

## DORES & ESSICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL – Additional Meeting

### Minutes of LEADER meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2011 in Dores Parish Hall 7.30pm

**1. Members Present:** Ella MacRae (Chair)(EMacR)  
Iain Cameron (Treasurer) (IC)  
Duncan Manson (DM)  
Steve Feltham (SF)  
Roslyn MacKay (RMackK)  
Graham Scott (GS)

**In Attendance:** Clare Cuthbertson (Minute Secretary) (CC)  
11 members of the public

**2. Apologies:** Ruth Seaton, Angus MacLaren, Ruairidh MacLennan, Anna Williams,  
Cllr Margaret Davidson

EMacR thanked everyone present for attending and opened the meeting by summarizing the details of the LEADER Project for Dores Village Improvements:

An application to LEADER funding for £96,500 improvements to Dores Village has been approved with the award of a grant of £85,825 towards the full costs. Works will be done in the following principal areas: Improving fencing; Upgrading bus/cycle shelter; Landscaping; Replacing benches; Upgrading play areas; Improving signage.

For items costing £1-3,000 we will need to supply 2 quotes; for items costing £3-25,000 we will need to supply 3 quotes and for higher (£25,000+) cost items will need to request tenders for the works.

Fencing – DM has been obtaining ideas and costs.

a) Torr Gardens/Petrol Pumps area.

In general costs are £25/m for chain-link; £60/m for metal; £30/m for wooden.

This area must have vandal-proof fencing.

Agreement that the range of metal fencing looked most suitable – DM to obtain full costings including gates. (NB will need local help in removing existing fencing)

b) Loch side – play park plans on hold due to potential Dores Inn developments

Bus/Cycle Shelter – IC has been obtaining ideas and costs.

Existing bus shelter will be refurbished and a new cycle shelter (@£2,000) will be erected on left hand side of phone box. Agreement for IC to go ahead with obtaining covered small shelter and installation together with refurbishment of existing and some landscaping.

Landscaping – minor improvements to petrol pumps area to be done, including tidying up rail by footpath.

Benches – Ruairidh Campbell agreed to research into suitable benches to match new type of fencing. Benches to be located opposite Old Mill (replace existing bench) and on land by petrol pumps (where there was a bench previously). Must be vandal-proof. Third bench costed for beach play-park area – this to be on hold for present. Consider installing bench at church end of village. May need local labour to install.

Play Areas – Annette Munro has been obtaining ideas and costs.

- a) Torr Gardens – Much discussion about merits of replacing swings and adding new equipment favoured by School Parent Council.
  - b) Loch-Side-plans to upgrade equipment here on hold.
  - c) Millcroft-alternative location for new equipment. Will need Albyn approval.
  - d) behind Torr Gardens – alternative location for new equipment. Perhaps goal posts – upgrade as an area for older children (not toddlers)
- Highland Council will assist in getting quotes (get better terms of business) and work will need to be put out to tender. Further discussion needed.

Signage – Roddy Ross has been obtaining ideas and costs. CC and EMacR have been discussing options with other organisations including Destination Loch Ness (DLN), British Waterways, Cycle Network and Highland Council.

Community Council voted against proposal put forward by DLN.

- a) Village entrance - Agreement to use local stone faced sign with slate inset for village sign – one at two main entrances and possible third up hill at a later date. Will need detailed sizing and quotation.
- b) Photo opportunity sign – agreement to go with use of Great Glen style – and will match that to be used at Fort Augustus. Location near slipway to be decided.
- c) Lectern at Bus Stop – To show cycle paths etc –mainly designed by DLN.
- d) Lectern at Binoculars - To show more information re Loch Ness and Dores
- e) Car park- metal sign to indicate rules and regulations of Loch
- f) Near woods- possible Great Glen Monolith style to show details of wildlife in area etc.

Much work still to be done here and further discussions will take place.

All signs will have to have logos – LEADER; European Funding; Local Authority and also some acknowledgement of Dores Community Development Trust funding.

All works will invite some community time involvement and any works done should be monitored so that an ‘in-kind’ element can be added to reports on project. All members are requested to keep a record of any time spent on LEADER work.

It has been decided that the Ward Discretionary Budget of £5000 be used towards employing a Project Development Officer for the Leader work – to keep project moving and to co-ordinate all works, ensuring all conditions are met. This Officer will also complete Application for Phase Two – a Beach Warden for Dores and Foyers which needs to be submitted by late April for a possible 75% Leader grant. This position will be advertised on the website for an immediate start. Will also be applying to Dores Community Development Trust for half of the remaining 25% (Foyers to supply balance).

### **AOCB**

Gavin Finlay questioned if anything was to be done about dilapidated signs in middle of village – EMacR confirmed that Highland Council TEC department were looking at this – but there had been a delay due to a staffing change. Bi lingual signs were rejected though it was acknowledged that they might slow drivers down.

Gavin Finlay queried need for two signs advertising development at Loch Ness View – EMacR will look into it and check planning permission is still valid.

Sign indicating pedestrian access to Torr Gardens to be removed.

Previous discussions have been had about supply of Life Rings – it was decided that this be added to duty of new Beach Warden.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm