

CARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON ZOOM VIDEO

ON MONDAY 15 JUNE 2020

AT 8.00 P.M.

WELCOME

Patrick Trust welcomed Kelly Girling (Head Teacher – Cardross Primary School) and all present. He reminded everyone that the meeting is recorded for the purpose of taking minutes. After approval of the minutes, the recording is destroyed.

PRESENT

Patrick Trust (Convener), Duncan Stirling (Secretary), Brian Craven (Treasurer), Mike Brown, Rob Irving, Bob Murray, Alasdair MacCuish, Kelly Girling (Head Teacher – Cardross Primary School), Amy Butler – Nursery Rhymes Childrens Nursery, Councillor Richard Trail, Rev. Maggie McArthur, and 12 members of the public.

APOLOGIES

Jo Cameron, Mike Crowe, Bobby Beggs, Councillor David Kinniburgh, Councillor Ellen Morton, Barrie Morton and Michael Wilson.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Alasdair MacCuish said that he is the Chairman of the **Geilston Hall Management Committee**. **Patrick** said that he is a community member of the **Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership**. There were no other declarations of interest.

POLICE REPORT

There was no police report.

CARDROSS SCHOOL REPORT

Kelly Girling said that she is awaiting approval from the Local Authority for the “coronavirus” model proposed by the school. It’s called the 2-1-2 model. The children would be in school 2 days with blended learning at home for 3 days. The best fit model is dependent on school role, the amount of children who can fit into the school and staffing. With social distancing, the number of children per classroom is 9. Currently, there are 28 children in some classes. To maximise the number of children in school at one time, existing classrooms and areas such as the stage and the hall will be used. No staff members are shielding but there may be an issue with staff who have their own children to consider. The existing staff members are being very flexible in how they can be utilised. **Kelly** said that she hopes that local authority comments will be available tomorrow. School will start up on 11 August. **Councillor Trail** asked if the school will be able to achieve the 2-1-2 model, considering the pupil numbers involved. **Kelly** said that using all of the staff, the spare classrooms, the stage and the hall, the school can achieve the 2-1-2 model. **Kelly** said that the Scottish Government had been hoping to offer 1140 hours of child care this year for 3 and 4 year olds. Because of coronavirus, that has been put on hold. The school will only offer 16 hours a week for their nursery children.

Amy said that there are similar problems in creating nursery accommodation in the church hall. The nursery may have to open in July for working parents, so there is not a lot of time to organise this. Like the school, the nursery will be unable to accommodate the children on a full time basis.

Alasdair MacCuish asked if **Kelly** could make use of additional space within the village. **Kelly** said that while additional space would be useful, she does not have the staff to cover any additional space offered. **Kelly** said that furniture will have to be removed from existing classrooms to accommodate the children and give social distancing. Space to store this furniture would be useful. **Judy Wilson** said that the church may be able to provide storage space. **Kelly** said that the school has advertised for two new teachers. There were 97 applicants. Since there were no further questions, **Kelly** left the meeting. **Amy** also left the meeting.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD BY CARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL ON 20 APRIL 2020

Page 3, Line 4. After the word “**moment**” add “**Julie Lang** said that the project is causing problems for other residents.”

Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by **Brian Craven** and seconded by **Rob Irving**.

MATTERS ARISING

Hole in the Wall at Shira Lodge: **Patrick** said the situation is unchanged.

Road Sweeper: **Patrick** said the situation is unchanged.

Lamp post at Ardoch: **Patrick** said the situation is unchanged.

Hole in Darleith Road: **Patrick** said the situation is unchanged.

ACRE Lorries: **Patrick** said the situation is unchanged.

Murray’s Crossing: **Patrick** said the situation is unchanged.

Cycle Path: **Patrick** said that work continues on construction of the cycle path near the park and football pitch. **Councillor Trail** said that **Colin Young** is the officer in charge of the project. He has contacted **Sustrans** with a view to negotiating further funds for the path and is keen to push on with the project.

Avant Homes: **Patrick** said that there has been no further activity around the site.

Caronavirus Response: **Patrick** said he would like to thank Cardross Cares and all the volunteers for their work. So far, people who are isolating are being catered for. **Patrick** said the volunteers are now covered by the Community Council Insurance Scheme when they carry out their volunteer work.

Cardross Inn: **Judy Wilson** said that the Inn is continues to provide a meal for those who need one, on Friday and Saturday. The Inn is also providing a carry out service for the locals, on a limited menu.

Dog Walking Facility at Auchensail: **Julie Lang** said that the facility is still up and running and there has been a large increase in the amount of traffic. The appointment system seems to be every half hour. **Julie** asked if anyone can start up a business without planning consent. **Councillor Trail** said that, unfortunately, some people carry out work without obtaining the necessary planning consent. Retrospective permission can be applied for and in the worst case, work can be undone or demolished. **Patrick** said that the Community Council would write to the Planners expressing the community’s concerns. When an application is eventually submitted, anyone with objections should submit these on an individual basis.

