

Road Action Group Salen

AGM 17th March 2009

1. Welcome by the chairman, Charlotte Mellis
2. **Present;** Charlotte Mellis, Mike Hogan, Jessie Macquarie, Eve Eckstein, Ted Dowling, Norma Dowling, Bridget Marthaler, Ralph Franklin, Janet Nelson, Phillipe Rigal, Finlay Christine, Clifford Moisey.
3. **Apologies;** Ruth Hawke, Caroline Wood, Lorna MacIntyre, Linda Cameron, James Hilder
4. **Chairman's report;** the background to the formation of RAGS was reviewed together with the principal objections to the Council plans for the new road through Salen. The membership now stands at 865. The website (www.ragsonline.info) has increasing numbers of unique visitors, from 17 in May 2008, 81 in February 2009 and 70 to date in March 2009. John Russell, a consulting roads engineer, produced an excellent independent report about the current plans for the Salen tie-in and gave firm alternative proposals with necessary back-up to support them. This report has been widely circulated and in addition presented to the local councillors for Mull. The report was generously given to RAGS without a professional fee apart from travel and accommodation costs. Newspaper articles have recently appeared in 'Round and About, Am Muileach and the Oban Times. It was noted the council has allocated further funding for redesign of the plans for the road. Thanks were expressed to members for their support and continued interest.

James Hilder of MICT stated by email; 'I think Rags has done an excellent job of keeping the issue or the new road and Salen in the public eye. It is a thankless task but one which needs to be carried out and which will mean plugging away at the Council over a long run. So in case anyone feels there is not much progress I would actually say congratulations! The Council have now allocated money to begin work on the re-design and legal work of the new road so it is more important than ever that we keep going! Well done.'
5. **Election of Managing Committee;** It was proposed (Ted Dowling) and seconded (Jessie Macquarie) that the committee of Charlotte Mellis, Clifford Moisey, Mike Hogan & Ruth Hawke be re-elected en-bloc. This was passed unanimously.
7. **Treasurer's Report;** the accounts are waiting checking by an independent examiner. Figures from September 2006 to 31st December 2008 were presented.

Income (donations)	£1,411.11
Expenditure;	
Admin	£160.71
Meetings	£45.00
Publicity	£238.58
Membership of Transform Scotland	£60.00
Website	£268.95
Report (John Russell)	£115.50
Total	£888.74
Balance at bank	£522.37

The accounts were accepted unanimously.

The bank account requires 2 out of 3 signatures for cheques (chairman, vice chairman or treasurer). Formal thanks were expressed to John Russell for his report, the alternative proposals and his overall support for RAGS.

8. Future activity;

- a. Keep RAGS in the public eye and remind members that the campaign is still active.
- b. Promote RAGS at the local producer's markets.
- c. Produce permanent posters for use around the village.
- d. Lobby members of parliament and ministers.
- e. Be prepared to respond to future planning applications and a public enquiry.
- f. Prepare a 'model' letter of objection highlighting the main issues.
- g. Use the 'Mull Forum Website'.
- h. Note: members (and others) will need to re-submit letters of objection when new plans are put forward.
- i. Examine ways of improving the financial position of RAGS.

9. Date of next open committee meeting;

9th June 2009, 7.30pm at Salen Hotel.

10. The chairman closed the meeting thanking every one for their attendance and their contributions to a lively discussion.

Clifford Moisey acting secretary 17.03.09