

MEETING of Garelochhead Community Council held at Centre 81, Garelochhead on Tuesday 18 February 2014

PRESENT:

Colin Taylor,	Convenor
Martin Croft,	Vice Convenor
Margaret Stratton,	Treasurer
Caroline Colquhoun,	Member
Ian Kernochan,	Member
Colin Smith,	Member
Doreen Williams,	Member
Rose Dove,	Member
Stella Irving,	Member
James Leishman,	Member

APOLOGIES: Amanda McMillan Member

ATTENDING: George Freeman A & B Councillor
Robert McIntyre A & B Councillor

Tam Ward)	Presentation on
Sandra Kelly)	Beach litter

Discussion on appointment of remaining Office bearers but as no nominations were put forward for the positions of Secretary and Minute Secretary, it was decided that Martin Croft would take on the additional post of Secretary as a temporary measure and Doreen Williams would take the Minutes for the current meeting.

As this was the first meeting following the Inaugural meeting, the Convenor introduced himself and Tam Ward and Sandra Kelly who had been invited to address the meeting. The members of the Community Council present then introduced themselves.

Acceptance of the Minutes of the last Meeting held on 29th May 2013 was then proposed by the Convenor, seconded by Martin Croft.

Declaration of Intent was explained by George Freeman but as there was no formal Agenda for this meeting no declarations were asked for.

Rosneath Peninsula and Gare Loch Beach Litter Monitoring

Mr Ward then presented his report on the above (copy previously provided to all members) and explained his ideas regarding the future of beach cleaning all the way round from Helensburgh to the Peninsula – the crux of which was to set up a volunteer force to first of all have all the beaches cleaned with the assistance of the Council and then kept in good condition by a dedicated volunteer group.

George Freeman confirmed that the Council had always provided the materials necessary for beach cleaning but landowners remain responsible for litter. The problem has always been

that the ownership of the beaches and adjoining land remains in question although investigations have and still are being made. George Freeman informed the meeting that the coastline of Argyll & Bute is the same as France so clearing and keeping cleared all the beaches would be no mean feat.

Mr Ward emphasised that the worst areas would have to be mechanically cleared as there is too much material to be removed by hand. Thereafter these areas could be maintained by local volunteers thus preventing the huge accumulations from forming again.

Discussion followed regarding land ownership, health & safety, insurance and George Freeman suggested that perhaps a public meeting covering all areas could be convened following the next meeting of the Rosneath Community Council which Mr Ward would be attending to present his report. This public meeting would assist in ascertaining if a volunteer group could be formed, and if any grants and/or funding would be available.

Following discussions, it was arranged that Mr Ward would contact the Helensburgh Advertiser as soon as possible to have his plans highlighted with a view to ascertaining public support.

Martin Croft emphasised the fact that if the litter especially at the top of the Loch was not removed soon, by the time the warmer weather arrived so would vermin as had happened in the past.

The Convenor agreed that something should be done immediately and then Mr Ward's suggested plan followed up. The general opinion of the meeting was that litter must be kept down as it happens and that the Council should take this on, even if land ownership remains in question.

The possibility of further assistance from students from a Glasgow College or even those on Community Service could be pursued.

Mr Ward and Miss Kelly then left the meeting.

As allotted time for the meeting had run out, it was decided that a Resumed Meeting should take place on Tuesday 4 March 2014 at 7.00 pm in Centre 81 in order to fully discuss 'Actions from previous Minutes' and 'Any other Business' and that a formal Agenda would be prepared for that meeting.

A short report on planning was given by Colin Smith and George Freeman read out figures from the Council's Capital Expenditure Budget both of which require to be revisited at the Resumed meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING : TUESDAY 4TH MARCH 2014 AT 7.00 PM IN CENTRE 81, GARELOCHHEAD.

Items for Agenda to Convenor as soon as possible, please.