

Kiltearn Community Council



Minutes –

Held in Ante Room, Diamond Jubilee Hall

Held on Tuesday 14th May 2024

PRESENT

Elected Members

John McHardy (JM)
Shelagh Dennett (SD)
Annelie Graham (AG) & Minute Taker
Mike Finlayson (MF)
Sarah McNair (SM)
Gabrielle Buist (GB)
Susan Crookes (SC)
Mandy Macleman

Councillor

Cllr Maxine Smith

Police

PC Harry Milton

Public

Catriona Fraser
Gary Payne
John Ross
Preston Whyte
Colin Sutherland
Maureen Cusick
Anne Macdonald
Sheena & Janet
Michael Smith
Sam

Item Discussion

1 **Apologies/Welcome**

No apologies noted.

2 **Guests**

The KCC welcomed two guests to give an update before the meeting proper began: Catriona Fraser from Highlife Highland to answer queries about the Sports Hall and PC Harry Milton for the Police update.

2.1 **Highlife Highland**

Catriona advised that Invergordon Leisure Centre deals with all the bookings and inductions for the Sports Hall. The hall is a Trusted Keyholder site. A number of

groups use it including the school, judo, scouts and beavers. They will always have public liability insurance, a first aider and will be constituted groups. A caretaker comes in for 2 hours per week to do health & safety checks and report back if any maintenance is needed. The caretaker does a little cleaning and a cleaner comes in to do a deep clean once every couple of months. If a new group uses the hall they will have an induction. Groups have the responsibility to open and close the hall and notify of any issues, and clean up after themselves. The hours that the hall can be used are according to the Invergordon Leisure Centre opening hours due to availability of an emergency contact.

Catriona said that there are no plans to shut down the hall and Highlife Highland are not aware of any issues. There are no plans to upgrade as funding for this is limited. It cannot open as a full functioning hall as there is a lack of staff and funding. It cannot be used on an ad hoc basis by individuals.

GB asked if a Community Asset Transfer would be possible and Catriona said that the KCC would then have to take responsibility for the insurance. MM suggested that an Evanton Sports Club could be formed for all the groups and individuals to share the liability insurance cost which the KCC could support.

MM

JM said that this was all very useful information and would be discussed further and the wider community consulted on the best way forward.

Concern was also raised about the unstable trees in the hall grounds and Catriona said that she would request that a survey is done of the trees and bushes. The owner of & reason a cherry picker is parked on the grounds will also be established.

2.2 **Police update**

PC Harry Milton advised that the police were urging more caution on the roads with the increase of summertime tourist traffic. There had been two collisions recorded nearby including at the Skiach and at the A9 Evanton junction where drivers were charged with careless driving.

There has been racist and anti-social graffiti reported on a garage wall near Ash Hill.

There has been an increase in quad and motorbikes recorded as being driven where they are not allowed and trial bikes in the woods. Adrian Clark of the Woods Group will be asked that police are given access through any locked gates if required.

There have been no alcohol or drug misuse or crimes of note recorded in the last month.

MF asked if it would be possible to have foot patrols for short periods on the main streets. SC asked if the police could visit the children in the primary school for

interaction. SD asked if police could make their presence known at school pick up time when drivers are parking badly and driving too fast and there is no lollypop person to help the children across the road. PC Milton advised that he would find out who was allocated to the school and see if they could make a visit. He will also find out the possibility of foot patrols and raise concerns again about the parking at the school gates – all dependent on officer availability.

Cllr Maxine Smith added that she would ask if Highland Council traffic wardens could come to assess the situation at the school as well. The KCC could write to the Highland Council to express their concerns about the lack of a crossing patrol.

3 Finance

Balances are £84k & £85k.

4 Grants

4.1 Evanton Guides

Requesting funding towards subscription fees and running costs.

Total costs: £6000

Grant request: £6000 spread over 3 years

The amount requested was agreed

4.2 Evanton Brownies

Requesting funding towards subscription fees and running costs.

Total costs: £6000

Grant request: £6000 spread over 3 years

The amount requested was agreed

4.3 Evanton Social & Event Group

Requesting funding towards their senior citizens fortnightly lunch club (to cover the next 6 months) and the summer outing.

Total costs: £4530

Grant request: £4530

The amount requested was agreed

5 Councillors

Cllr Maxine Smith advised that she was now starting to attend Community Council meetings however it has been a struggle to get anything productive done as their hands have been tied. She had organised to get some potholes filled and fencing at the playpark replaced. She welcomed anyone getting in contact.

6 Previous Minutes/Matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of 16th April 2024, were agreed as proposed by MF and seconded by SD.

7 Previous Minutes/Matters arising

- 7.1
- **Councillor attendance** - MF contacted Liam Clancy, Support Officer, with reference to the absence of Councillors to every meeting but nothing further has come of it.

- 7.2
- **Village Officer** proposals and research being undertaken by SD and MF - *ongoing*. JM suggested rather than seek to employ someone instead have someone do additional duties as community works, or invoice for work undertaken.

SD
MF

- 7.3
- **Road signs** warning motorists about walkers, cyclists and horses – MF contacted Gary at Highland Council and permission was given to erect signs in the relevant places and it was suggested to use ANSCO Signs. Prices will be sought and discussion had next meeting over how many would be needed.

