

Strandhill Community Development Association

Agenda 08/05/2016

- 1. Minutes of Previous Meeting**
- 2. Matters Arising**
- 3. Maritime Centre Update**
- 4. Campaigns and Village upkeep**
- 5. Beach Rescue**
- 6. Scheduling of Meetings**
- 7. AOB**

Previous meeting Agenda 24th January 2016

1. Agenda 24/01/2016

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

3. Matters Arising

4. Election of Secretary, Treasurer, PRO

5. Village Safety

6. Maritime Centre Update

AOB

Minutes of Meeting 24th January 2017 in Attendance: Mick McEnroe, David McCoy, Neil Byrne, John Byrne, Michael Keane, Helen McCauley, Luke Saunders, Monica Mcelhinney, John Bartlett, Sinead McGuire

Apologies: Neil Walton, Seamus McGoldrick, Bernard Hayes, Susan Tynan, Paul Buchanan,

Ratification of previous meeting were proposed by Luke Saunders and seconded by Sinead McGuire

Matters Arising

Maritime Centre Update

NB expressed dissatisfaction that members of the Maritime Company had not met with representatives of Mammy Johnstons to alleviate the issues between it and the new Maritime centre. NB expressed the view that MJ's had no choice to refer the planning permission granted by Sligo County council to an Bord Pleanala. NB expressed the view that the issue if granted permission by an bord pleanala may need to be referred for judicial review. NB expressed the view that the proposed windows overlooking the MJ's site would have future impact on the business of MJ's and with over 44 employees Mj's had a duty of care to the employees there to protect future business interests and live planning permission. NB felt that Mj's had no option but to refer planning to an bord pleanala. NB felt that the windows were put on the north side and not on the south side of the building and this would have a direct impact on the future planning of Mj's. MM replied that the windows proposed in the new Maritime centre were there at the behest of the community and that more issues than the windows were brought– and that from the objections referred to an bord pleanala that is was not just the windows that were seen as the issue. NB again expressed dissatisfaction that the issues could not have been addressed prior to this juncture. The deadline for the an bord pleanala decision was March 7th.

NB re-iterated that the architects at the outset were shown drawing on the future development of MJ's with a view to the new centre and that it would be 3 storeys high in line with the proposed new maritime centre.

MK mentioned that the community as a whole were supportive of the new centre and that the board had to reflect this. MBTT pointed out that delays of this nature could have an impact on future funding. MBTT asked whether a meeting of the Maritime board and MJ's could be facilitated asap. NB said that the only issue was the windows and if this was solved prior to deadline then planning objection could be removed. MM said the maritime company were bound to the decision of an bord pleanala and if changes were enforced in relation to the new building that the board would have to go back to the community at large. MM felt that the communication meetings with the community meant that windows facing the seafront were an imperative. NB replied that the project had altered since the beginning – and re-iterated that talks could have averted this present scenario of objections. MM re-iterated that if the objection was upheld that it could affect funding with regards to failte ireland and the delay was harming the application for funding process. NB felt that the whole lack of communication was the main problem.

MM asked NB that if design team were to remove the problematic windows from the project would MJ's remove the objection to an bord pleanala. NB confirmed that he believed that this would be the case upon advice from MJ's architects. SMCG outlined her contention that the discussion may be deemed as inappropriate due to the complexities of dual memberships of some of the board and this may not be the appropriate forum on which to discuss in lieu of a decision by an bord pleanala. MM juxtaposed that the SCDA has three members of the Maritime Company and that it could be deemed appropriate to instruct those members as to their obligations when the Maritime Company conducts its business. MK agreed with SMCG. MK also agreed with MJ's right to protect its own interests regardless. MK reiterated that SCDA must at the same time reflect the wishes of the community and act in its best interest. MK felt that a more inclusive process would have been more ideal than the present circumstance but that that was in the past at this stage and that now progress would have to be made by recognising all interests and that both sides had erred but now how the future is resolved is the most pressing issue for all. This was agreed by all.

