**West Loch Fyne Community Council**

**Minutes of Meeting Held 14.03.23 Minard Village Hall 7pm.**

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| **Council Members** | **Role** | **Email** | **Present at Meeting** |
| Dave Wilkinson DW | Convener | convener@westlochfynecc.co.uk | Yes |
| Jason Copestick JC | Vice Convener | jason@westlochfynecc.co.uk | Yes |
| Heather Rogan HR | Treasurer | treasurer@westlochfynecc.co.uk | Yes |
| Abbie McCrae AM | Secretary | Secretary@westlochfynecc.co.uk | Yes |
| Jen Deane JD | Member | jen@westlochfynecc.co.uk | Yes |
| Keith Potter KP | Member | keith@westlochfynecc.co.uk | Yes |
| Greg Neeson GN | Member | greg@westlochfynecc.co.uk | Yes |

**Attendees:**

Jan Brown (JB) (AB Council), Leonard Mcneill (LM), Jean Smith (JS), Marion Lacey (ML), Fraser Bell (FB), Margaret Moncur (MM), Becs Barker (BB), Brian Barker (BBr), John Paterson (JP), Anne Paterson (AP),

Do let me know if I’ve missed you off the attendees list, not everyone signed in.

**Apologies:**

None received.

**Welcome and Introductions:**

DW opened the meeting with a welcome and introduction to Council member Greg Neeson who was absent from the last meeting. DW welcomed Cammy Gibb from Bakkafrost Scotland who attended to give a talk on Bakkafrost fish farm activities.

DW explained that we can still co-opt one more person onto the Council if anyone was interested. Please contact any of the Council members for further information.

The minutes form the last CC meeting were read and approved. Proposed by JC and seconded by HR.

All agendas and minutes can be found on the WLFCC website [www.westlochfynecc.co.uk](http://www.westlochfynecc.co.uk)

**Actions from Last Minutes:**

JANUARY ACTION 1: Lochgair Association (LGA) to agree action regarding land in Lochgair owned by Scottish Water.

JS informed the meeting that she has completed an asset transfer and submitted it to a solicitor in Perth to purchase the land for £1.

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| MARCH ACTION 1 - JS to update at next meeting. |

JANUARY ACTION 2: Update on Crarae Footpath.

Some villagers in Minard received a letter from Bear Scotland informing that works to create the new path will begin on the 3rd April for 6 weeks. This should be completed before the next Council meeting. In addition to the new footpath, Bear are undertaking works on footpath resurfacing, replacement of kerbs and installation of tactile paving in Minard. MM has raised concerns on the placement of some of the new drop kerbs and that Bear Scotland are using the foreshore area for their vehicles which is causing some damage to the area. MM has arranged a meeting with Bear Scotland on the 24th March to discuss these issues.

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| MARCH ACTION 2 MM to feedback at next meeting if there are any issues still outstanding |

JANUARY ACTION 3: JB to let the CC know if a point of contact is acquired from the ambulance service.

JB informed the meeting that there is no contact available at present.

JANUARY ACTION 4: Forestry car parking charges being introduced at 8 sites

JB attended a meeting which confirmed that the new charges will be introduced by the end of April. Signs will be erected at all sites effected.

JANUARY ACTION 5: Fire hydrants not being suitable. MM and JB to feedback.

JB updated the meeting with the information below from the Fire Service about the Water Hydrants:

*The distribution of fire hydrants throughout the country are dependant mainly on the distribution of Scottish water mains. In rural areas some have no mains and hence no fire hydrants. If this is the case we will use alternate water supplies such as rivers, ponds, lochs, water tanks or what is known as a water relay in extreme situations. The Fire Service can only ask for a new fire hydrant or alternate water supply when a new development requires a building warrant and we will consult using building technical standards sections 2:12 and 2:13 before agreeing a water supply and access for a new building. Unfortunately we cannot ask for or insist on water supplies for existing buildings, so what is in place already is what is available for our use in the event of a fire.*

*My questions - Let me answer you queries ;****The issue which seems to be the big one is – where are the hydrants for appliances to use? Is there a map showing where hydrants are?****SFRS has a VMDS, (Vehicle Mounted Data System) and GATEC tablets, with both holding information of the locations of all water hydrants across the country, this is updated by our Operation Information and Data team who receive this information from the Water Board.*

