

Kiltearn Community Council



Minutes –

Held in Ante Room, Diamond Jubilee Hall

Held on Tuesday 16th April 2024

PRESENT

Elected Members

Shelagh Dennett (SD)
Annelie Graham (AG) & Minute Taker
Mike Finlayson (MF)
Susan Crookes (SC)

Public

John Ross
Prentice Whyte
Maureen Cusick

Item Discussion

1 **Apologies/Welcome**

1.1 Apologies from John McHardy, Gabrielle Buist, Sarah McNair and Mandy MacLeman & Cllr Maxine Smith.

1.2 MF chaired today's meeting as JM was unable to attend.

2 **Previous Minutes/Matters arising**

2.1 The minutes of the meeting of 12th March 2024, were agreed as proposed by SC and seconded by SD.

3 **Finance**

3.1 Balances are £84k & £85k.

3.2 SD is still to open a high savings account. **SD**

4 **Police Update** – Update was received/distributed after the meeting.

AG to send reminder to Police for their report after Agenda is sent out each time. **AG**

5 **Councillors** - No updates given.

5.1 Maxine Smith (Cllr) emailed to advise "if there was anything to report I'd come but sadly we struggle to get anything done. I have organised for the entrances to Novar and Fyrish crescent to be retarred and the hole at the bus shelter. Also for the fence

to be replaced near no 6 near the play park but it won't be quick. Hope the potholes will be quicker.”

5.2 MF to contact Liam Clancy, Support Officer, with reference to the absence of Councillors to every meeting. MF

AG to remind Councillors for an update after the Agenda has been sent out each time. AG

6 Previous Minutes/Matters arising

6.1 • The **Honorarium payments** will be discussed at the next meeting when more members of the Committee are present to agree.

MF suggested that there should be a discussion around provision of laptop & printer, for the secretary in particular, to use for KCC business.

6.2 • MF has spoken to Gary Urquhart with regard to the **bus shelter panels**. Gary advised that parts have been located and now Perspex panels are to be sourced. MF got the impression that the repair was imminent. Agreed that should nothing have been done by the next meeting then the press will be contacted.

6.3 • **Village Officer** proposals and research being undertaken by SD and MF - *ongoing*. MF has contacted the Alness Community Council and they do not have a Village Officer. The ‘handyman’ that they use is part of a scheme organised by ILM. MF will contact Liam Clancy, the Community Council Support Officer, for advice. MF

6.4 • Grant application from Fox & Friends – Lisa Davidson did not attend. She will be invited to the next meeting to further discuss the application with a breakdown of how the funding will be spent and future plans.

7 Place Plan

7.1 Maureen Cusick, the new ECT Project Officer, will be managing the Place Plan consultation. As agreed, the ECT & KCC will co-ordinate together to create the Evanton Place Plan.

It was agreed that the KCC will fund up to £2000 towards the consultation process. The final Place Plan package needs to be submitted before 27th September 2024 in order to feed into the Highland Development Plan, so time is very tight.

A meeting will be held to discuss how to plan this.

The meeting is for all KCC & ECT Committee members, Tuesday 30th April 7pm.

8 **Correspondence** – none, other than as discussed under other subject headings

9 Other Business

- 9.1
- **Seagulls:** Ongoing. SM was to ask RSPB for advice. John Ross mentioned that there are 'Daddi Long Legs' rotating bird deterrent spikes that appear to be more effective than the solid variety. SM advised (by email) that Denys McNair had contacted her to advise that a retired gamekeeper/stalker who lives in Evanton is applying for a permit to do a cull of the gulls. If his application is approved he'll carry out the cull discretely. He will require a police officer to be present so, so Denys is asking a local police officer to see if he'd be willing to officiate.
- 9.2
- **Phone mast.** SM advised that Denys McNair had previously voiced concerns about the phone mast and said that it is now going to be replaced with a more powerful mast, which requires planning permission. Denys thought it would be a good opportunity for it to be relocated from centre of the village and away from residential properties.
- 9.3
- **Public toilet** proposals and research being undertaken by SC, SM and JM - *ongoing*. A hard copy of the Google online consultation form will be put into Cornerstone & Co-op. **SC,SM
JM**
- 9.4
- **Grant form.** SM advised (by email) that a draft of the new Grant form is almost ready to approve. **SM**
- 9.5
- **SSE proposed new power line construction.** John Ross attended the SSE meeting on Tuesday 19th March. The preferred route looked more certain to go up past Fannyfield towards Ardross Castle. SSE advise that underwater cables are not an option.

10 Village Groups – no updates given

11 Grants

- 11.1
- Moira McKenna of Girlguiding sent correspondence asking if the KCC would consider agreeing to an annual regular grant, approx. £2000/year to help cover hall costs, subscriptions and programme resources. It was agreed that this was something that should be considered.

To be discussed at the next meeting when more members are present.

In the meantime, AG to ask Moira to submit a Grant Application form for this. Suggested that this is something other groups may find beneficial and could be a separate section on the new Grant form once it is in place (SM).

AG

SM

11.2 Evanton Angling Club

Requesting funding towards buying hand tools and PPE for clearing the Allt Graad riverside paths & banks.

Total costs: £806.94

Grant request: £806.94

The amount requested was agreed

SD

11.3 Evanton Community Trust

Requesting funding towards grass cutting, weed control, website subscription & gravesites database subscription.

Total costs: £1823

Grant request: £1823

The amount requested was agreed

SD

12 **Other Business**

- SD advised that parents & children have asked if goals can be put in place at the Teandallon Park. Additionally, the Park play area needs a better upgrade. AG to approach Compass Building who had previously promised play area upgrades. **AG**
- Agreed that Compass Building should also be approached regarding the A9 junction and Jubilee Hall road layout which will only become more dangerous as more houses are built. **AG**

13 **Still to be discussed / not discussed at this meeting:**

- 13.1 • Ref road signs warning motorists about walkers & cyclists – MF to be asked to provide further information on what is needed. **MF**
- 13.2 • New Jubilee Hall junction issues. Trevor Black to provide update, if any, at next meeting. **JM**
- 13.3 • Tree cutting and clearance happening down at the shore in the field near the river Allt Graad and the area of bullrushes. MF suggested that the company is approached to request consideration for the community to purchase the land. MM said that an expression of interest could be put in and will look into it to see if this possible. **MM**
- 13.4 • Projects for KCC to work on – MM will set up a consultation for suggestions and concerns so that a list can be created. **MM**
- 13.5 • Sports Hall – SD to invite Catriona to meeting to discuss its future. Questions need to be agreed so that the correct person from Highlife Highland can attend the meeting. **all**
- 13.6 • MM suggested that a meeting should be arranged between the KCC and all the groups in the village to discuss funding and look at how the KCC can further support the groups. **MM**
- 13.7 • Consider Associate membership & Youth membership of KCC
- 13.8 • Storage container

- 13.9 • Safer road layout/usage at school for drop off / pick up.
- 13.10 • Neighbourhood Watch. Acting Sergeant Harry Milton to be approached to discuss what is involved in implementing this scheme.
- 13.11 • Rail Halt – JM has had no response from Frank Roach.
- 13.12 • Fisherman’s bothy collapsed at the shore – ARCH Highland to be contacted for their input. **JM**
- 13.13 • The War Memorial steps have been declared unfit for use, but no signage or barriers have been put up to reflect this and children often play on it. Highland Council to be informed. **JM**
- 13.14 • The pavement leading out of the village up to the Kiltearn beach turnoff is overgrown and in poor condition. Highland Council to be informed. **JM**

14 Next meeting: Tuesday 14th May 2024

The Chair thanked those present for their attendance.