Ardoch A814 Road Safety: **Patrick** said that there have been no further comments on this matter. **Mike Brown** said that he understood **Transport Scotland** dealt speed limits on roads. **Duncan** said that **Transport Scotland** dealt with trunk roads and all other classified roads were the responsibility of the Local Authority.

Geilston Gardens: **Ken Readman** said that the Gardens should be opening sometime in July but the decision is yet to be taken by the Scottish Government.

Footways Ardoch to Dumbarton: At the last meeting, **Councillor Kinniburgh** said the work to remove overgrown vegetation was scheduled before the lockdown and is still on the list of work to be carried out.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Brian gave a report on income and expenditure and said that the accounts maintain a surplus of **£989.00**. The accounts were examined by **Margaret Calder** and the bank balance was verified as stated. **Patrick Trust** proposed that the accounts be accepted. The proposal was seconded by **Bob Murray**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Duncan said he had received nothing of note.

PLANNING

Rob said that there was one application as follows:-

1. Planning Reference - **20/00971/PP** – Erection of a storage building, the installation of entrance gates and a 1.8 metres high fence to form an enclosed yard, on an area of ground at the top of Darleith Road. (Where the recent tree felling took place, as discussed at the last meeting).

The essence of the enclosed statement supplied by **Mr. Craig Cant** claims that there is no existing facility available in Helensburgh or Cardross Area, which can be used to house his agricultural plant and machinery. He wishes to use his own land to build this facility.

Rob said the yard will be used for the cutting, drying and storage of timber logs.

The statement says that “the central part of the site has recently been cleared of trees”

A member of the public said that the use of the word “agricultural” is disingenuous. The owner of the land runs a joinery and building company. The company equipment to be stored in the facility is “industrial” and not “agricultural”. He said that the existing single track road is unsuitable for industrial traffic. The applicant has assumed permission would be given and has already felled trees that were on the site.

Another member of the public said that she did not believe that there is not an alternative suitable site in the Helensburgh and Cardross Area. There are suitable equivalent sites in the industrial estates in Dumbarton. She believes it is a way in to build a house, for which planning permission has previously been refused.

A member of the public said that Argyll and Bute Council should be listening to public views on planning matters, when they are expressed at Community Council meetings.

Another member of the public said that planning officers are not carrying out site visits because of the “lockdown”. However, they have been told by members of the community that there is an issue being caused by the ongoing work. Individuals appear to be able to ride rough shod through local authority guidelines.

A member of the public asked **Councillor Trail** if anything can be done to prevent work starting on a site, before planning permission has been granted. **Councillor Trail** said it has been known

for people to start works, before making a planning application and in some cases, retrospective permission is given. **Councillor Trail** said that any individual with objections to a planning application, should direct them to the Planning Authority, either by email or on the Argyll and Bute internet portal.

Michael Hutcheson suggested that any villagers who uses the road for leisure purposes and who are concerned about the increase in non agricultural heavy traffic, should submit an objection. Objections should not be left to residents of Darleith Road.

HEALTH

Patrick said the health situation is tricky at the **Vale of Leven Hospital** at the moment. There are ongoing negotiations with the GPs and the Health Board. He feels that the Health Board are duplicitous and dishonest. It seems that they do not want the **Vale** used as an emergency health hub at the moment. The minor injuries unit is still available 24 hours, for use by anyone in this locality who chooses to turn up. Because of coronavirus, you will have to ring the bell before being admitted. This allows staff time to put on their protective equipment. **The Lomond Patient Group** has made representation to the **Scottish Government** about **Testing, Tracing and Isolating** people. It feels that the Scottish Government response to testing is very inadequate at the moment with regard to local testing and results coming back. A paper has been submitted to the Government requesting local testing and local tracing. At the moment, everything is centralised.

AOCB

Youngsters in the Village: **Michael** said there has been an increase in the number of groups of youngsters wandering around the village. It seems that things are relaxing more quickly than Government guidelines allow. **Patrick** said that it is a difficult situation to deal with. **Bob** said that in the early stages of lockdown there were police patrols in the village, more recently, there have not been any. **Rob** said he sympathises with **Michael's** point but there seems to be a substantial percentage of the population who appear to think that it is all over. **Patrick** said he will express these concerns to the Police.

Road Traffic: **Bob** said there has been a tremendous increase in traffic volumes on the main road. **Julie** said that vehicles are speeding on the derestricted section of Darleith Road. One vehicle in particular is speeding and driving dangerously. **Patrick** said he will express these concerns to the Police.

Cars Parked Carman Rd.: **Ken Readman** said the matter of parking at the A814 end of Carman Road has been brought up in the past. Nothing has been done. **Bob** said that the cars belong to a business that is being run from an adjacent house and are parked on Carman Road. He said that at past meetings, the police have said that if the parked cars do not cause an obstruction, there is nothing they can do. **Rob** said that he has asked in the past, if the Council were aware that the area around the house is being run as a commercial premises and has the question been asked of the Council. **Councillor Trail** said that a written question to the Planning Department should elicit an answer.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in the Geilston Hall with social distancing and Zoom for those shielding or unable to attend the meeting personally, at 8.00pm on Monday 17 August 2020. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Convener.