*SFRS- do not have any authority to install hydrants, and are placed in situ by the water board, who share these locations on our systems for operation crews to use.*

***Engines were unable to use it as it had different fittings,***

*Operation Crews are equipped with serval different Hydrant attachments and fittings, so that they are able to access them. (awaiting information from WC of their available fittings). They also have the option of setting up a "Water Relay" utilising supporting Fire Appliances water tank supply. This common practice within rural areas that do not have a secured water supply via local hydrants.*

***How many houses in rural areas do you need to have before a hydrant is installed?***

*I don't have the answer to this, could I ask that you speak with the Water Board, in regard to this, as they are better placed to explain their policy on hydrant instalment and criteria of placement.*

***Can you tell me how often they are checked by the brigade? Would it not be possible for appliances to have a number of different attachments to allow them to use other hydrants?***

*Hydrants are visually and physically checked by operation crews and Hydrant inspection officer, for their local areas annually.*

***Residents were very concerned that if weather conditions had been different then the outcome could have been very different.***

***One of my concerns is that as there are so many small rural settlements in Argyll, what provision is there for hydrants allowing appliances when they get there to be able to do their job.***

*I understand the residents and your concerns, and that is why SFRS have our VMDS and Gatec Tablets on Fire Appliances that hold Operation Intelligence of Hydrant location, Although this system does use mobile phone signal, and on occasions due to location, signal strengths can differ. I am unable to confirm if this has been the case at this incident.*

I’ve been told that hydrants are being checked at present so that’s good.

I’ve also gone to council planners and Scottish Water waiting on reply back from Scottish Water

The Fire Service checked the hydrants in Minard and Tullochgorm in 2021 and did not find any problems.

KP spoke with a Fire Service Station Manager who will also raise this issue. KP will forward his information to JB.

It was noted that the Hydrant at Minard Castle is overgrown and potentially inaccessible.

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| MARCH ACTION 3 - This matter will be kept on the agenda. |

JAN ACTION 6: Vehicle’s coming into contact with each other at the bridge (south bound) in Lochgair, Community Council to write to Transport Scotland about the issue.

JS has written a draft letter, with photos, to be sent by the Community Council. HR has the letter.

JB has contacted Transport Scotland who inform that there have not been any incidents that would justify new signage and they advised that residents of Lochgair can put up signs if they wish – full response below:

Roads – Communication with Neil MacFarlane of Transport Scotland

*I would advise that erecting warning signs is considered on a risk basis. If there are no accidents to justify signing then you get in to a situation where the sign and pole are more of a danger than what you are trying to warn against. I can see what the issue might be however, southbound vehicles moving to the middle of the road to provide clear space to the bridge parapet. I imagine it is less of an issue northbound.*

*In a similar vein I would recommend that the Community try to find locations off the Trunk Road where the Village Hall could be signed efficiently. Putting signs on a Trunk Road is very expensive apart from anything else and I would question how many people who use the Hall don’t know where it is before they set off. We try to encourage pre-planning journeys where possible and I would also consider that the risk of a sign and pole in a trunk road verge for this purpose is counter road safety all things considered.*

*Initial thoughts, from the responses I have had back so far, indicate that the vegetation at the bridge could be cut back and a reflective plate could also be put on the ends of the parapets to make the restriction clearer from a greater distance. I will put the wheels in motion in those regards.*

*Also it strikes me that, with a little bit of creative thinking, the signing to the Village Hall could be resolved very inexpensively. For example signs could be put up on or in the former telephone box that is now the Defibrillator Station? There are also grass verges that could be utilised, just so long as nothing is less than 2 metres from the kerb line TS will have no interest or jurisdiction beyond that point.*

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| MARCH ACTION 4 – HR and JB to update at next meeting |

JAN ACTION 7: New windfarm at Furnace. JD agreed to investigate and feedback.

JD informed that this hasn’t gone for consultation and will update at next meeting.

