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| **Kiltearn Community Council****Minutes –** Held in Ante Room, Diamond Jubilee Hall |  |
| **Held on Tuesday 11th February 2025** |

**PRESENT**

**Elected Members** John McHardy (JM)

 Shelagh Dennett (SD),

Annelie Graham (AG) & Minute Taker

Mike Finlayson (MF),

Susan Crookes (SC)

Sarah McNair (SM)

Mandy MacLeman (MM)

**Councillors** Cllr Sinclair Coghill

 Cllr John Edmondson

**Public** Preston White

Gary Payne

6 members of the public ref item related to Sports Hall

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| **Item****1****2****3**3.13.23.33.4**4**4.14.24.34.44.54.64.7**5****6****7****8**8.18.2**9****10****11****12****13****14** | **Discussion****Apologies/Welcome**Apologies noted from Gabrielle Buist (GB), PC Jaia Pirrie**Finance**Balances are £50,368 (in new savings account), £55,776 & £83,733.**Previous Minutes/Matters arising**The minutes of the meeting of 14th January 2025, were agreed as proposed by MF and seconded by SD.* **Post van**: needing a more sheltered position. Query if the Church carpark would be visible enough for users and for security/safety. MF confirmed that Cornerstone are happy to be open for folk to shelter in when they are waiting. Decided to leave it at current location for now.
* **Tourist Tax** – Highland Council consultation deadline 31st March 2025. Concerns regarding who is affected, particularly in relation to travelling for health care reasons, and how and where the money raised will be spent. KCC to formulate a response.
* **Audited accounts -** the Community Council Support Officer, Liam Clancy, asked that the audited accounts be submitted for the Community Grant. JM has now done this & grant has been received.
* **Grants** the new Grant Application form is now ready, along with the ability to complete it online via a Google link. AG to upload to website. AG to contact all the village groups with copy of the new application form along with a request that they give the KCC a regular projection of grant applications planned, particularly for large capital project grants and also to highlight to them that KCC need an ‘end of project report’ to help with the KCC annual budgeting.

**Correspondence*** **Road closure notification:** Email received regarding upgrade of water services & pipes will mean the Old Evanton back road to Dingwall, at Ardullie, will be closed and the link road that goes over the railway line down to the A9 will be closed to all traffic from 5th March 2025 for 5 weeks. This does not apply to pedestrians and cyclists. There will also be lane closure/traffic lights on the A862 road from the Cromarty roundabout to Dingwall road from 5th April for 20 weeks. AG to put notice on Facebook.
* **Broadband Survey** – email received from Scottish Government regarding wanting folk to complete a feedback survey ref the roll out of superfast fibre broadband connections. Poster they provided to be publicised.
* **Roadside Rubbish Campaign**: Lord Lieutenant Joannie Whiteford looking for local support for cleaning up of the roads. AG to forward information to SC for possible scouts/Brownies/school involvement.
* **The Scottish Community Development Centre webinar:** they are inviting attendance on 19th & 20th February to take part in community conversations across Scotland to gather local peoples' opinions on community benefits generated through offshore and onshore renewable energy developments.
* **Cllr Crawford's Motion on Major Electricity Development Applications and Community Engagement** – worries from other Community Councils that Highland Council will ‘sprag’ this because of financial/budgeting implications. Cllr Crawford feels very isolated in this. KCC agreed that we still support the Motion.
* **Novar Windfarm, repowering of Novar 1 scoping report:** plans to remove the 34 currentwind turbines (60mtrs tall) and replace with 10 new ones (180mtrs tall). The initial public events did not include Evanton on the list but the new turbines will have a direct effect on the area in terms of settlements, environment, wildlife, footpaths etc. MF said that Highland Council is a consultee and it is Scottish Government who made the final decision. Cllr Edmondson added that Highland Council will speak on behalf of the locals and will complain that the locals are not being sufficiently consulted or their views taken into account. The emphasis is on money saving and not enough talk about the social impact.
* **Highland News Group spotlight on Evanton** – a chance for positive messaging about the area. GB will be asked to liaise with Hector.

**Ceislein Wind Farm proposal – behind Fyrish**Sheila Campbell-Lloyd from Ardross Community Council presented a powerpoint and talk, which she will also take to other Community Councils in the affected area. (The Councillors who were present, impartially observed the presentation). The presentation highlighted the enormous size of the turbines and how visible they will be, also at night when they will be lit up. The next step is public awareness and petition, plus seeking funding for professional consultants to inform the process.**Sports Hall:** 6 members of the public were at the meeting who haveexpressed an interest in being part of an Evanton Sports Club. It needs a minimum of 3 people to set it up. They then need to adopt a constitution, agree to meet a couple of times a year. A membership form would have a disclaimer to each member being responsible for their own health & safety and to follow all the rules. Those interested will discuss together and with MM how to proceed.**Police Report**PC Jaia Pirrie had submitted the latest Police update to the KCC, as attached. **Councillors updates** Cllr Edmondson mentioned that analogue systems will be turned off by the end of 2025 and nothing seems to be in place to mitigate the effect on communities. The UK's traditional phone service network will be retired, which means any old-fashioned landlines using it will cease to function.All analogue systems will be turned off by January 2027. Councillors do not have the time to properly scrutinize the 365 page report which is then discussed for just a couple of hours in a morning. A huge proportion of household smart meters do not work. JM agreed that there is a reliance on technology which has a fragile  infrastructure. Cllr Coghill highlighted the value of the Community Payback schemes and how it almost halves the reoffending rate of individuals, which benefits the community and also is a fraction of the money of keeping someone in prison. An individual in prison costs £47k/year, a CPO costs £1.9k.No update received from the other councillors. **Public toilet** this is still ongoing but in the interim SC, JM and MF are looking at a solution in using other premises to provide daytime and early evening toilet facilities in the summer.**Village Community Caretaker** – SM, MM, JM to discuss with the ECT Treasurer any issues with getting this underway.**School road safety –** Cllr Edmondson confirmed that road safety measures at the school is on the Highland Council agenda to be looked at. **Winter relief fund** – This has been agreed in principal by KCC. MM will meet with AliEnergy to get it started. AliEnergy will take on the screening process and assess the needs of applicates, and also point the applicates towards other funding and support. They will look at those who ‘just miss’ the benefits and support threshold. This will all be done in an unobtrusive way. If the applicate qualifies then their energy provider will directly receive credit, or the applicate will receive a voucher if they have a meter that is fed with tokens. KCC will publicise and promote this initiative by leaflets, events in the hall etc. AliEnergy say fraudulent applications are rare and not seen as an issue. AliEnergy will report back to KCC every month with updates (but no personal data given). JM said that this update would be added to the Agenda every month. The scheme would be completely reviewed in November 2025 to assess if it will continue. MM added that it was about more than just providing monetary help, AliEnergy are really good at giving valuable advice to folk. JM confirmed that using windfarm money was allowed for this scheme.**AOCB**SD mentioned that the gully up Swordale Road is severely blocked. JM & Preston highlighted that it is an ongoing issue due to runoff clogging it up on a regular basis. **Next meeting:** Tuesday 11th March 2025The Chair thanked those present for their attendance. | **JM****AG****AG****AG****AG,SC****JM****JM****JM****GB****JM****MM****SC,JM MF****SM,MM JM****MM** |