

Kiltearn Community Council



Minutes –

Held in Ante Room, Diamond Jubilee Hall

Held on Tuesday 11th March 2025

PRESENT

Elected Members

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

Councillors

Cllr Sinclair Coghill
Cllr John Edmondson

Public

Preston White
John Ross
Gary Payne
Anne Macdonald
Sheena Davidson

Item Discussion

1 **Apologies/Welcome**

Apologies noted from Mike Finlayson (MF),

2 **Finance**

Balances are £50,501 (95 day savings account), £54,625 & £83,813.
Overall Profit/Loss as at 28 February 2025, £18,275.27

JM is working on creating a spreadsheet which can then be used for KCC budgeting. SD to review.

JM,SD

3 **Previous Minutes/Matters arising**

The minutes of the meeting of 11th January 2025, were agreed as proposed by SD and seconded by SM.

- 3.1 • **Tourist Tax** – Highland Council consultation deadline 31st March 2025. A webinar is available to attend on 13th March.

- 3.2 • **Novar Windfarm, repowering of Novar 1 scoping report:** plans to remove the 34 current wind turbines (60mtrs tall) and replace with 10 new ones (180mtrs tall). The consultation in Cornerstone was well attended. They will give a response to the representations and public comments in May 2025.
- 3.3 • **Ceislein Wind Farm proposal – behind Fyrish -** A ‘Save Fyrish’ group is on Facebook. A petition and a crowd funding appeal to pay for costs of getting professional consultants to inform the process is about to be launched.

4 Correspondence

- 4.1 • **Friends of the Far North Line –** Scotrail have researched why rural folk are not using train travel and are asking for further response & opinions. JM
- 4.2 • **Community Regeneration Funding –** the Highland Council is looking at applications for funding of capital projects, deadline of 28th March 2025. JM
- 4.3 • **Scottish Water survey –** Scottish Water are looking for KCC to complete survey on general views about Scottish Water. JM
- 4.4 • **Police Scotland –** They advise that they will now have a more centralised system in communicating with Community Councils. Updates will now come from their HQ rather than the local officer and will cover the whole of our Ward 6. Officers will only attend KCC meetings if there is a specific issue relating to police matters that needs to be discussed.
- 4.4.1 - GB mentioned the folk that have set up a long term camp down at the shore and are causing a significant amount of damage including fly-tipping all along the road, burning rubbish in large bonfires and general anti-social behaviour. This may be a matter for the Highland Council rather than Police. GB added that the number plates on the vehicles are not registered. GB
- 4.4.2 - John McHardy raised that some folk are speeding in the 20mph zone They are overtaking and are intimidating to those who are following the limit. Recommended that number plates are noted and reported to 101 every time it happens.
- 4.4.3 - Anne MacDonald raised that many children are cycling very fast on the pavements on the way to and from school which can be a hazard to older folk. Awareness to be raised at Parent Council meeting. SM,SC
- 4.5 • **Glenwyvis Environmental Fund –** applications for community based projects that benefit the environment and the community. Possibility to get funding towards the Teandallon play area – goal posts. GB
- 4.6 • **Jamie Stone –** copy of letter circulated that Jamie Stone sent to Scottish Parliament & London referencing the Multiple major energy planning applications that Highlands is being subjected to.

- 4.7 • **Port Authority Community Liaison meeting** – 13th March. JM, SM, MM & John Ross to attend JM,SM,
MM

5 **Police Report**

None received in time for the meeting (received the day after).

6 **Councillors updates**

- 6.1 • Cllr Edmondson advised that the roads dept are currently looking at which roads need their white lines refreshed and asked for any areas in Evanton that particularly need this done.
- 6.2 • Cllr Edmondson advised that that raised pavement and speed bumps at the school are being planned. Cllr Coghill will forward the mapped plans to the Parent Council. SC,SM
- 6.3 • Cllr Edmondson advised that at the recent Highland Council budget meeting assurance was given that Cllr Crawford's Motion on Major Electricity Development Applications and Community Engagement has been budgeted for next year.
- 6.4 • It was mentioned that a sign is needed just before the bridge at the A9 junction to warn motorists of possible queuing traffic – certainly one in the short term when the back road is currently closed, but a permanent one would also be good to have there. Cllr Edmondson advised that he would look into this.
- 6.5 • Sheena Davidson mentioned that the road at Camden Street is splitting. Preston mentioned again that the gullies up Swordale Hill are still blocked. JM said that as suggested before, KCC would be asking if a representative from the Roads dept, like Ian McGreif could attend the meeting and a list of issues be presented to him. JM
- 6.6 Cllr Coghill did not have anything new to add this time.
- 6.7 No update received from the other councillors.

7 **PROJECTS**

- 7.1 **Sports Hall:** MM had not yet heard back from those who expressed an interest in setting up the Evanton Sports Club. SD said she would chase it up. SD,MM
- 7.2 **Public toilet** – there may be funding available from the Community Regeneration Funding - ECT will put in application. Application fee is £170 which was agreed KCC would pay. Consideration needs to be given to the type of lock for the toilet – how it will charge the fee and to have one that can be programmed to not be available at night. As there is a long timescale other interim options have been considered but nothing was viable and a portacabin is very expensive. JM,SC

- 7.3 **Village Community Caretaker** – difficulty in employing someone and there are also complications with having a contracted worker. HOST can assist in the management of the post and ILM Highland were eager to be consider the position. JM, SM, SD will discuss further with ILM. **JM,SM, SD**
- 7.4 **Highland News Group spotlight on Evanton** – GB is gathering quotes from Committee and Councillors on all the good things about Evanton. **GB**
- 7.5 **Winter relief fund** – MM is finalising the leaflet which will be posted out to all households. A clear print quality KCC logo is needed – SM said her brother-in-law was a graphic designer and could reproduce it to the required quality. **MM**
- 8 GRANTS**
- 8.1 **The Evanton Woods Group**
Looking for support for their summer concerts.
Total cost £1200, asked for £1000
Agreed
- 9 GROUPS**
- 9.1 **Evanton Events** – Anne MacDonald mentioned that the VE Day 80th Anniversary is coming up and asked if KCC had organised a wreath (which they have not). There will be a celebration in Cornerstone.
- 9.2 **Stay & Play** - SD advised that there is someone who is keen to run this group. MM said they should get in touch with her to organise. The ECT have funding for this so there should be no costs involved, it just needs someone to set it up and run it during termtime. **SD,MM**
- 10 AOCB**
- 10.1 **Flower baskets** – JM advised that the baskets are ordered. A person will be needed to water them once up. Agreed that the previous person would be asked first before asking anyone else. Agreed that it would be at the same cost as last year. John Ross said that he was happy to help out in putting the baskets up. **JM**
- 10.2 **Evanton.online** – Gary asked that he may need to ask for a small funding contribution towards running the newsletter. MM also mentioned that Highland Broadband may be happy to sponsor the newsletter which Gary said he would think about.
- 12 Next meeting:** Tuesday 8th April 2025
- The Chair thanked those present for their attendance.