Mmcel asked how the MJ's site was affected by the new maritime centre. NB re-affirmed that MJ's is sitting on planning permission for 10 years and that with the proposed new upgrades they may be in a position to now move on the MJ's site (begin construction) – to upgrade and the proposed development (the windows facing on to it) may hamper this move. NB recalled for the board that the new development was for a three storey development incorporating the present MJ's building as the ground floor. LS asked whether a design change was possible allowing for a change in location of the windows. NB replied that MJ's had proposed a number of changes. MM said that the positioning of the windows was contingent on communication meetings held and the windows were so positioned to provide an unobstructed view of the beach front.

MK/SMcg summarised the business and suggested that communication be formally made to the Maritime Company to engage with MJ's as soon as possible. JBT asked for a proposal to call on Maritime Company to reach agreement on windows prior to an bord pleannala decision or at least sit down and reach agreement.

SMCG proposed that SCDA send a correspondence to the Maritime Board asking to meet with MJ's to try and reach agreement. This motion was proposed by Jbt and seconded by Smcg. SMCG also asked that members of the maritime board be encouraged to download copies of the objection to have at the next maritime meeting.

Campaigns

Smcg outlined the progress made on the dog fouling campaign with Scoil Asicus and the County veterinarian and Denise Rushe and would provide further updates at next meeting.

Coastal Erosion.

The board had a general discussion about the issues of coastal erosion on Strandhill seafront. NB mentioned that heavy clay had proven a cheap and adequate solution to protect the seafront in the future. This would secure the campsite and alleviate any breakage on seafront. MM mentioned that funding should be given from capital funds for such a project.

It was proposed that sub-committee be setup to meet with Joe Corcoran of Sligo Tourist Development Association to discuss how the Development Association and the STDA can operate for mutual benefit.

NB relayed how over the Christmas and New Year Periods that The Strand Bar had problematic issues with sewage that the ground floor toilets were closed and that patrons were severely disturbed including wheelchair users. NB confirmed that the grease traps were backed up and that there was a delay in getting them cleared.

SMCG/JB said that a public information campaign should be put in place over the next year to co-incide with the beginning of the high season. JB outlined that providing information to people living in the area about practices to alleviate the waste being put in drains. NB agreed that this would be a good avenue and would help in the busier times. This campaign would be leaflet orientated. SMCG said that the leaflet could coincide with the Dog fouling campaign as a leaflet about waste in general. It was decided to finalise this at the next meeting.

Election

David McCoy was elected as secretary proposed by John Bartlett, seconded by Mick McEnroe

Michael Keane was elected as Treasurer proposed by Luke Saunders and seconded by John Bartlett

Sinead McGuire was elected as PRO proposed by Mick McEnroe and seconded by David McCoy

Village Safety

MM outlined that at a future public information meeting possible to coincide with a meeting about the maritime centre that the general population be asked about issues such as text alerts, neighbourhood watch and to ascertain if something through the SCDA should be set up. JB agreed and that an Garda Siochana should be asked to attend. MM mentioned that the local

community Garda is excellent. It was decided to discuss this at the next meeting to set objectives on the SCDA whether or not to initiate neighbourhood watch.

Maritime Centre

It was felt that the issue was dealt with under matters arising.

AOB

MM mentioned that the development loan on the community park has been repaid. It was hoped to add adult exercise equipment into the future using the new sports capital grant. €1.2m was repaid in total. MMcel mentioned that the exercise equipment similar to the Doorley park development was excellent for providing walkers with a full aerobic workout. MM confirmed that €15000 of equipment was being considered to use along the lines of those used in doorley park.

JB raised the new developments that were taking place specifically around Scoil Asicus. NB asked that priority be given to current residents of Strandhill that are looking for accommodation rather than non-Strandhill residents. MMcel enquired as to whether this was social housing NB confirmed that it was and mentioned cases of families being divided because of lack of housing in area. NB asked that the SCDA be supportive of ensuring that local families get first refusal of the new developments. NB also mentioned that due to capacity issues the school needed more space to expand and the SCDA should be supportive in seeking to accommodate the school by acquiring more land for future developments. NB mentioned that the future expansion of Strandhill needed to be protected and managed in order that the village did not be destroyed there was broad agreement on this. NB said the acquisition of land for the school was essential not just for buildings but for play area also. SMCG said that she would relay to Scoil Asicus that that the SCDA would support in any issues where necessary. There was general agreement of the SCDA that the matter of village expansion would require further discussion.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm