

Kiltearn Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

Held on Monday 14th December 2015, 7pm at Evanton Sports Hall

PRESENT

Members

Hector Munro (HM) Chairman
 Michael MacLeod (MM) Vice Chairman
 Cai Maclver (CM) Treasurer
 John McHardy (JMch) Secretary
 Anne Macdonald (AM)
 Leo Sharratt (LS)
 Ralph Mercer (RM)
 Shelagh Dennett (SD)

Ex-Officio Members

Cllr. Maxine Smith (Cllr.MS) (part of meeting)
 Cllr.Martin Rattray (Cllr MR)
 Cllr Carolyn Wilson (Cllr CW)

In Attendance

Helen Ross, Senior Ward Manager (HR)

Also Present

Alpin Macdonald, Leslie Logan, Preston White, Gary Payne, Kevin Marshall, Hamish Marshall, David Smith & Euan Campbell.

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Mike Finlayson (Cllr. MF)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>
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1 Conflict of Interest

1.1 The Chairman reminded the 8 Members of the Community Council that they were in attendance to conduct Kiltearn Community Council (KCC) business and that it was for Members to declare any interest they considered may limit their ability to participate in discussion on any particular issue at any particular time.

Members introduced themselves briefly outlining examples of other interests within the Community as follows:-

Hector Munro, operates a number of land and farming businesses and is a member of various Trusts including the Evanton Community Trust.

John McHardy, Member of KCC and employee of The Highland Council.

Cai Maclver, runs hairdressing business.

Ralph Mercer, runs a public house in the village and similar business in Invergordon, also Treasurer of Evanton Social & Events Group.

Leo Sharratt, founding member of Walking Group, assists in delivery of Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Anne Macdonald, Secretary of Evanton Social & Events Group, part of Senior Citizen Group and NHS Group based in Inverness.

Michael MacLeod, employee of Screwfix, Director of Evanton Community Trust,

Shelagh Dennett, childminder, Treasurer of Scout Group, Member of Kiltearn Primary School Parent Council and Member of Evanton Social & Events Group.

2 Finance

2.1 **General.** Noted that former Treasurer (L Logan) had offered to work alongside CM to facilitate a smooth handover.

2.2 **Cheques,** Noted that authorised signatures will require to be changed. Forms issued should be returned to CM. It was agreed that, as an interim measure, the former Officer Bearers would sign cheques as required by CM. HM
J McH

2.3 **Financial Planning.** Financial statements were circulated recording activity up to 30 November 2015. It was agreed that consideration should be given to establishment of a Finance Sub-Committee and that this should be considered at the meeting to be held in January 2016. HM
CM

2.4 **Community Benefit.** The Chairman reminded Members of the previously expressed view of the Highland Council, which is that the management of such funds may sit better with an external agency.

Cllr CW commented that Companies who had contributed to the Benefit fund were interested in the uses made of the investment, suggesting that KCC discuss further how monies are best utilised and consider how investment could be directed to a “lasting” project,

HR intimated that she was happy to attend future meetings where this issue is discussed, if KCC felt this would be helpful. She also suggested that it may be helpful to review how groups elsewhere (including Sutherland) manage similar funds.

The Chairman commented that a scoping paper had been circulated within the former KCC and suggested that this be circulated for reference.

Agreed that this will be considered further at the meeting to be held in January 2016.

Discussion paper previously circulated with KCC to be re-circulated to Members. J McH

Cllr MS left the meeting at this point (7.45) to attend meeting in Ardross.

2.5 **Ward Discretionary Fund.** Following discussion it was agreed that an application would be made seeking support for providing fencing and access to the Diamond Jubilee Hall. AM offered to obtain a quote to be lodged with HR. It was noted that KCC requires to repay an element of monies previously advanced to fund heating improvements. AM
CM

3 **Diamond Jubilee Hall**

3.1 The Chairman advised that office bearers were personally responsible for the hall and that the Council had agreed to fund insurance to cover their personal liability for a six month period. He suggested that KCC should use this period to decide future ownership of the Hall.

3.2 It was agreed to continue with management of the Hall as at present for the time being with Mr and Mrs Macdonald offering to continue at present with bookings and management. A M will liaise with CM on bookings. AM
CM

3.3 It was noted that the Hall requires investment to enable repairs to be carried out to fittings and fixtures, this will be reviewed within six months.

