

WEST KINTYRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

AGM held on 15th July 2019 in Clachan hall

Present:

Margaret Pratt (MP) (Convenor), Linda McCrae (LmcC) (Vice Convenor), Morag Branson (MB) (Secretary), Michele Seddon, Christine O'Hanlon, Zofija Sloan, Duncan Macalister, Jennifer Taylor

Apologies:

Margaret Soudan, Police and local reporter

In Attendance:

Councillors – Anne Horn, Alastair Redmond Members of the public – 11

Declarations of Interest:

None noted

Minutes of meeting

Convenor's Annual Report:

Attached to email and copy in noticeboards

Secretary's Annual Report:

Updating members of CC with received correspondence, ensuring minutes of meetings in noticeboards and on website. New website completed with link at end of all documents.

Treasurer's Annual Report:

Statement of Accounts see copy attached

Election of new office bearers

Councillor Redmond asked for proposers for Convenor, MP proposed by CO'H seconded by MB. MP then called for names for Vice Convenor, Treasurer and Secretary with Linda McCrae, Margaret Soudan and Morag Branson returned unopposed. Proposers CO'H, LmcC, MP with Seconders LmcC, CO'H and DM.

Dates for 2019/20 meetings set:

September 16th 2019 Tayinloan

November 18th 2019 A'Chleit

January 20th 2020 Glenbarr

March 16th 2020 Whitehouse - AGM

Date/place of next meeting March 16th 2020 in Whitehouse hall

website

<https://moragbranson.wixsite.com/wkcc>

CONVENER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Since the last annual report in 2017 the 5-yearly cycle of county wide Community Council elections have been held with 7 Community Councillors being re-elected and 2 previously co-opted members formally elected. Following these elections in May 2018 an inaugural meeting of the current Community Council was called and chaired by the returning officer.

Since the last report we have undertaken a survey of all households within the West Kintyre CC area with a FREEPOST return address seeking views on how people wish to see the area develop and their priorities for the next 5 years. This resulted in the “new” community action plan identifying priorities and those responsible for undertaking these actions throughout the lifetime of the plan. This is of course a “living plan” and will no doubt evolve further as other priorities may come to light over the course of its lifespan.

Community Council has held regular 2 monthly meetings throughout the area to allow as many members of the community to attend. Our meetings have been well supported by our local elected members and most meetings have seen an attendance by the police. It heartening to know that we live in a relatively crime free area with speeding being the most reported crime which continues to remain of concern to us.

As well as the 2 monthly general meetings a special meeting attended by Forestry Commission, RDS Forestry and residents of Clachan and the surrounding area was called to discuss a new large forestry development application, it was well attended with those present putting forward their concerns plus the possible knock on effect it may have on the flooding issues experienced at Clachan. These concerns were included in our formal response to the application and were considered within the forest design. Forestry Commission have now given permission for this development.

With regards to the flooding issues at Clachan we have attended regular meetings with A & B Council, SEPA, Scottish Water, Forestry Commission plus representatives from Clachan village regarding the need for a flood prevention study with a view to it being put forward for funding for a flood prevention scheme during the next round of funding from the Scottish Government. A & B Council have commissioned AECON to do this flood survey study which is currently ongoing.

Other special meetings have been called as and when appropriate to discuss new wind farm applications, we have also assisted in the arrangement of information days concerning such applications.

A further 2 new forest plans have recently been received for Achabhruid between Clachan and Whitehouse, and Braids above Killean.

We continue to push for permanent solution to the GP services at Muasdale surgery and understand that following Campbeltown Medical Practice withdrawing their interest GP posts are now being advertised under a General Medical Services Contract.

We have been a representative on the Health and Social Care Locality Planning Group for Kintyre with attendance at monthly meetings until it was disbanded in November 2018. New Locality Planning Groups have now been set up amalgamating the original 8 into 4 larger groups with the Kintyre area now part of the MAKI wide group.

Last summer during the tourist season we were party to the development of a survey of users of Westport Beach regarding the requirement for toilet and shower facilities at the beach. Results show a majority of those surveyed showed this a desired facility due to no facilities being available locally. The Windfarm Trust has agreed to reserve up to 50k for up to two years to allow for further work to be done on the feasibility of such an installation at this site. If developed this will become a community asset and placed on the community asset register for the area.

We have been in regular contact with BEAR Scotland with regards to the needs for resurfacing many areas of the A83, although much work has been done this remains an ongoing regular concern for residents with several areas still needing to be done.

