

# Kiltearn Community Council



## Minutes –

Held in Ante Room, Diamond Jubilee Hall

Held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

### PRESENT

#### Elected Members

John McHardy (JM)  
Shelagh Dennett (SD),  
Annelie Graham (AG) & Minute Taker  
Sarah McNair (SM)  
Mandy Macleman (MM)  
Gabrielle Buist (GB)

#### Councillors

Cllr Sinclair Coghill

#### Public

Preston Whyte  
John Ross  
Maureen Cusick  
Gary Payne

### Item      Discussion

#### 1      **Apologies/Welcome**

Apologies noted from Susan Crookes (SC), Mike Finlayson (MF), Cllr John Edmondson, Cllr Maxine Smith and PC Jaia Pirrie

#### 2      **Finance**

Balances are £80k & £84k

There was further discussion about trying to have a savings account. It was suggested that SD speak to the bank manager in person, or if the Highland Council can advise/help.

**SD**

#### 3      **Previous Minutes/Matters arising**

The minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024, were agreed as proposed by JM and seconded by SM.

- 3.1      • **Village Officer** proposals and research being undertaken by SD and MF. Suggested ECT act as possible host for this - to be explored by SD and MM - *ongoing*.

**SD,MF  
MM**

- 3.2
- **New Jubilee Hall junction and other roads issues**  
Trevor Black is still in communication with Highland Council.  
The Evanton Wood Community Company contacted KCC expressing concern about the junction. They have monitored that annually over 20,000 pedestrians walk into the woods near that junction and will likely be walking across it which is dangerous for them and are looking for either a new layout or other measures put in place.  
Following discussion it was agreed that a public meeting should be called about this issue, to include the press, in particular including all the main user groups that have pedestrians crossing the junction such as Woods group, ECT, School, Guides etc. Local Councillors plus a Highland Council roads representative should also be invited. MM, JM
- 3.3
- **Public toilet** proposals and research being undertaken by SC, SM and JM. MM advised that the ECT was awarded funding towards this 3 years ago which was never drawn down. MM will check if it is still available and if not, then will reapply. MM  
Agreed that the planning proposal is circulated to the committee and an application lodged to get the ball rolling. JM
- 3.4
- **Bus shelter panels.** It has been noted by the public that the new panels are a big improvement and are much appreciated.
- 3.5
- **Xmas lights** – Agreed via email that more lights to be ordered. Hugh will help to put them up as previously. Keith and Micheal will check the lights. SM will follow up if the school have done a design. JM will see if the lights can be adjusted so they are face onto the road. GB asked if the entrance sign to the village could have Christmas lights, or a Christmas tree beside it – JM to investigate. SM  
JM
- 3.6
- **Defibrillators** – the training took place and Cornerstone are looking at organising another one. Confirmed that the defib at the woods entrance is maintained by the Woods group. The school defib will be moved back outside and school will renew the batteries and maintain it. The two maintained by the Evanton Events group and the school one need to be registered. The new one for the shed has been funded by Compass and there will be publicity when put in place. JM
- 3.7
- **Multiple major energy planning applications & consultations** – a total of 62 community councils supported the Highland Council Motion.  
  
JM responded to the scoping documents and was disappointed that no community council comments appeared in the final documents.  
  
The KCC Facebook post to raise awareness about the numerous applications initiated a lot of comment and response.  
  
Many do not appreciate how many of the applications are interconnected with each other, so if one is approved then the others are related to it and will follow shortly after.

JM advised that John Maculty from Marybank & Strathpeffer Community Council suggested that the surrounding community councils have a joint meeting and this was agreed as a good idea. John Ross and Preston have also been asked to be a part of this due to their valuable input & knowledge. JM will respond to John Maculty.

JM

## 5 Correspondence

5.1 **Highland Council survey** – in regard to reviewing all the main rules, regulations and purpose of the community council and any suggested changes. AG will circulate.

AG

5.2 **HIE survey** - inviting community organisations across Scotland's Highlands and Islands to share their aspirations, plans, and challenges. AG will circulate.

AG

## 6 Other Business

### 6.1 Place Plan

Maureen Cusick advised that the deadline has been extended to Christmas. JM will meet with Maureen to go over the plan ahead of having a further consultation with the community. The document is then reviewed by the Highland Council before being submitted.

JM

### 6.2 Police Report

As circulated & attached.

### 6.3 Councillors updates

Cllr Sinclair Coghill advised that he would look into some of the road issues, namely:

- Hole/gully outside Cornerstone
- Potholes at the entrance to Fyrish Crescent
- Pothole in the carpark
- The decreasing width of the footpath leading up the hill out of the village towards the cemetery turn off.

All of these have been reported multiple times to Highland Council.

AG will put a post on Facebook reminding people again about the Highland Council pothole reporting tool link.

AG

Cllr Coghill advised that there is a small allocation of money available for councillors to give to local groups. He will also check if the KCC is able to apply for this.

No update received from the other councillors.

## 7 Groups

### 7.1 ECT –

- They had their first community market which was reasonably successful and hope to keep having them every month. More food stalls are needed.

Various groups could also think about having a stall as a fundraising opportunity.

- The ECT has applied for funding towards energy efficiency measures for the hall.
- The new trishaw is now in place. There are 4 qualified 'pilots' and one who is a qualified trainer of pilots. There will be an official launch of this in the Spring.
- The Sharing Shed is doing well.
- The next Community Cinema film will be for Halloween. The Polish Association has approached the Community Cinema asking if they can use it for one of their social events by showing a film in Polish for their own community.
- The Hall Management Group is made up of two members of the ECT, two of the KCC and other representatives from various user groups. At the moment only JM is representing the KCC so another one is needed. GB was asked to consider this role.

GB

## 8 AOCB

8.1 • **Evanton.online** – Gary Payne advised that many issues and requests can be pushed through on the Evanton.online page. He is glad of all news and updates. The next deadline for the newsletter is 31<sup>st</sup> Oct.

8.2 • **Winter relief fund** – MM asked that this issue is revisited and it was discussed how to identify those in need and the logistics of KCC funding this. It was agreed that the KCC supports this in principal. MM will put forward a suggested proposal. Citizens Advice might be able to offer guidance/advice.

MM

8.3 • **Honorarium payments** – these have been agreed via email previously. SD will now make the payments.

SD

8.4 • **Flowers** – JM asked if the baskets should now be left to dry out before taking down – it was agreed that they are watered for a little longer. It was agreed that once they come down, JM will have them emptied, power washed and returned to Munros – as in previous years.

JM

8.5 • **ECT grant for hall** – it was agreed that SD pay the ECT the next annual grant of £10k, as previously agreed.

SD

## 9 Next meeting: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024

The Chair thanked those present for their attendance.