

CARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

ON MONDAY 19 APRIL 2021

AT 8.00 P.M.

WELCOME

Patrick Trust welcomed 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, Mike Crowe, Rob Irving, Bob Murray, Alasdair MacCuish, Provost David Kinniburgh, Councillor Gemma Penfold, Councillor Richard Trail, Stuart and Ally Cotton (Kilmahew Education Trust) and 14 members of the public

APOLOGIES

Jo Cameron, Bobby Beggs and Barrie Morton.

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

Patrick read out the report from **Inspector Roderick MacNeill**. It covered the period from 15 March 2021 to 19 April 2021:-

Total Incidents – 46

19 of the 46 calls related to silent / dropped 999 calls in succession which was a technical issue with a phone.
No real pattern at all throughout the 2 month period.
Vandalism up at Kilmahew Castle, graffiti on the walls.

Total crime reports raised – 10

2 x drug possession offences
1 x possession of drugs with intent to supply, car stopped in Cardross
1 x assault – family members involved – enquiry ongoing
Vehicle stopped near Cardross, various drugs and weapons charges and drug driving offence
Shoplifting at the Co-Op
Dangerous driving x 1 stopped near Cardross
Drug driving x 1 stopped in Cardross
Vandalism at Kilmahew
Local male causing a disturbance, police assault, resist arrest

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD BY CARDROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL ON 15 MARCH 2021

Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by **Brian Craven** and seconded by **Bob Murray**.

MATTERS ARISING

- Hedges:** **Patrick** said there were no further issues.
- Lamp post at Ardoch:** **Provost Kinniburgh** said that additional work is to be carried out in the area and it has still to be completed.
- Christmas Tree Lights:** **Patrick** said that he was inundated with volunteers to help remove the lights from the tree in Scott Gardens. The lights have all been removed and await inspection.
- Dog Poo Bin:** **Patrick** said that has no further information on a bin on Darleith Road. **Provost Kinniburgh** said the car park is privately owned and the Council will not be putting a bin there. However, the Council will monitor the situation.
- Newsletter:** **Patrick** thanked **Bob Murray** for the work he did in producing the Newsletter. It has now been distributed around the village.
- Footway from Cardross to the Crematorium:** **Provost Kinniburgh** said that the footway is to be cleaned between Cardross and Dumbarton in conjunction with the proposed resurfacing works. The works will be carried out in June.
- Ardoch A814 Road Safety:** **Provost Kinniburgh** said that the Council were not carrying out speed monitoring and had no record of any external organisation doing so. The Council will carry out speed checks when vehicular volumes reach “normal” levels. The pandemic has affected traffic flow.
- Mountain Bike Trails:** **Patrick** said that he has heard nothing further on these “trails” within the Kilmahew Estate. **Provost Kinniburgh** said that Planning are aware of the situation and will “Enforce” the situation if necessary.
- Finances:** **Patrick** said that the full accounts will be presented at the **Annual General Meeting** of the **Community Council** on 17 May 2021.
- Local Election 18 March 2021:** **Patrick** congratulated **Gemma Penfold** on being elected as our new councillor.
- Geilston Hall:** The afternoon club has now started and the dancing will commence shortly.
- Noise from Sawmill:** **Patrick** said that **Alan Runcie** has not yet had a reply to his letter of complaint to the Council regarding the noise from the sawmill. **Rob** said that the sawmill is now starting up earlier than before.
- Estate Agent Signs:** **Bob** said the problem of signs being put on public street furniture, is Scotland wide.
- Beach Clean:** **Bob** said that a Beach Clean will be on Saturday, 1 May. Volunteers should just turn up on the south side of the railway crossing at 10am. Bags and gloves will be supplied.

CORRESPONDENCE

Duncan said he had received an email from **Sheila Gilles** relating to the poor light quality from the lighting standards on Station Road. Using Station Road at night is intimidating. **Sheila** asked if better lighting could be provided. **Patrick** said that he will have a look at the lighting. **Patrick** said that he has written to **the National Trust for Scotland** again, reminding the Trust that **Geilston Gardens** was bequeathed to the NTS by Miss EC Hendry in 1989, with a generous endowment. The **NTS 2001 Guide** made reference to these facts. A reply is awaited.

PLANNING

Rob said that there was one application this month. It is for the erection of a drying hut and detached garage on land west of Balmenach in Borrowfield. There were no adverse comments made at the meeting. **Bob** asked if there was any indication of what is happening at the **McAndlish** property on Darleith Road. **Bob** had seen demolition work being carried out on the site. **Rob** said that he is unaware of any related planning applications. **Sharon** said that a wall was demolished to make the site safe. **Provost Kinniburgh** he will pass the question on to the appropriate officer.

HEALTH

Patrick said that **Dr. Nick Dunn** who runs the Out of Hours Service at the Vale of Leven, was knocked off his bike on Sinclair Street on Saturday. He was very seriously injured. The Out of Hours Service will be run by his brother.

The Lomond Patients Group is meeting with the senior management group at the Vale, together with the senior manager for Acute Services in **The Glasgow and Clyde Health Board**. The Group will go over their concerns that the information on their web site is incomplete. Patients are still travelling unnecessarily to Paisley, instead of going to the Vale.