We have represented the views of residents in any contentious planning applications such as that of the application for 4 holiday lodges on ground next door to Stratholm in Clachan and sort enforcement of planning conditions such as those at Lagavullin Mill, Whitehouse

Wind Farms.

The Community Council continues to deal with several new and ongoing wind farm applications with the two most recent being that of High Constellation(a full section 36 planning application) sited to the south east of Freasdail and the latest Sherdriem Hill sited next door to Freasdail above Whitehouse and Clachan. Another new application Narachan above Rhunahaorine and Tayinloan was received last week, both of which are currently at the scoping stage and may progress at a future date to a full section 36 planning applications.

In February this year we attended and presented alongside the Council the community's case at the 2-week conjoined public and appeal hearing concerning called by the Scottish Government's reporters to hear the case of the Killean and Clachaig Glen Windfarm applications. We await the decision by the Scottish Government concerning this matter.

At the beginning of 2018 following their purchase of Majors field at Glenbarr RES put in a variation to planning permission for the access to Blary Hill Windfarm site now known as BHEL. We received a 24-signature petition from the villagers of Glenbarr and the surrounding area objecting to this variation. Following a meeting with RES we came to an agreement that we would remove our objection if they agreed to extend the stone wall boundary of the field towards the junction of the A83 and would landscape the top half of the field making the entrance to the village more attractive. We also gained agreement that they would look at the feasibility of installing extra car parking spaces and the re-siting of the recycling facilities on the remaining southern part of the field and would look at possibility of leasing the field to the CC for the benefit of the wider community. This landscaping has commenced but we understand is yet to be finished, we further understand that BHEL is currently in discussion with the roads department regarding car parking spaces and design.

Other undertakings

After many years of our asking Transport Scotland has undertaken a survey of residents in Muasdale regarding the land needed to extend the footpath from the village to the surgery. However, there was only a 19% response rate with the result being Transport Scotland have decided not to go ahead with this proposal at this time. This footpath is shown as a priority in the Community Action Plan but sadly will not now be achievable in the foreseeable future.

The Community Council continues to run the toilet facilities at Tayinloan pier with no vandalism reported so far this year.

Sadly this year we have seen the closure of another shop and its post office this being the one at Tayinloan it is to be hoped that at some stage this will become available for sale/rent and that someone comes forward to take it on- the area needs local facilities such as this to attract people to come and live in the area, or alternatively we as a community can look at buying the site and developing it as a community asset for future generations.

The wind farm trust has held meetings every 6 months with many a local project being supported, some of the main projects include support for an exciting community initiative contained within the community action plan. This project will see the development of the playpark area of the village with state-of-the-art equipment for all ages of young people. Once completed it will become a community asset for the whole of West Kintyre and visitors to the area. Rhunahaorine School has received a large grant to enable pupils with the help of staff from Kilmartin Museum to undertake a research project of old Largie Castle and the heritage of the area. The trust has given a large donation to the McCorkingdale School of dancing to help fund their trip to America to take part in the National Highland Dance Championships being held there. These are just a flavour of the projects the wind farm trust has been able to support throughout the area. Revenue costs have been given to the 4 WI in the area to assist with their running costs, plus revenue costs for large events given to Clachan Hall Redevelopment project to assist with their fundraising activities. The next windfarm trust allocation meeting will be held in October of this year.

The Community Fund is currently supporting 7 bursaries – 4 undergraduate degrees, two college-based courses and one apprenticeship, plus one new small business start-up grant. Applications for this year's funding tranch will be discussed on 14th August and include 3 bursary, 3 larger projects and one small business start -up grant.

The LEDS scheme which is part of this fund but managed for us by FEL is now entering its third year and is well received by the local community surrounding Freasdail Windfarm. We hope to arrange for a similar scheme for the community around Blary Hill when the time comes to discuss community benefit from this development, plus of course the Killean development if this application is given approval by the Scottish Government.

This report does not list all the work undertaken by both the Community Council and our elected members over the past several months but serves to give an overview of the wide and varied issues we undertake to the best of our ability on behalf of our community.

Schedule of future meetings

Monday 22nd July 2019 – 7.30pm.-Special CC meeting with SPR to discuss Sheirdrim Hill

Monday 16th September 2019 – 7.30pm – Tayinloan

Monday 18th September 2019 – 7.30pm- A'Clieit

Monday 20th January 2020 – 7.30pm – Glenbarr

Monday 16th March 2020 – 7.30pm – Whitehouse

All that remains is for me to thank my fellow Community Councillors and elected members for their support.