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| MARCH ACTION 5 – JD to update at next meeting |

**Convener’s Report**

1. DW was due to attend the Mid Argyll, Kintyre & the Islands (MAKI) Committee meeting on the 1/3/23 but was unable to attend. Minutes of the meeting can be found here:

<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/moderngov/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=243>

1. Foundation Scotland are providing the Community Council with training on 29th March on their large grant process. This should allow the Council to better support those wishing to apply for the large grants. Information about the grants can be found on the Community Council website [www.westlochfynecc.co.uk](http://www.westlochfynecc.co.uk) and [www.foundatiobnscotland.org.uk](http://www.foundatiobnscotland.org.uk) under Ventient Energy A’Chruach Wind Farm Community Fund. The current application window closes on the 12May 2023.
2. Citizens Advice have received funding to be able to deliver Energy Efficiency Advice to groups or on a 1-2-1 basis. To book a session you can email [info@abcab.org.uk](mailto:info@abcab.org.uk) There is also access to funding for those household in fuel poverty, details on [www.asbcab.org.uk](http://www.asbcab.org.uk)

**Treasurer’s Report:**

HR asked that any grant cheques that have been issued be cashed before the end of the financial year please.

**Micro Grant Applications:**

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|  | **Grant Application Details:** | **Amount:** | **Outcome:** |
| 1 | Minard Community Trust applied for £300 to purchase materials to carry out ongoing works to improve community areas in Minard, specifically the Monument at the shore. | £300 | Approved. |
| 2 | Lochgair Association applied for £500 to reposition and provide a base for the historic anchor. Also, for preserving materials and to provide an information board. | £500 | Approved in principle, quotes requested. |
| 3 | Jen Deane applied for a grant for the Easter fundraising event in Minard Village Hall, on the 15th April, in aid of Ardfenaig House Care Home and Argyll Befrienders. Funds requested for decoration and items for games.  Some items may not be needed if we can use some items that are shared with Furnace Community Council. | £114.35 | Approved. |
| 4 | Minard Community Trust:   1. £150 for Fireworks event in November 2. £350 for the Christmas pantomime | £500 | Deferred. |
| 5 | Lochgair Association applied for £500 for replacement storm doors for Lochgair Village Hall | £500 | Approved. |
| 6 | Lochgair Association applied for £168 for new CPR-D pads for the Defibrillator | £168 | Approved. |

**Local Councilors Report:**

JB was the only local Councilor in attendance.

JB explained that the MAKI meeting is an important forum for issues to be heard and discussed. We can raise questions with the local Councilors. DW to attend next MAKI meeting.

Mary’s Meals is closing in Lochgilphead, but the landlord hopes use the shop to set up a community shop.

There will be an Armed Forces Day in Inveraray – 24th June 2023.

Lochgilphead Free Church will be available to be used for meetings etc after completion of works.

For those living in a house managed by ACHA JB has offered to be the tenants representative. Forward any issues to JB.

JB is starting a monthly column in the Argyllshire Advertiser (the squeak), please forward any issues to JB for the column.

JB explained that Local Energy Scotland is offering community groups shared ownership in local commercially owned renewable energy projects which could provide an income as well and many other benefits. Details can be found at [www.localenergy.scot](http://www.localenergy.scot)

BBr explained that Local Energy Scotland have a Community Heat Development Programme which was launched at the beginning of 2023, for two years, to work with community organisations to develop locally generated, low and zero carbon heat projects. Information can be found:

<https://localenergy.scot/funding/community-heat-development-programme/>

JB thanked the Minard Community Trust for the recent free First Aid course and recommended that others attend future courses.

JB happy to be contacted with any questions.

**Police Update and Speeding Issues in Minard and Lochgair:**

Police were not in attendance at the meeting.

JB explained that we are no further forward with any speed reduction measures. Due to the lack of accidents, we are unlikely to be prioritised. JB did inform the meeting that the Council has a “black cat” device which is a portable device that can be mounted to a utility pole or lamp post to record frequency, speed and size of vehicles passing on both directions. Only data is collected, the device does not take photos.