MF

Colin Sutherland raised a concern about careless and fast driving on the shore road leading down to the cemetery as it is outside the 20mph zone. Warning signs could be extended to include this area.

- 7.4
- **New Jubilee Hall junction issues**. AG will contact Trevor Black to see if there is any update. AG to forward Trevor's letter to Cllr Maxine to see if she could have an input.

AG

- 7.5
- **Fisherman's bothy** collapsed at the shore – JM found out that the bothy is outwith the Deephaven boundary. He contacted ARCH Highland who said it would be great to have consolidation of ownership and even a dig to determine possible dating on the structure. There is a concern that the ruin will be flattened if thought a danger.

- 7.6
- **Public toilet** proposals and research being undertaken by SC, SM and JM - *ongoing*. Results from the consultation survey will be discussed at the next meeting.

SC,SM
JM

- 7.7
- **Place Plan** Maureen Cusick, ECT Project Officer, advised that the early stages of the consultation are being organised and there will soon be posters, an online survey and a QR code to complete it. This should be out by last week in May 2024. There will be two face-to-face consultations, one with all the local groups and businesses and one with the wider community where there will be the opportunity to look at suggestions and feedback. A draft plan has to then be submitted to the Highland council and then a further consultation will take place end August 2024.

- 7.8
- **Battery storage facility** – JM advised there has been no further information on this although the plans are still live.

- 7.9 • **SSE proposed new power line construction.** There has been no further information on this. Another consultation is due in June and a view can be put forward by KCC by November 2024. This can be further discussed.
- 7.10 • **Bus shelter panels.** Looking back through KCC minutes showed that this issue has been outstanding for at least seven years. MF asked Gary if he could give the connecting brackets to KCC and KCC can then arrange installation. MF has looked at metal sheeting options instead of Perspex. Prices needed. JM and John Ross will organise. MF
JM
- 7.11 • **Goals for Teandallon Park –** AG approached Compass Building, who had previously promised play area upgrades, to see if they would provide this and any other equipment and also resurfacing of the basketball court. Compass have passed it onto the Highland Council. AG will contact Highland Council for update. AG

8 Other Business

- 8.1 • **Flower baskets –** JM advised that the baskets will be delivered 2nd week in June. Following a poster being put out to the community asking for an individual to take on the watering duties for 4 months, £800, there have been seven who expressed an interest. JM & SD will look at the submissions, choose 3 names and then pull the final name out of a hat. JM
SD

There is a spare basket and it was suggested that it could be used at the free church if they were in agreement, although a bracket would need to be installed, or the Jubilee Hall or outside the Co-op. Baskets for the bridge lampposts were also to be explored. JM

JM added that new watering equipment was needed including a better hose and lance – he will find out costs. JM

Sheena added that the entrance to the village is currently not attractive and the village signboard is surrounded by overgrown grass and weeds. MF added that the bridge railings could do with new paintwork.

9 Village Groups –

- 9.1 Evanton Social & Events Group
6th June 2024 – VE Day commemoration 11am at the War Memorial with a piper and short service. The school will get involved with events. An exhibition of old photographs etc will be available to view, possibly in Cornerstone. There will be a stall at the school fair, 25th May, where children can paint a stone which will then decorate the steps of the War Memorial.

At the end of June the British Legion are coming to view the Evanton War Memorial and give it recognition, particularly as it has an unusual design and style. Further funding will then be sought for repairs and necessary refurbishment.

15th June 2024 – Gala and Fyrish Hill Race

9.2 Evanton Community Trust

Land has been purchased on the north side of the hall and the ECT are working with an architect in designing an extension which should include new toilets, kitchen, reception area and storage. There will be an open day to showcase the plans and get feedback.

16th May 2024 – Evanton Community Cinema will be showing Why Not Scotland? Exploring rewilding. The Woods Group will be there to give a talk afterwards.

10 **Correspondence**

Letter from Lorraine Griffin saying that she intends on starting art workshops in the village wondered about funding to support this. Participants would pay for her time and materials, however the purchase equipment would enable her to offer a broader variety of activity. She would like to offer some workshops free of charge to children, unemployed, retired and those with neurodiverse and disabilities but would require funding to facilitate this.

Additionally, she also offers her services for signage and interpretation.

11 **Other Business**

11.1 • **Foules level crossing** – SD raised a concern that the road by the railway crossing has never been retarmacked or the verges cut so is a hazard. Cllr Maxine Smith advised that she would take a look.

11.2 • **Bottle Bank** – Anne MacDonald raised a concern that the bottle bank is a hazard as it is often full and there is broken glass and bottles left lying around it. It is also very muddy there. Cllr Maxine Smith said that another bank could be requested and it can be requested that the surrounding area is tarmacked. JM said he would talk to Highland Council about this. **JM**

11.3 • **Small 20mph signs** – SD asked if there could be more and bigger 20mph signs. JM wondered what was the outcome of the 20mph online consultation. KCC has already purchased 3 light up speeding signs so maybe the Highland Council could pay for another one. **JM**

11.4 • **Website contact** – Anne MacDonald asked that her name is removed from the website as a KCC contact. **AG**

11.5 • **New bins** – Gary Payne asked if there could be clearer information about the new bin system introduced this month. He suggested a display table showing exactly what can go in each colour of bin.

12 **Next meeting: Tuesday 11th June 2024**

The Chair thanked those present for their attendance.