

FURNACE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOTES OF ZOOM MEETING OF 27th August 2020

PRESENT: Lynda Syed (Chair), Mark Boston, Phil Whale, Val Whale, Ruth Tott, Sharon MacInnes, Councillor Douglas Philand, Andy Henderson

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Sandy Taylor, Ann & Ronnie Dodd

ALSO PRESENT: Andy Henderson

FEEDBACK FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

MB requested minutes from last CC meeting as does not seem to have received them. RT to send through.

TRESURERS REPORT

Balance of £3162.95 in the Community Council Account. This includes:

£552 grant money remaining from Foundation Scotland to spend on the community during Covid 19. Decision taken to hold back spending in case of anticipated 2nd wave.

It also includes £250 for bowling team who are still setting up their bank account.

CC agreed that Zoom was useful for a variety of council and SCIO uses and would be funded out of admin money in the CC account.

POLICE ISSUES

No police presence again. Councillor Philand to speak to Chief Constable Julie MacLeish about getting regular local updates sent to the CC and about getting police presence at the meetings.

ROADS

Councillor Sandy Taylor was raising concerns over the diabolical state of both Quarry Road and Queen Elizabeth (a patchwork) with the Chief Executive. Both the increased volume of heavy lorries as well as the size of the vehicles coming through the village is causing concern.

MB flagged up that BEAR Scotland were going to improve road signage with speed signs being made bigger and asks if this has been progressed via the police.

FURNACE HEALTH CENTRE

LS continues to chase up the who/what and when surrounding plans for the now 'vacant' health care centre. Last conversation with the practice said that "numbers are low" given that ALL numbers are low throughout the country due to Covid 19, and that patients wishing to see their GP are encouraged to carry out their appointment by phone or made to Inveraray to see this nurse this is not surprising.

The surgery has received minor vandalism. It looks like the IT system is down and there is a fan broken – both located at the back of the building. LS reported seeing workmen in the building.

LS continues to try to speak to someone at NHS Estates.

Question over the dentist too. LS to contact Tarbert to find out what is happening.

AH pointed out that we must always include Minard numbers in any discussion about the surgery as they also have to go to Inveraray now.

ERADINE WINDFARM APPLICATION

The CC thanks MB for the work he has done so far on gathering information on the Eradine Windfarm Scoping Report. There are 3 areas he asked about:-

Zone of Visibility

Noise Monitoring

Road Traffic Management

The did respond and MB has circulated the document. The CC now has to officially respond to the document. MB advised that we should urge that we be notified and involved at every step to ensure that we are 'positively engaged' and not adversely impacted.

MB speculates that there will be a degree of visual impact. He will send a copy of his summary to the councillors.

SSEN Group.

LS and SM have had a positive mtg with SSEN/Balfour Beatty regarding tapping into their 'make a difference day' initiative. The SCIO is going to make more use of the 'abandoned' space behind the hall to create an enclosed family orientated space / beer garden. This would move the disabled car parking space to the front of the building and put fencing up around the site, level off the ground and donate a couple of picnic tables. It looks positive.

ENVIRONMENT

6 metal signs warning against dog fouling and 6 concerning fly tipping have been obtained from the council. The dog warden is to be invited to the next meeting to discuss the problem and what we can and cannot do to stop this anti-social and lazy behaviour (by the owners – not the dogs!) This does arouse strong feelings and upsets many people. It's usual suspects who are doing it.

INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDANCE

RT asked if planned letter to the factor still relevant given council has partially cut some of the overhang on pavement leading down to the quarry. Told to hold back. Should also raise matter of Japanese Knotweed running amuck. Land agent is responsible, legally, to eradicate this. It could/should be added to the letter requesting that Argyll Estates deal with it. Similar letter should be sent by the CC to Cumlodden Estates too.

Forestry doing work by Auchendrain. Details to be circulated by LS.

VILLAGE WEBSITE

Work in progress. We are now starting to put content through, slowly.

AOB

NEXT Zoom MEETING - THURSDAY 24th September.