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| MARCH ACTION 6: JB agreed to request the device be placed in Minard and Lochgair |

Since the last meeting AM has spoken to PS Matt Shaw and has the following update:

* Firstly, with regards to speed surveys (i.e., the strips that go across the road), as this is the A83, the responsibility for these surveys and subsequent review of results is by Traffic Scotland. They have a Local Authority liaison  - [https://www.traffic.gov.scot/contact-us](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.traffic.gov.scot%2Fcontact-us&data=05%7C01%7Cabbie.mccrae%40mencap.org.uk%7Cfdf9cc580aae41badd2d08db27bc9c6e%7Ced4dd050e39e4e0ea9994097f9afb165%7C0%7C0%7C638147463393715890%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=s34rnQ4uReJLjgEJruc41sjJ3CueevYGKx4DRy6%2BaVQ%3D&reserved=0)
* Our Road Policing Unit do speed checks in those areas around once a month on average (rotating between lots of settlements in Argyll). From the checks, there is limited evidence to suggest a problem of excessive speed. However, they can only utilise certain areas to conduct checks, ones that provide enough of a sight line to utilise the equipment as well as providing a safe environment to stop the vehicle, so drivers are often aware of Police presence and moderate their driving accordingly. Only a fixed camera or mobile speed van would negate this issue, both of which would be Argyll & Bute’s responsibility. Argyll and Bute do have a camera van, but it is noticeable that it does not service this area. I am not privy to the reason for that. It might be that if requested by the Community Council it would come out in this direction.

Additionally, an email has been received by AM from a Correspondence Officer from Bear Scotland which states that they are in discussions with Police Scotland to determine the appropriateness of further speed surveys in Minard and new ones in Lochgair.

**Bakkafrost Scotland Introduction by Cammy Gibb (CG)– Area Manager**

CG introduced himself and his role as Area Manager for Bakkafrost and as a local, residing in Lochgilphead. CG explained that Bakkafrost are looking to engage more with local communities.

Bakkafrost began 55 years ago and was set up by two brothers. It is now one of the biggest fish farms in the world. Scotland’s biggest food export is currently Salmon.

There are ten Salmon farms currently on Loch Fyne and they have a two-year production cycle.

The boats we see on the Loch are bringing the fish in from the hatcheries in Torridon to the cages. The boats also feed and treat the fish. The main treatment for the parasites that the fish get is carried out using fresh water generated on the boat and this water is then filtered before being put back into the Loch.

FB asked about the effluent produced by the farms and CG explained that they have a SEPA licence and this required that they send samples in for testing and are inspected regularly by SEPA. Bakkafrost are currently building a facility to collect the waste and turn it into fuel.

The fallow period is coming up soon and operations are likely to resume in the autumn.

Bakkafrost have funds available for local communities of up to £10K and their website has full details including tips on making a successful application. Link below.

[https://www.bakkafrostscotland.com/community-fund](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bakkafrostscotland.com%2Fcommunity-fund&data=05%7C01%7Cabbie.mccrae%40mencap.org.uk%7C64501c2ba9e448b5ee5c08db27bedf2b%7Ced4dd050e39e4e0ea9994097f9afb165%7C0%7C0%7C638147472962838104%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ga15vnAYbNAsbnai6F0XOYQXBo%2B7fRtZcd54BrrPbFo%3D&reserved=0)

**Date of Next Meeting:**

13th June 7pm Minard Village Hall

**AOCB:**

BB informed the meeting that Carr Gomm (social care provider) are running a “Keep Warm Box” scheme which requires donations of items such as blankets, hats, hot water bottles, torches and radios for the boxes. If anyone has items to donate or knows someone that would benefit from receiving a Keep Warm Box, they can let BB know.

BB suggested that for future meeting we arrange the chairs in a circle instead of rows to ensure all attendees are able to hear everyone. This was agreed.

BB offered to provide an update at a future meting on social care and the implementation of the National Care Service. DW asked of this could be at the next meeting on the 13th June.

MM informed the meeting that there are upcoming events in Minard:

* 7th May – BBQ and community event for the Coronation
* 8th May – Minard Beach Clean

Lochgair are also arranging an event for the Coronation weekend.

JC described the temporary traffic lights at the bottom of Lower Achagoyle as dangerous and is unhappy with the way they have been set up. These should not been in situ for much longer.

AP raised the issue of the litter between Inveraray and Lochgilphead. We suffer from litter being thrown from cars along the route. Further review is required to identify who we approach about this matter and what (if anything) we can do as a community.

END.