Patrick said that the local covid vaccination programme is going very well.

CARDROSS CAN GROUP

Lindsey Young said that the group continues to meet regularly. They had a successful Zoom Meeting on the subject of Recycling, at the end of March. There is now a selection of books on the subject of "Climate Change". They are available at the train station "library". All of the group attended the "Time for Change" Argyll Hustings event. A "shore team" has been formed with the notion of conducting a citizen science project, in the form of a community led marine bio-diversity survey.

This month's Zoom will be at 8pm on 27 April. It is on the plant life project, "No Mow May".

KILMAHEW EDUCATION TRUST

Stuart Cotton said that **Ally Cotton** and he come from Educational and Tax backgrounds. In the last 15 years, they have worked on a number of projects and collaborated with different people. **Stuart** said there is a wealth of culture on Kilmahew Estate. **Stuart** went on to say that the business model that works is **The Royal Botanical Gardens** at Kew. This UNESCO site model is a very healthy model, both from an educational viewpoint and in terms of attracting people to learn.

Using the extensive cultural heritage, all the research that was done in Victorian times, the fungi that are on the estate, ecology and more importantly, the big thing that we have there is **John Fleming**. He is one of the best Victorian gardeners. He totally disappears in 1866. So, a huge part of what we are trying to deliver is something we have worked on with the Soil Association for many years. It is teaching children how to cook, how to grow food, the four seasons, scientific equipment to measure weather systems. All of these kinds of things we have had plenty of practise on. We want to deliver a Film Studio, a Cookery Studio and all manner of things within the walled garden and cantilevered over the walled garden, so that we are not disturbing anything that is already there. We want to completely restore that garden as one of our first projects. The castle has quite a good history. When we spoke to Strathclyde University about our conservation methodology, the staff felt we were right up there with the Notre Dame Cathedral Restoration. We have a good idea of what we are doing, we've got a background in all of these sort of plans. We are both used to doing very complex things. **Ally** with her background in special needs education and me with my background in counter terrorism and fighting organised

crime. So for us, this is not a complex project. This is relatively straight forward when you consider our background. We are looking at the buildings as to how they can be repurposed and what does the community want. Of 167 people asked within the Cardross community, 68 per cent want the buildings to be repurposed. We are working on the basis that we have a decent mandate from the community to do something. With my background in rescuing high network investors from fraud, we have a really good strong base from which to work, to pay for all of this. Anywhere between £30 million and £110million pounds is the expenditure needed. We are very confident that we can raise that.

Henry Boswell asked what is the development process the trust is running and how far along is the process. **Stuart** said they have access to 20 years worth of planning applications. In some way, they are probably at stage 4 on RIBA. These reports cover how safe the buildings are and what damage they have sustained. **Stuart** said that we have all these notions of what we would like to do with the place. Regardless of Kilmahew, we have tried to do this in other locations. We have spent the last two years researching Kilmahew. We have all of these uses for the seminary, the castle and the walled gardens. For example, the seminary could be an animation studio. There are 108 priest cells in there, animators like to be in a single cell and like the privacy of that. The cells are the perfect size for animation. The chapel would be perfect as a recording studio. **Stuart** said they can be a zero emissions animation studio.

Stuart said they are just approaching the planning stage.

Mike Crowe said the public have access to the estate, how will this be maintained.

Stuart said that he fully appreciated that locals have been accessing the site for the last 40 years. There needs to be an annual membership charge for people out with the local area.

Bob Murray said that Cardross is quite a small community. The scale of this proposed development is much greater than that of its' original use. A proposal which allows access to thousands of people will swamp the existing community.

Stuart said that the run down is basically 108 animators, 20 to 30 support staff, potentially some music studio people, 10 people teaching in the education block and between 6 and 20 administration staff. The castle does not need any staff as presently proposed and the rest of the staff would be volunteers showing people round the gardens.

Patrick said that the proposals are exceedingly ambitious. If they work, it will be absolutely splendid.

Lindsey asked **Stuart** to elaborate on the fact that it is to be a "net zero" site. **Stuart** said there is a Victorian pond on the site. Some Belgian renewable energy experts are coming to the UK with their schemes. There would be micro hydro power on site. Renewable energy sources could be situated at each of the 12 bridges on site. There is also access to a geothermal source from a fault line which passes through the site.

Patrick thanked **Stuart** for the overview of his proposals.

AOCB

Easter Weekend:

Ken Readman said that someone had organised an event over the Easter weekend, which had involved cards and yellow ribbons tied to various branches and bushes in the woods above his house. They are still there. **Ken** asked if the organisers of the event will remove them or are they expecting someone else to do it. **Lindsey** said that the school CPSA had organised the event and that she would ask for them to be removed.

A814 Cardross To Helensburgh: **Ken** asked if there was any chance of getting any white lines between Cardross and towards Helensburgh. **Provost Kinniburgh** said that he will pass the request onto roads officers.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting and will be held in the Geilston Hall and on Zoom at 8.00pm on Monday 17 May 2021. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Convener.