew Kain, Jim Lynch.

Mhairi Bryce, Phil Hamerton, Roddy McCuish, Neil Owen, Alison Rennie, Inspector Page, Sandy Neil.

APOLOGIES: Willie Hume, Grant Nicholson, Elaine Robertson, Andrew Vennard.

1) WELCOME: Chair, Frank Roberts welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Inspector Page for coming to the meeting.

2) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Dougie Graham and Jessie Macfarlane.

4) MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA:

West Coast Motors. No further information.

Road markings on George Street. No further information.

No further information on parking on double yellow lines or the many street parking meters which are not working.

ACTION - Duncan Martin to write to BEAR and the Council about George Street.

Councillor Kain is arranging a meeting at Ganavan with Council officials and OCC representatives about parking there and in the town.

If there is no resolution, the matter can be raised at the Area Committee on the 8th of March as well as using the Complaints Procedure.

5) TREASURER'S REPORT: We now have access to online banking. No significant transactions to report.

6) DRUGS ISSUES IN OBAN: Inspector Page responded to the concerns raised at the last meeting and gave an overview of how drugs issues are dealt with. The two types of drug dealers, those who come into Oban on an organised basis and local drug dealers. The police rely on information from the public. There may be a perception that it is a waste of time reporting issues but all information helps to connect the dots. Last week 8 people were stopped with 3 positive outcomes. The police role is also to deter e.g.random checking of pubs by swabbing the toilets with wipes to detect drugs.  
The incident on Jacob's Ladder was reiterated to the Inspector with a general discussion following. The difficulties of using the available phone numbers to the public, the numbers of police in Oban as well as other reported sightings of drug dealing. The Inspector was thanked for his input. He expressed his willingness to be invited again

7) OBAN HARBOUR: Phil Hamerton gave a very comprehensive overview of the concerns of OCHDA relating to the proposed development plans and in particular to the Harbour Revision Order recently approved by the Harbour Board. OCHDA has withdrawn support for the Council due to the perceived lack of clarity, lack of accountability and reluctance to include the involvement of local communities from Oban and the islands.

Councillor Kain gave assurances that a Local Advisory Group, with wide representation will evolve from The Oban Bay Advisory Group. The terms of reference for this group will be available before the end of February.

8) COUNCILLOR REPORTS: Kieron Green reported on the Budget process. Several options are being considered. Decisions will be made at the Budget meeting on the 23rd of February.  
Jim Lynch spoke about the ongoing issues of employment, cost of living problems, benefits and housing.  
Andrew Kain reported on work with the Harbour Board, the National Transport Strategy, Ganavan and developments at the airport.

9) PLANNING: nothing of significance. There is still no decision from the Scottish Government on the Local Development Plan 2. This is due to the recent publication of National Framework 4.

Duncan Martin agreed to report on planning applications in the absence of Stewart McIver.

10) TRAIN TIMES: Deferred in the absence of Louise Glen.

11) PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

Oban Strategic Framework. Progressing as resources allow. A work in progress since 2019.

Lack of cycle racks in town for electric bikes. There may be a possibility of funding through the local Travel Plan.

No known progress on Gibraltar Street.

'NEXT MEETING: 27th February at 6.30pm. Oban High School or via Google meet.