

OBAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JUNE 2023

Oban High School

Present: *Frank Roberts (Chair) Sue Barnard, Laura Corbe, Marri Malloy, Duncan Martin, Jessie Macfarlane, Neil McIntyre, Stewart McIver.*

Councillors: Kieron Green, Amanda Hampsey, Andrew Kain, Jim Lynch, Luna Martin, Andrew Vennard.

Members of the Public: Mairi Bryce, Richard Boswell, Jill Bowis, Phil Hamerton, Alison Mcnab, Roddy McCuish, Linda Oxland, Alison Rennie.

Police: Sergeant Camy Lowe.

Press: Louise Glen, Seonadh Mackenzie, Sandy Neil.

Apologies: *Emily Firth, Dougie Graham, Councillor Willie Hume, Cynthia McKeown, Grant Nicholson, Elaine Robertson.*

Declarations of Interest: *Laura Corbe - Friends of Ganavan.*

Police Report: *There was no police report but Sergeant Lowe gave a verbal update that between May 1st and June 20th there had been 459 calls resulting in 115 recorded crimes. A number of issues were talked through. The recent good weather has seen an increase in reports of youth disorder, underage drinking and taking of drugs. The police are trying to be as visible as possible. The Chair indicated how much we appreciate a police presence.*

Approval of May Minutes: *No amendments. Approved by Jessie Macfarlane and Marri Malloy.*

Matters Arising: *What was deemed to be an unacceptable reply had been received on the issue of speeding on Longsdale Road. It was agreed to **keep the issue of speeding and shared roads on the agenda.***

LDP2: *The Reporter has recently returned the draft plan to the Council for approval. The recommendation to build houses behind Ganavan, including the shinty pitch remains. This despite all 36*

councillors voting to take that section out after fierce public opposition to the plan.

Councillor Green informed the meeting that if the Council does not agree, the whole plan will have to be started again from scratch.

There are protection and master plans which would put restrictions on development potential at Ganavan, plus there would have to be extensive consultation.

Roddy McCuish quoted from section 19 of the Town and Country Planning Act which says ' The planning authority is required to accept the Reporters recommendations except where there are specific reasons not to'. The grounds for exception are also set out in section 19.

After long and heated discussion it was agreed that this is a bigger issue than just Ganavan. Oban needs a strategic vision to include a chance for people who live and work here to say what they feel is needed, with a doable plan of action.

Andrew Kain. A strategic vision is required for the whole of the OLI area. Oban is not seen as a strategic port at the moment and that needs to change to be seen as having economic benefit for the local area and the Scottish economy. A case needs to be made that this is the right place to put investment.

Action: Set up a specific OLI Area Committee with all stakeholders to look at what/ how we want to create.

Harbour: *Nothing new, Still waiting for the revision order from Transport Scotland. A public meeting will be held when the order is finally in place and then there will be a 42 day consultation period.*

Planning: *No new issues.*

COUNCILLOR REPORTS: *They were pleased to report that the Rockfield Centre had won the Community Regeneration award in the Argyll and Bute Design Awards Competition.*

The Licensing Board would like to hear from the community about the expected demand for extended late opening times during next years Mod which will be in Oban.

More reports of antisocial behaviour particularly noise and mess from Air B&B's.

A housing emergency has been declared across Argyll & Bute. This may help the situation with second homes & Air B&B's.

An audit scrutiny group will be set up to investigate fly tipping.

There is a Budget Simulator on the website.

Trying to work with the DWP to set up a Jobs Fair.

BID will no longer be contributing to the fund for the upgrading Gibraltar Street. The money will now be available for other purposes which may include the Christmas Lights.

A new TRO has been approved for Oban.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS: *Mairi Bryce highlighted the problem of litter around town as well as lack of maintenance to some of the privately owned business buildings in the centre of town. In part, this is due to cuts in the budget as well as a lack of maintenance personnel.*

AOCB: *Congratulations to ex councillor Mary-Jean Devon who has been awarded the British Empire Medal.*

It has been suggested that there may be a technically more suitable room in the school for our meetings. This will be investigated before the next meeting.

There has still been nothing done about the dangerous steps to the beach on the esplanade. It may be that the responsibility for the steps lies with BEAR Scotland and not the Council.

There will be no meeting in July.

NEXT MEETING: *Monday 28th August 2023.*