

Pairc Community Council Meeting

Thursday 29th October 2020 Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Present: Morris Black (Chair)
Karis Beattie (Secretary)
Louise Nicolson (Treasurer)
Iain Nicolson
Mags Mackin
Lyndsay Montgomery
Doro Reider
Angus McDowall
David Skene (until 8pm)

Apologies: Anna Macleod
In attendance: Fiona Stokes

Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting as Chair. The minutes from the last meeting on 19th March were proposed as accurate by David and seconded by Karis.

1. Covid Response

Morris thanked all the volunteers for their actions during lockdown, saying the system served the community well. **It was agreed that:** Karis is to post a thank you notice on the PCC Facebook page.

2. Minute Taker Remuneration

Fiona logged off the meeting while the group discussed the arrangements for independent minute taking. **It was agreed that:** £250 will be paid for approximately 10 meetings per year.

3. Gravir Playpark

A member of the public had complained to Environmental Services that the playpark was unsafe for use. An inspector has visited to outline the steps needed to rectify the situation and it has been closed in the meantime. Insurance is in place via CNES's own policy, but items need attention before the Inspector can return to sign it off. This led to an extended discussion on current funds available and what funding was previously spent on the playpark. **It was agreed that:** As well as the padlock which is in place, a sign will be put up explaining that the park is closed. The previous committee will be asked for any records they have regarding funding applications, previous minutes of meetings, equipment purchased. Karis will ask CNES if they also hold copies of minutes.

4. Taigh Celidh

A substantial amount of work was carried out in the building by the previous committee and the group discussed future plans for its use. An early idea is to install coin operated washing machines and dryers / vending machines which could help contribute to the running costs of the building. Parking should be considered for any building use, Mags circulated a copy of the title plan to the group during the meeting which shows available land surrounding the building.

It was decided that: A separate sub group will be set up to discuss development ideas, made up of Karis, David, Morris and Louise. They will meet asap so that any potential funding applications can meet the Crown Estate deadline of Nov 30th (see item 6).

5. Community Skip

Iain was thanked for his time spent managing the skip and asked if he would like remuneration, which he declined. He reported that CNES have responded well to requests to uplift the skip and it has been replaced 10 times since June. There are however issues surrounding multiple sets of keys which mean access is not always controlled and commercial waste is being deposited. This is a breach of skip regulations as they are for domestic waste only. **It was decided that:** A new padlock will be purchased to ensure access is only between 10.30 and 3.00pm on a Saturday. CNES Cleansing Department will be contacted to explain the situation. A lead in time will be required to let the community know the old keys won't work. Karis to post a message on Facebook and Iain to put a notice in village noticeboards.

6. Crown Estate Funding

£42,000 is available to the South Lochs area in round 2, which has a deadline of 30th November. With a reliable funding stream such as this Morris stressed the need to develop an area Plan to prioritise projects.

It was decided that: The Taigh Celidh group will put together an application and other PCC members are to think of any project ideas they would like to see progressed.

7. Pairc School Closure

Lyndsay summarised the position at Pairc school. 13 children are currently enrolled, but with no nursery children due to move up to the school, parents have been told it will close in 2 years if numbers do not improve. **It was decided that:** A letter will be sent to CNES now, asking for a meeting with the PCC and outlining a number of concerns, including:

- A school is the heart of a community and brings people together in many ways, having no school will affect more people than just parents and children
- Long bus journeys for young children going to the alternative, Sgoil Nan Loch, could lead to poorer attainment as they will become exhausted
- Children from Pairc won't be able to participate in clubs if they are spending more travelling · The council did not enforce a catchment area policy, which led to high numbers of children not using their local school
- A closure is shortsighted in light of the Council plans for decentralization - if parents will be working more from home, they will want a local school for their children
- There will be a substantial loss of local jobs
- Young families will not want to move to Pairc and the population will become even more unbalanced · Education Services confirmed to Lyndsay- head of the parent council – that they could not guarantee the same quality of education at Sgoil Nan Loch, a larger school with larger classes
- The closure goes against all the Councils policies of inclusion and 'Getting it right for every child' The letter is to be cc'd to

the local councilors and councilors from other wards should be encouraged to also get involved. 8. Touch Screen Information

Board

The group discussed getting an electronic information board that could be sited externally and give those not online, community information. The village noticeboards are in poor condition, but remain the only way people without the internet have access to important information.

It was agreed that: Pairc Free Church is purchasing an internal touchscreen, Louise is to find out more about how it works. 9.

AOB

An enquiry has been made as to whether PCC meetings are open to the public.

It was agreed that: As meetings are open to all, a link for the Zoom meetings will be included on the PCC Facebook page. A notice will also be placed in the noticeboards.

Louise reported that she has received an offer for cheaper electricity for the Taigh Celidh.

It was agreed that: PCC will sign up to a better tariff for the next year.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 26th November at 7pm. Meeting will be held on the last Thursday of every month