

Taynuilt Community Council

Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, 12th March 2008

Present: Alan Livingstone (AL) / Peter McCracken (PMcC)/ Tom McLellan (TMcL) / Mary Stone (MS)
Ann Dalgaty / Donald McNeil / Elaine Robertson

Apologies: Cathy Reid / Neil Mackay

Public: 2 members of the public were present.

Committee

Mary Stone tendered her resignation due to other commitments

AL – Confirmed that he would remain as Chair but will resign at next AGM

PMcC – Will remain as Treasurer

TMcL – Will remain as Secretary

AD – Will remain on committee

DMcN – Will remain on committee

CR – Will remain on committee

All of the committee will remain for a further year

Chairman's Report

The purpose of my report will be to give you a brief overview and update on the issues we have been working on throughout the past year.

We have been kept pretty busy over the past year so I'll try and be as brief as possible.

Public local Enquiry

Tom, Peter and I were the main representatives of TCC at the PLI which discussed the proposal to build approximately 50 new houses on the deer park site on the outskirts of the village and in addition there was also a proposal to create a visitors centre beside the housing development.

TCC put forward the view that

1. Our infrastructure needs to be brought up to standard before any further development could even be considered
2. Time needs to be given to allow the people moving into the 100 houses currently being built or already planned to assimilate into the community
3. One of the results of an independent survey was that the vast majority of the community did not want to see further large scale housing developments.
4. TCC and the community are not against some new development but it must be appropriate, phased and sustainable.

We were told that we should know the reporters decision by this January, it then slipped to springtime and the latest is probably by the end of the summer!

Ann continues to respond to planning applications on our behalf .New houses which we think are non controversial get our standard "infrastructure concerns" response, this is to ensure a consistency of approach.

Infrastructure

The improvements we see happening could be regarded as a bit of a double edged sword.
By improving the infrastructure generally we potentially allow for further development.

However we have taken the view that

1. We desperately need these improvements for the situation that exists now and
2. If we are to have what we consider to be excessive development forced upon us we need to try and mitigate its impact.

New Water Main

As well as new plastic pipe throughout all of this side of the village we now also have two separate feeds. One servicing the southern end of the village and one the northern end. This has allowed for a considerable increase in water pressure for many residents in the northern end who suffered from very poor pressure before and should help to “future proof” the supply as more houses are connected.

Sewerage Works

The sewerage works were quite simply knackered!

After considerable hassling from us Scottish Water agreed to spend £1.4 million to bring it to a level that is fit for purpose.

In summary the works being done are as follows

1. A very large storm tank has been installed below ground to take heavy rain and avoid the aeration tanks becoming flooded.
2. The aeration tank is being opened up to its full capacity (twice the existing) and an additional aeration paddle is being fitted as well as replacing the ageing existing one, this not working properly was why it smelled so bad especially in the summer months.
3. Additional filtration processes are being added to ensure the outfall is improved to meet shellfish standards.

The projected completion date is around the end of April, it has slipped due to ground condition problems they encountered.

Pavements/ Pedestrian bridge over the Nant

We have a bid to Sustrans for money to build the new pavements and the pedestrian bridge across the Nant which we were expecting to here about in May/June.

However the good news is that the council had an under spend or was unable to spend on a few other projects because of various issues which meant that money was able to be diverted to do most of our project with the exception of the bridge.

We are still hopeful that the Sustrans bid will be successful and allow the bridge to go ahead.

As you can and will see the improvements will result in the following

1. A raised pavement from the Nant Bridge all the way to the Robin’s Nest, with the exception of the Railway Bridge, which will have a monoblock footway more or less level with the road, allowing traffic to drive on it as required when two cars meet on the bridge.
2. The road widened up the hall brae to accommodate the new pavement whilst still maintaining a carriageway wide enough for two vehicles.
3. We also hope to get a large lay in before the Nant Bridge, on the village side, which will allow more room if you’ve to pass a lorry or a bus.

All of the work should be complete within the next 4-6 weeks.

35 space car park at old loading bay beside station

A & B have agreed to fund the rental of the loading bay area from Network Rail for an initial period of ten years.

We are currently getting costs from Fion to construct a fence/barrier around the loading area and level the ground. We are also getting a price for tarmacadamming the area from Enstone Thistle.

We have approximately £17k to cover all this work with the money coming from
TCC £5
WHHA £10k
Hamish Matheson £2K

It is hoped with a bit of negotiation that this will be enough.

If we can get agreement from Network Rail engineers on the fence/barrier then the legal process can begin to set up the lease but this could take at least six months unfortunately.