3.4 Options for Ownership/Management will be investigated further. JMCH will gather information from Halls in other areas for consideration by KCC. The Chairman noted that it had been previously suggested that Evanton Community Trust could be the appropriate owning agency. JMCH

3.5 AM will provide a list of keyholders for record purposes. AM

3.6 The value of the painting of Major Randal Jackson was discussed with the Chairman commenting that a painting of similar size by the same artist within Foulis Castle had been valued at circa £6,000 whereas the Jackson painting had been valued at £200,000, resulting in an insurance premium of approximately £800 per annum. There was also discussion over ownership. Helen Ross offered to secure the Council's valuation advice for discussion at a future meeting. HR

3.7 It was suggested that a four wheeled commercial bin may be more useful than the current two wheeled bins. JMCH will seek costs from The Highland Council. JMCH

3.8 The behaviour of a minority of users of the Hall was commented on which has, on occasions, led to undue levels of noise late at night. It was appreciated that this is difficult to control but thankfully rare. Consideration will be given to installation of CCTV cameras. RM

4 **Communication**

4.1 It was agreed that email communication would be used between Members with use being made of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary addresses. JMCH will circulate appropriate addresses. JMCH

4.2 RM offered to take forward development of the Website with assistance from the previous working group which included E Campbell (present at meeting). Attempts will be made to link a booking diary for the Hall to the Website. Consideration will also be given to development of a junior section. RM

4.3 It was recognised that there is value in providing an information service to the Community but that it was perhaps useful to look at other means of communication rather than the previously published Newsletter. One suggestion was that KCC could share with other publications within the area. This will be discussed in January.

4.4 Use will continue to be made of the village Notice Board, Post Office and Cornerstone. The Community Council appreciated Alpin Macdonald's offer to post notices on the Village Board (notices can be left at the Shop).

5 Meeting Dates

5.1 The following dates were agreed for 2016 (meeting at 7pm within the Evanton Sports Hall).

January 11th
February 8th
March 14th
April 11th
May 9th

June 13th
September 12th
October 10th
November 14th
December 12th

5.1 It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting would be held on 13 June 2016

6 Police Report.

6.1 It was agreed that future agendas would be sent to Sgt. Calum Smith inviting a report for the next and future meetings. J McH

7 Councillors Report

7.1 It was reported that the roadside fence adjacent to the new bridge parapet will be completed shortly.

7.2 The drop kerb at the Post Office will be looked at to reduce risk of flooding.

7.3 The requirement to agree a reduced budget which is likely to affect some local services was highlighted. It was suggested that a meeting be arranged with G McKenzie of the Council's Community Services to discuss outstanding issues and possible engagement of the Community through the Community Challenge Fund. JMCH

8 Other Business

8.1 **Resilience Group** AMcD reported on progress and that although the SSE bid had been unsuccessful the Working Group had managed to put in place

measures such as Food Safe Kitchens in order that a Service could be delivered if required to vulnerable people in the Community.

- 8.2 **Evanton Wood Company.** David Smith provided an update on the activity commenting that over sixty people had attended a recent Autumn Walk Event. The Company are currently improving play facilities and specific initiatives linked to Education and support for more vulnerable groups. A more comprehensive update will be circulated with Minutes of the Meeting.
- 8.3 **Evanton Social and Events Group.** AM provided an update on recent events commenting that £1200 had been raised for Air Ambulance Funds and that various festive events would be held including the annual Hogmanay Dance. The Group is also erecting a Plaque at Storehouse to provide information on the Zulu Fleet which plied the fishing within the Firth in past days.
- 8.4 **Highland Council Quality Awards.** It was noted that Gail Gillespie had been nominated for her work within the Community. There had been a number of nominations and unfortunately, although Gail is recognised as outstanding, she was not given an award at the event.
- 8.5 **Cycle Path.** Noted that a detailed plan and costings are awaited. It was commented that the proposed development at Culcairn may impact upon the connection to the path leading from the Village. The consultant working on the proposed Culcairn development will be invited to the meeting to be held in January. JMCH
- 8.6 **Christmas Lights.** MM was congratulated on the lighting arrangement within the Village. It was noted that one light was found to be defective and therefore not used.
- 8.7 **KCC Store.** It was agreed that village gazebos could be stored within the container store behind the Sports Hall. MM and AM will review contents and prepare inventory in order that a degree of housekeeping may take place with the possible sale of surplus equipment (which may include rope lights if not required for other projects) and disposal of any valueless equipment. MM
AM
- 8.8 **Bus Service.** CM reported that the bus company had confirmed that a possible travel route for pupils returning from Dingwall Academy would be via Tore, necessitating a change of bus and an A9 or A862 road crossing. It is possible that a representative of Transport will be in attendance at a future meeting.
- 8.9 **Rail Station.** It was agreed that it would be useful to invite Frank Roach to a future meeting to allow discussion on progress of the possible re-opening.

The Chairman thanked the Highland Councillors, Community Councillors and others for their attendance and in particular Cllr Wilson and Helen Ross for leading discussion prior to the first meeting of the newly elected Members of KCC.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.50.

Next meeting: Monday 11th January 2015, 7pm at Evanton Sports Hall.

Accepted as a true and accurate
record of discussion

Hector Munro (Chairman)

11 January 2016
