

Kiltearn Community Council



**Minutes of Meeting – Held in Cornerstone
Cafe**

Held on Tuesday 17th April 2023.

PRESENT

Members John McHardy (JMCH) Chair
 Shelagh Dennett (SD) Treasurer
 Celina Peoples (CP)
 Alpin Macdonald (AM)
 Annelie Graham (AG) Minute Taker

Public Gary Payne
 Preston Whyte
 Gabrielle Buist
 John Ross
 Paul Graham

Item Discussion

The KCC welcomed Claudette from Highland Broadband to give an update about the roll out of a full fibre network in Evanton, before the meeting proper began. The key points highlighted were:

- Highland Broadband is a part of the Lothian Broadband networks
- The full fibre cables are being brought right to the door of each home and not just to the exchange cabinets
- The cable is coming from the Alness exchange to Evanton and covering every house in between. At the moment it is only being rolled out to the premises within the village itself but those outside of the area can get the fixed wireless option.
- There is no commitment to take up the Highland Broadband contract, folk can stick with their current providers without any penalties
- The download and upload speeds will be equal and at least 100mbs or more, depending on the package you sign up to
- There is funding via the government gigabits scheme which will cover the installation into every house, connection and the router so Evanton residents will not have to pay any upfront costs at all just the monthly charge.

- The likely timeline for it being up and running is August/September 2023.
- For digital inclusion, Highland Broadband are also keen to create free community hubs where the community can access WiFi for free – probable locations will be DJ Hall and Cornerstone. Highland Broadband are also looking at doing sponsorship like for the local children’s football team for example.

1 Apologies/Welcome

- 1.1 Apologies noted from Mandy MacLeman (MM), Cai MacIver (CM) Secretary, Lynn Bell KCC Bookkeeper, Cllr Smith, Cllr Munro, Cllr Nolan, Cllr Collier and Sgt Gallie of Police Scotland.

2 Outstanding Actions from Previous Minutes

- 2.1 Revision of Grant Application form CM
- 2.2 Replacement of bus shelter panels
Update: CP will contact/chase up Gary Urquhart for action on this. He will also be asked about the possibility of a pedestrian crossing at the Co-op, and the blind corner by Kiltearn Church. CP
- 2.3 Sports Hall usage information, invite Catriona Fraser to next meeting JM
- 2.4 Cost of Living crisis proposal MM
- 2.5 School to be asked to design new Christmas lights. CM

3 Previous Minutes/Matters arising

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting of 21st March 2023, were agreed as proposed by CP and seconded by AM.
- 3.2 AM asked for a change to the Minutes 9.5 with reference to the painting in the DJ Hall – wording from “*JM advised that it is owned by the Highland Council*” to “*JM believed that it is owned by the Highland Council*”

4 Correspondence – none received

5 Police update - No update given

6 Councillors - No updates given

7 Finance

- 7.1 Financial statement & info were circulated. Balances are £64,790 & £89,299

7.2 It was agreed that the previous auditor, Selina, would be approached for the end of year accounts.

SD

8 Village Groups

8.1 Evanton Community Trust.

Gabrielle Buist reported the Community Enterprise will be giving an update on the DJ Hall consultation on Thursday 20th April.

An Earth Day is being planned in the woods for 23rd April 2023 which will have a variety of activities, stalls and workshops.

The Stay & Play sessions will be continuing until June.

The *Failte Bhlath* (Warm Welcome) is continuing.

8.2 Scouts Group

CP advised that the Beavers mini Highland Games is still going ahead on 27th May 2023 at the Black Rock Recreation Park.

8.3 Evanton Wood Community Company

CP advised that the Woods group are still preparing a timetable of concerts

9 Other Business

9.1 Evanton's historical connection to Slave trade

Paul Graham proposed that recognition of Evanton's historical connection to having benefited from investments in the slave trade be recognised. CP advised that thorough verification must be sought and the community consulted for reaction.

JM acknowledged that it is currently a 'hot topic'. He suggested that the KCC invite Adrian Clark as a speaker to the AGM to talk on the general history of the village, covering this and other facts.

9.2 Flower Baskets

The committee agreed (CP declared an interest & was excused) to pay Aiden £660 for the watering of the baskets. Aiden agreed to this.

9.3 Grants

The Beinn Tharsuinn Fund have asked if the KCC support an application from Active Schools, High Life Highland for Evanton Bike Skills for Life(Primary school Children), £670. This was agreed.

JM

Gary Payne asked if it was permitted for the Black Rock Rovers Football Club to apply for a KCC grant and it was agreed that they could.

9.4 **Battery Installation at Swordale**

There is no planning application in yet for this scheme. JM pointed out that not much can be done until the planning application is in. CP and John Ross thought that it would be better to consult the community and have a plan of action in place so that they are ready when the application goes in.

JM suggested that the Fig Power representative Brian Devlin be invited to an open KCC meeting to present the facts and answer any questions but not talk about the possible monetary benefit to the village at that time.

JM

9.5 **SSE proposed new power line construction**

JM advised he attended the online meeting with other Community Councils in the affected areas with likely objections to the preferred route that SSE has put forward.

JM suggested that KCC ask Martin Goodwin to a joint meeting with Ardross Community Council to answer queries and thereafter the KCC can prepare a letter to send to SSE as other Community Councils have done, with particular reference to the local area.

JM

9.6 **Compass housing application**

Compass have submitted an housing application for Phase 1 (19 houses). JM suggested that KCC ask to be a consultee and that the KCC ask Compass to come to a KCC meeting to provide information and answer questions.

AG

9.7 **ECT's purchase of DJ Hall**

AM had circulated, by email, documents relating to what he feels is the solicitor's mishandling of the transfer of the DJ Hall to the ECT. He asked that the documents be added to the Minutes.

JM advised that the KCC need to seek legal advice from Macleod and MacCallum on the contents of the documents before they are published. SD agreed.

AM and CP stated that there should be independent legal advice, not via Macleod and MacCallum.

JM made the Chairperson's decision that Macleod and MacCallum's comments be sought.

JM

9.8 **Village Officer**

SD proposed that the KCC finance a Village Officer.

SD

JM suggested that a job description for this be created.

SD suggested that Aidan could be a potential candidate.

10 AGM meeting:

It was agreed that the AGM be held as a separate meeting on 20th June. JM proposed making more of an event of it by having a speaker etc.

JM

Next meeting: Agreed as Tuesday 16th May 2023 at 7.00pm in Cornerstone.

The Chair thanked those present for their attendance.