The new car park would mean some parking restrictions on the main street to address the congestion we suffer, especially in the summer months. The headmaster, Don Macalister, has agreed to extend the school “walking bus” down to the new car park, if it is built.

Railway Bridge

You may have noticed men working on the bridge parapet. After a considerable amount of hassling from us they agreed to carry out what we considered, they didn't, to be essential repairs.

This time, as opposed to just sticking in bricks in place of the stone blocks they are facing them up with special cement which has the look and texture of natural stone.

Not as good as natural stone but certainly a damned sight better than facing brick.

New pavement outside new development

Although TCC pushed to retrospectively have the road widened and not have a pavement that's nearly the same size as the road! WHHA and A&B said they didn't have the budget to do the little extra work it would have taken. Since it had already been passed by our predecessors then there was nothing more we could do.

Improvements to pedestrian crossing beside hotel.

Tom will give you a quick brief on this one which will also give you a break from listening to me.

Mail Deliveries

Mary looked into this and reported back. Tom has done some further work which has resulted in them doing some monitoring of our mail to establish what's causing the problems. He'll report in due course.

Doctors Surgery

Pete looked into this one (was it just yourself?)

There were concerns over the level of service being offered.

The doctors gave some explanation and welcomed any feedback from the community either directly or through us in future.

New local councilor meetings held in Oban

Tom, Donald and myself have attended these meeting organized by the Oban Lorn and the Isles councilors. We have found them very useful and informativite, the next one is in fact later this month.

At one of the meetings we put forward the suggestion that a part time post for a community council liaison officer be set up by the council. The role of the liaison officer would be to assist community councils throughout Argyll to ensure the efficient flow of information from varying departments to community councils when requested. This would speed the process up and hopefully resolve any minor issues thereby giving more time and importantly information for our local councilors to focus on any major concerns we may need addressing.

After some discussion the councilors agreed to take up the proposal with the local authority and we would hope to get their response at this next meeting in Oban.

It will also be on the agenda of the Association of Argyll and Bute Community Councils meeting this Saturday in Inveraray which I will attend and anyone who would like to accompany me is more than welcome.

Wind Farm

Grants have again been distributed to local organizations and clubs.

The new play park proposal is being driven by Ishbel Innal and the community council have pledged £5k to the project if it succeeds in raising the rest of the funding necessary.

The OAP party went off well and our thanks have to go to local artists who gave up their time voluntarily to provide the entertainment.

Our thanks also to Cathy for organizing the catering side.

The youth club more or less ran it this year and will do so in future for which they will receive a donation to their funds.

I got the feeling from the audience that they enjoyed seeing the young people becoming involved and it can only be good for intergenerational relations. God that's a big word!

Flowerbeds and Hanging baskets

We approached the Horticultural Society to see if they would take this on with help from youth club and receive a donation to their respective funds.

However the horticultural society raised some health and safety issues.

We will have further discussions to see if there is a way around this, perhaps the parents of the young people would accompany them.

TV / Radio reception

A petition organized by Tom Dolan got over 100 signatories, people who are understandably unhappy at having to pay to get Sky if they want a decent reception.

Tom then wrote to the BBC, but unfortunately the response was not helpful.

However, undeterred he is now drafting a letter to go to our parliamentary representatives to get them to lobby on our behalf to make improvements to the existing service or bring forward our anticipated date for going digital from 2011.

Finally I would like to thank, on behalf of myself and the community of Taynult, all my colleagues, other members of the committee and our local councilors for their help and support of the community council over the past year and a special thanks to our loyal audience who turn up every month come rain or shine to listen to our ramblings.

On a personal note, assuming I am re-elected, and you should of course never assume, I will be standing down at the next AGM by which time I hope we've got our new car park and pedestrian bridge over the Nant.

Thank you very much.

Accounts

Copies attached to the end of these minutes.

The accounts were adopted

AOB

Dentistry

There was general discussion about the level of dentistry service in North Lorn. DMcN will monitor the situation.

TV Reception

Mr Tom Dolan gave a brief report on the position following his submission of a petition on behalf of the village. There had been a good response to the petition (100 signatures) calling for improvement to the digital service to the village, however the response from the service providers had not given much hope of an improvement being made.

Planning

There was discussion about a number of planning applications. AL moved into the audience as his planning application for change of use of former nursery to a dwelling house was considered.

No objections were raised.

Kelly's Pier

It was noted that litter bins had been removed from Kelly's Pier.

Macintyre Gathering

It was noted that Lord Gray was hosting this major gathering this summer.

Plastic Bag Free Taynuilt

A project has been organized to provide free non-plastic bags to members of Taynuilt community.

Glen Lonan Bench

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 21st May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Committee Meeting Room