

## KILNINVER AND KILMELFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### AGM

The meeting of the above council was held on Tuesday 9th October 2012 at Kilmelford Village Hall.

**Present:** Nigel Mitchell (NM) Chair; Antoinette Mitchell (AM) Planning Officer; Lucy Files (LF); John MacLean (JM); Stuart Cannon (SC); Jane Rentoul Acting Secretary

**In attendance:** Councillors Elaine Robertson (ER Cllr. ABC); Duncan McIntyre (D McI Cllr. ABC) and 14 members of the public

**Not Present:** Colin Clark; Piet Hammick;

**1. Apologies:** Matthew Anderson; Councillor Louise Glen-Lee; Councillor Iain Macdonald; Inspector Julie McLeish , Sarah Edwards.

#### **2. Minutes of the AGM 2011**

All present were given the opportunity to read through the draft minutes of the last AGM held on Tuesday 12th October 2011. The minutes were taken as a true and accurate representation of the meeting and approved. Proposed by LF, seconded by AM.

#### **3. Chairman's Report**

### Kilniver and Kilmelford Community Council

#### Chairs Report

#### AGM 2012

This past year has not been an easy one for three of the post holders on the community council myself included. Sadly this has resulted in the resignation of our much valued secretary Lucy, to whom I have been most grateful for her support and hard work. She will be very difficult to replace and to date no one has volunteered to take up the secretarial reins. Toni is also resigning from her post as Planning Officer and I think Cllr Louise Glen Lees words to Toni say it more adequately than I can, 'that she was the hardest working Planning Officer' that she knew. Both Lucy and Toni have agreed to stay on the community council until such time as they feel they are of no further use. To be blunt I think it is a pity that certain people in the community have been so very unpleasant as to make two hardworking volunteers feel they have to resign posts for which they were eminently suited and enjoyed.

In the present economic climate local councils like Argyll and Bute are looking to their community councils to do more and more of the work. This is not lack of resources or willingness on their part it is government driven and in the long run this

means local people are given the opportunity to have a greater say in what happens in their communities. Inevitably this means that community councils will no longer be expected to deal with the more mundane issues like pot holes and dog poo, but will be required to deal with weightier and more contentious matters especially those related to planning. Sadly it appears to be those issues which tend to divide communities. This is understandable and differences of opinion can be dealt with and majority opinions can be established and delivered. However, what cannot be dealt with or tolerated is personal abuse and bullying of community councilors who are doing their best to deliver those majority opinions. The result will be no post holders and therefore no community council, no representation where it matters. Private Residents Associations, are good in themselves as vehicles to bring opinions to the community council, on their own they hold no weight with Argyll and Bute Council.

The issues of the Land around the hall, Ardmaddy Fish Farm and Clachan Wind farm have been the most contentious issues this year, the latter two are still to be resolved, and the land around the Hall is no longer a community council lead matter.

On a more positive note, Roads have done a great job on renewing the stretch of road into Kilmelford from the north. Our grateful thanks again to Cllr. Duncan McIntyre for pushing this work through early. The 30mph speed limit has now been advertised, but it is imperative that individuals write in and support it to ensure it will go ahead. The new grit box at the end of Degnish road will hopefully also prove its worth. I would like to have more positive things to say but it hasn't been a very positive year.

No one has yet come forward to do anything about the Community Action Plan. Other communities in the area have already got their CAP up and running and yet Kilninver and Kilmelford have not even made a start. I reiterate, although I am happy to provide information this cannot be a community council lead initiative it has to come from you the community. This will give you K and K residents a chance to let Argyll and Bute know what you would like to see or not to see in your area rather than having things imposed upon them, it is up to you, not us.

At the present time with resignations even the existence of our community council is doubtful. We have to have at least 6 members, we should have 10. Without post holders the committee cannot function properly if at all and I am not prepared to be a one man band doing all the jobs.

Finally my thanks on behalf of the Community Council but especially from me to Jane Rentoul for standing in at the last minute on occasions to act as minutes secretary, to our 4 A and Bute Councillors for their time, support and counselling in the most difficult of difficult times, to the Planning Officers at Argyll and Bute Planning office for their help support and guidance, Toni and I are most grateful, and to Charles Reppke Governance and Law for his advice. To you all my thanks you have helped to keep me sane, just, and prevented me from pulling out the little hair I have left. Thank you.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Not available.

#### **5. Approval of Accounts for 2011/2012**

Not available

#### **6. Election of Officers for 2012/2013**

NM announced that Sarah Edwards and Piet Hammick had resigned, there is now no Planning Officer and no Secretary. MA is Treasurer and Vice-Chairman and SC is Assistant Vice-Chairman. The vacant posts will have to be filled from members of the public or from the existing committee and people will need to come forward. SC stated that the community council has been in this position before and given time people can be canvassed. NM stated that the accounts would be ready for the next meeting. Until the impending elections members of the public would not be able to hold office.

ER understands that the community council elections are to be held in November. She will clarify the position to check and will report back.

AM read out a letter explaining the reasons for her resignation as Planning Officer. Although both she and Lucy Files are prepared to stay on the Community Council. Fergus Gillanders asked if there was a precedent for paying community councillors and NM replied that it is a decision for each individual community council. The minutes secretary is one of four posts and ideally each council should consist of up to 10 people any more would require an election. It is up to the public to come forward for election. There can be a division of the secretarial post. One person could act as CC Secretary, accepting and replying to correspondence. The other acting just as Minutes Secretary.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:20 p.m.