

Kiltearn Community Council

Notes of Meeting –
Held in Cornerstone Cafe



Held on Thursday 31st August 2023.

PRESENT

Members John McHardy (JMCH) Chair
Shelagh Dennett (SD) Treasurer
Mandy MacLeman (MM)
Helen Ross, Senior Ward Manager
Annelie Graham (AG) Minute Taker

Public 7 Members of the wider Public

Item Discussion

Unfortunately the meeting was not Quorate so the planned AGM and regular meeting were unable to go ahead. However, there was a very useful community conversation during which a number of issues were raised.

1 **Apologies/Welcome**

1.1 Apologies noted from Cai MacIver (CM) Secretary, Celina Peoples (CP), Alpin Macdonald (AM), Lynn Bell KCC Bookkeeper, Cllr Smith, Cllr Munro, Cllr Nolan, Cllr Collier and Sgt Gallie of Police Scotland.

2 **Compass Housing Development**

2.1 CM has lodged comments about the Compass development with the Planning Authority.
With reference to the contributions Compass are to make to the area it was pointed out that having a Local Plan in place would help inform any decisions and funding would need to be agreed for creating this. For example, the school needs development & expansion.

3 **Battery Installation at Swordale**

3.1 The planning application is now on the Highland Council website. KCC has formally lodged an objection. A response with reference to timescales for determination to be asked.

4 **SSE proposed new power line construction**

4.1 Nothing further has been publicly proposed or actioned on this.

5 Black Rock Gorge Bridges

- 5.1 Cllr Maxine Smith has advised that she is still hopeful that the Royal Engineers will do the repairs.

6 Village Groups

- 6.1 There is another concert due to be held in the woods in September. The Woods Group Dementia group has been very successful with a good attendance.

7 GRANT APPLICATIONS to Beinn Tharsuinn Fund

- 7.1 **Black Rock Rovers.** A Grant application was made to Beinn Tharsuinn Fund. Request of **£2,500**. The Secretary of the Fund has confirmed that the application is competent and seeks a comment (normal procedure).
- 7.2 **Evanton Community Trust.** A further Grant application has been made to Beinn Tharsuinn Fund. Request of **£3,529.50**. Again the Secretary of the Fund has confirmed that the application is competent and seeks a comment (normal procedure).

8 GRANT APPLICATIONS to KCC Fund

- 8.1 **Evanton Scouts.** An application has been received seeking a grant of **£300** towards accommodation costs of £700 which are part of the overall cost of trip over 29 Sept – 1 October. To be agreed.
- 8.2 **Kiltearn Primary School.** An application has been received seeking a grant of £6,000 to meet the travel costs (Bus Hire) for swimming lessons. We have previously agreed to fund such, for which the School and Parent Council have expressed their appreciation. The Chairs of the Parent Council, along with the Headteacher, explained that the cost of bus hire had doubled due to market changes. During discussion it was suggested that an application should be made to the Port of Cromarty Firth Charitable Trust and perhaps the Beinn Tharsuinn Fund for 50% of the sum. Suggested that the max from KCC is **£6,000** for the current year but that the Parent Council should be encouraged to seek £3,000 from the Beinn Tharsuinn Fund for the current year and to the Port of Cromarty Firth Charitable Trust for part funding for next year. To be agreed.

9 Village Officer

- 9.1 Everyone is in agreement that a Village Officer is needed but further discussion needed as to how to action it, with reference to if the person is contracted and the insurance implications for the KCC members.

10 Other Business

- 10.1 It was raised that there are new bollards installed along the Evanton to Alness cycle path and their positioning means that mobility scooters, double buggies, tricycles etc cannot get through.

11 Roads

11.1 There is still concern about the A9 access road.

12 Funding Proposal, Christmas Lights

12.1 The Highland Council has confirmed that they will be unable to hang most of the existing lights due to condition and more importantly weight. It is urgent that replacement lights are secured for this year. Suggested that up to **£20,000** be allocated to fund such. In terms of delivery, it was suggested that the delivery of the project be delegated to Shelagh (as Treasurer), Chair of School Parent Council, Hugh Lynch, Keith Bruar and Michael MacLeod (Hugh, Keith and Michael having done the most and have the most experience of the lights and Parent Council to involve younger people). To be agreed.

13 Community Council Elections

13.1 Elections are coming up and nominations will be welcomed between 5th September 2023 and 3rd October 2023. Notice of this to be put up on the noticeboard & widely circulated.

14 New date for AGM & regular meeting to be confirmed.

The Chair thanked those present for their attendance.

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Decisions made after the meeting

Following the meeting, all members were emailed with some points for their consideration and decisions so that some of the business of the Community Council could be progressed, namely consideration of grant applications and expenditure.

GRANT APPLICATIONS to Beinn Tharsuinn Fund

- **Black Rock Rovers.** Agreed JM, MM, SD, CP, CM
- **Evanton Community Trust.** Agreed JM, SD, CP, CM (MM declared an interest)

GRANT APPLICATIONS to KCC Fund

- **Evanton Scouts.** Agreed JM, MM, SD, CM (CP declared an interest)
- **Kiltearn Primary School.** Agreed JM, MM, SD, CP,CM

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS Agreed JM, MM, SD, CM. *CP queried amount allocated.*

AGM – proposed date 21st September 2023 - Agreed JM, MM, SD, CM, CP