

ARDCHATTAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Notes of informal online meeting 4th February 2021

Present: DJ Barr (CC Convenor), Tim McIntyre (CC Acting Secretary), Caroline Campbell (CC Treasurer), Colin Morrison (CC), Tony Dalgaty (CC), John Campbell (CC); Eilidh Orr (Community Support Co-ordinator); Cllrs Elaine Robertson, Julie McKenzie and Kieron Green; Jill Bowis, Duncan Durbin

Apologies: Robin Dodman (CC), Breege Smyth (CC), David Kearns (CC)

Matters arising from previous meeting: Tim had confirmation from A & B Council that scrub clearance works would be covered under the CC public liability insurance, though it was noted that this was for third party damage/injury and was not an accident policy to cover participants. DJ advised that the new North Connel noticeboard has now been installed – the CC extends its grateful thanks to DJ, Tony & Robin for their assistance with this.

- 1. Breedons – Bonawe Quarry:** Duncan felt that things have been better recently with both engagement and working practices, and with working hours and traffic speeds having noticeably improved. Colin expressed concern that these improvements, particularly in respect of working hours, may be more a temporary effect of lockdown, and pointed out that there had not as yet been any resolution of the issue of Breedons obtaining formal permission from the Council for late-working extensions, as required under their planning conditions. Elaine confirmed that planning consent had not been sought for these extensions recently, and that the planning department was taking a ‘balanced view’ on enforcement of conditions. Jill said that she has not received notice from Breedons of any activities for several months. It was agreed that a liaison Zoom meeting be organised - Colin asked if Planning could be represented at this; Elaine to request.
- 2. Dog fouling on paths in Benderloch:** Elaine has provided some signage which DJ will install. Derek Crooks is to organise patrols by the Dog Warden. Oban Times & Facebook publicity to be arranged, and Jill can provide some QR code stickers for the signage to allow easy reporting.
- 3. Supporting Communities update:** Eilidh provided an update on activities under the Supporting Communities funding mainly over the Christmas period – a donation was made to Club na Caraidean in support of their efforts to provide Xmas gifts to their 45 elderly members, and a ‘Random Acts of Kindness’ initiative saw Xmas gifts & treats delivered by volunteers to the CC’s own list of residents as per previous occasions during Covid restrictions. A laptop computer was kindly donated by Matrix Computers and this has been provided to a home-schooling family. Eilidh has been investigating the possibility of providing transport to vaccination appointments, but this has proved logistically too difficult – it was noted that the NHS are providing home vaccinations for those unable to travel. DJ asked that the Community Council’s thanks be passed on to the volunteers who have provided so much assistance.
- 4. Proposed changes to cemeteries** Argyll & Bute Council have a consultation in which proposes significant reduction in the number of cemeteries in years going forward, specifically by not seeking to extend most existing community cemeteries once they have reached capacity, and instead centralising provision of burial lairs at the large main cemeteries (Pennyfuir in our area). Individuals are encouraged to respond to the consultation and the CC to respond opposing this, as it would mean Achnaba would close once full, rather than be extended.
- 5. Website:** Eilidh has done some updating and upgrading of the CC website using time funded by Supporting Communities. She is currently aiming to improve the section on members and is keen to get photographs and contact details up to date, and also to add some information about what being a community councillor involves, to help inform prospective new members.
- 6. AOB: John** – TSL trailers parked at Bonawe, involved in the Hydro construction, are stuck there for a short period due to Covid and construction related issues, and will be moved

hopefully fairly soon. **Julie** – There is a lack of signage in Bonawe; she will ask Amenity Services to look at this and consult with the CC on improvements. **Jill** – Some of the local surgeries (e.g. Appin) are providing much better communication/community liaison than others (Connel) – DJ to speak to Beth Davies GP. **Tony** – there are ongoing issues with the water supply in Bonawe which is a private system shared between ACHA and a number of private households. **Caroline** – suggested the possibility of seeking funding for a public water fountain/bottle refill facility, perhaps in the village centre somewhere close to the café. **Caroline** - provided an update on funding: The general fund stands at £4,164.88 – the defibrillator fund at £189.70. £200 donation was gratefully received from Gaelforce Marine in response to request from Eilidh. **DJ** advised that school crossing works have been approved and are now with contractors for progressing.

It was agreed to hold a further online meeting on Thursday 18th March 2021 at 6.30pm. Invite and code to be sent out nearer the time.