

# Kiltearn Community Council



## Minutes –

Held in Ante Room, Diamond Jubilee Hall

Held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### PRESENT

#### Elected Members

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

#### Public

John Ross  
Gary Payne  
Preston Whyte  
Trevor Black  
Simon Hindson

### Item   Discussion

#### 1   **Apologies/Welcome**

1.1   Apologies noted from Sarah McNair (SM), Mandy MacLeman (MM).

#### 2   **Previous Minutes/Matters arising**

2.1   The minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024, were agreed as proposed by MF and seconded by GB.

#### 3   **Finance**

3.1   Balances are £85,578 & £86,813.

3.2   SD has confirmed with Helen Ross that a higher interest/savings account for the money can be opened as long as it has instant access. Agreed that SD will go to the bank to get one opened.

**SD**

3.3   With reference to the £57 still owed by ECT. SD to forward invoice to JM who will pass it onto their Treasurer for payment (has already been sent previously).

**SD/JM**

4 **Police Update** – No updates given in time for the meeting, although one was sent in late and distributed the next day.

5 **Councillors** - No updates given.

6 **Previous Minutes/Matters arising**

6.1 • The Honorarium payments are at the discretion of the Community Council so an agreed amount to be finalised at the next meeting. Current amounts to be circulated by email. **SD**

6.2 • MF previously asked if signs could be made up warning motorists about walkers & cyclists and it was suggested the funding for Tri-shaw signage could be done jointly with this in mind. To be passed to MM to contact Blandine. **MM**

6.3 • New Jubilee Hall junction issues. Trevor Black has drafted a letter to John Swanson from Highland Council with copies being sent to the local Councillors, Highland Council Planning Dept and the residents who live around the junction. The five page letter details all the issues with the new road layout. With thanks for his effort, Kiltarn Community Council agreed that the letter should be endorsed by the KCC.

6.4 • Despite repeated emails, JM has had no response from Gary Urquhart with regard to the bus shelter panels. Waiting for further information from Cllr Pauline Munro, but if no further forward then suggested that steel panels could be sourced & installed. There has also been no response in regard to issues with blocked gullies.

6.5 • Black Rock Gorge bridges – the broken bridge has been removed so possibly repairs are being organised by Novar Estate.

6.6 • Dog fouling – still ongoing with regard to the school producing posters.

6.7 • SSE proposed new power line construction. The SSE meeting with 5 Community Councils, including KCC, was postponed to 23<sup>rd</sup> February and will be online only. Agreed that John Ross attend with JM (if possible). John Ross suggested that it would be a really good idea for the Council representatives to have a preliminary meeting to work out strategies & co-ordinate questions. JM to see if this is possible. **JM**

6.8 • Rail Halt – JM has had no response from Frank Roach. AG still to find out if he is still the relevant contact for this. **AG**

6.9 • Village Officer proposals and research being undertaken by SD and MF - *ongoing*. Cllr Pauline Munro will forward the Alness Community Council job details for reference. MF commented that the list of possible tasks for the

person currently drawn up may be overly long, and some tasks may be something the Highland Council could undertake instead.

SD/MF

- 6.10
- Public toilet proposals and research being undertaken by SC, SM and JM - *ongoing*. SC updated that they have identified 4 potential sites for the toilet block. They have looked at making the building multi-purpose with storage as well. A Google form will be created to put out to the village to gain views and suggestions.

SC/SM  
/JM

- 6.11
- JM gained access to the Clock tower (the key was found) and is working on getting the time reset.

JM

- 6.12
- Fisherman's bothy collapsed at the shore – ARCH Highland to be contacted for their input.

JM

## 7 Still to be discussed:

- 7.1
- Consider Associate membership & Youth membership of KCC
- 7.2
- Highland Council Local Development Plan
- 7.3
- Storage container
- 7.4
- Safer road layout/usage at school for drop off / pick up.
- 7.5
- Neighbourhood Watch. Acting Sergeant Harry Milton to be approached to discuss what is involved in implementing this scheme.

## 8 Actions awaiting update from Cllr Pauline Munro

- 8.1
- Grant application process. SM agreed to redo the application form to make it more user friendly. *Cllr Pauline Munro* will get a copy of the Alness Community Council grant form for comparison.

SM

- 8.2
- Public toilets – *Cllr Pauline Munro* agreed to establish if a possible site owned by MDW could be used.

- 8.3
- Bus shelter – *Cllr Pauline Munro* agreed to enquire further about this ongoing and unresolved issue.

- 8.4
- Sports Centre – *Cllr Pauline Munro* agreed to speak to Steve Walsh to ask Catriona Fraser to attend a KCC meeting to discuss options.

## 9 Village Groups

- 9.1
- Kiltearn Primary School** – the construction of a new Nursery building and facilities has been finalised and is due to be built beside the school.

## 9.2 ECT –

- When there was a power cut in the village the hall was opened up to provide warmth and refreshment. A generator is available and the aim is to have a Resilience Plan in place so that the hall is known to be a place of refuge should a prolonged power cut take place.
- Funding has been secured for the Tri-shaws. The training day was very successful.
- The last Community Film viewing was again very successful. The next film showing will be on 7th March

## 10 Grants

10.1 It was agreed that the grant applications have three application dates – to be received and considered by end January, May and September of each year. The form is still to be rewritten. AG to update website with these dates & publish on Facebook.

### 10.2 Evanton Woods Group

Support needed for the summer concerts.  
£1000 requested. Agreed by all.

### 10.2 Fox & Friends

Application only just received so copy to be circulated to Committee via email and response to be given within 5 days. Suggested Fox & Friends could also apply directly to the Ben Tharsuinn fund. JM

Fox & Friends have also asked for a letter of support for their application to the Port of Cromarty Firth charity. GB will create one. GB

## 11 Other Business

11.1 The War Memorial steps have been declared unfit for use, but no signage or barriers have been put up to reflect this and children often play on it. Highland Council to be informed. MF

11.2 The pavement leading out of the village up to the Kiltearn beach turnoff is overgrown and in poor condition. Highland Council to be informed. JM

11.3 The holly tree at the bus stop opposite the Co-op blocks the bus driver's visibility in seeing who is at the stop. Brian will be asked if he can trim it back. Gary Payne agreed to ask him to do this.

## 12 Correspondence

Gary Payne is about to issue the latest Evanton.online newsletter, a copy of which was handed out to the Committee at the meeting. Thanks again to Gary for his hard work in producing this for the village.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024

The Chair thanked those present for their attendance.