

# Kiltearn Community Council

Minutes of Meeting – Held in Cornerstone  
Cafe



Held on Tuesday 21st March 2023.

## PRESENT

**Members** John McHardy (JMCH) Chair  
Shelagh Dennett (SD) Treasurer  
Mandy MacLeman (MM)  
Celina Peoples (CP)  
Alpin Macdonald (M)  
Annelie Graham (AG) Minute Taker

**Public** Gary Payne  
Preston Whyte  
Gabrielle Buist  
John Ross  
Aiden Peoples

## Item Discussion

It was agreed that Cornerstone would be offered the same as the Church Hall for the use of their premises for the KCC meetings, £20/evening.

### 1 Apologies/Welcome

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

### 2 Previous Minutes/Matters arising

2.1 The minutes of the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023, were agreed as proposed by SD and seconded by CP & MM.

2.2 JM proposed that, as well as online, the latest copy of the Minutes be posted on the village noticeboard and paper copies provided in the Co-op. It was pointed out that some of the Minutes on the KCC website are not downloadable and this was because they were dates when no meeting had actually been held. MM to mark a note beside these dates 'no meeting held'.

**MM**

2.3 The action for revising the Grant Application form is still with CM. **CM**

2.4 Fox & Friends expressed thanks for their grant payment.

2.5 With reference to the Sports Hall, it was hoped that Catriona Fraser will still attend a future meeting.

2.6 CM has not yet spoken to the school with reference to designing new Christmas lights. **CM**

2.7 With reference to the bus shelter vandalism, despite JM sending several emails Gary Urquhart has still not got round to providing repairs. KCC's offer to help with the installation of the panels was repeated. MM suggested that a Councillor is asked to speak to them instead to push it through. JM thought it would also be a good idea to ask Gary to come along to a KCC meeting to talk through other issues and queries like potholes, road layouts and construction etc **JM**

### **3 Battery Storage Facility**

3.1 JM advised that he had been contacted by a representative of the company, Brian Develin who wanted to speak to the KCC with reference to the monetary benefit that the village which gain through having the facility.

MM pointed out that it appears that there is strong opposition in the village to the installation. She also observed that Brian had appeared to be very defensive when he was at the information evening.

Others at the meeting also spoke to Brian and he had told them that the reason the site had been chosen was that there was no other land available. There were repeated concerns that the linking cabling would go through the woods, chemical and fire risks, environmental impact and a large health and wellbeing concern for those who live nearby.

JM asked if KCC should agree to Brian coming to talk to them, and reminded that Brian had specifically said it was to talk about the monetary benefit.

After discussion it was felt that he could be invited to speak to the KCC in a separate meeting, but to give more answers and information about the installation, and ask the public to submit their queries and concerns. There is a need to separate the money side from the implications of the installation and one to not influence the other. AM was concerned that a special private meeting could not be called as it was against the constitution. JM agreed to check this and consult with Helen Ross (Ward Manager) for clarity **JM**

### **4 Correspondence**

The Alness Angling Club gave notice that they are re-opening the Alness river for fishing for an annual fee of £150.

**5 Police update** - No update given

**6 Councillors** - No updates given

**7 Finance**

7.1 Balances are £64,735 & £88,792.

JM advised that an auditor will need to be appointed for the approaching end of financial year. Last year's auditor will be approached.

AM pointed out that the financial statement & info should be printed out and provided at these meetings. SD advised that it was emailed to the Community Council.

**SD**

**8 Village Groups**

8.1 **Evanton Community Trust.**

Gabrielle Buist reported that they have produced an update information sheet about the ECT – she distributed a draft copy to attendees.

The Youth Club has been successful with the young people having lots of ideas over how they want it to run. The older children want to run a group for the younger children, P5-P7. They have asked for sofas to be put in the ante room and will raise funds to buy some things.

CP confirmed that the Youth Club does not clash with the Church Group.

GB continued that there will be another Evanton Showcase on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and there will also be a grand opening of the newly refurbished ante room.

The community consultation regarding the DJ hall is due back on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

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

AM asked GB how many members the ECT has and GB advised that there is just over 100. AM asked if there was a register of the membership that could be accessed but MM advised that this would breach GDPR data protection rules and that only board members could access the details. AM asked if the constitution reflected this and MM advised that a new constitution had recently been drawn up and approved in February 2023.

8.2 **Scouts Group**

CP advised that Beavers will be holding an event on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023 with five or six other Scout groups from outwith the village at the Black Rock Recreation Park involving mini Highland games.

### **8.3 Evanton Wood Community Company**

CP advised that the Woods group are preparing a timetable of concerts and are also involved in the upcoming Earth Day.

JM asked if the Scavenging Licence was valid all year round and CP confirmed that it was.

## **9 Other Business**

### **9.1 Flower Baskets**

JM advised that the flower baskets had been returned to Munro's Nursery and they will advise when they are ready to be collected, around end May / beginning June.

Aiden agreed that he would take on the watering of the baskets. Aiden advised that he would need more and better plant food. Volunteers would be needed to put the baskets onto the hooks. Aiden's remuneration for this to be discussed privately.

### **9.2 SSE proposed new power line construction**

JM advised that he received an email from the Strathpeffer Community Council asking for a KCC member to join an online meeting with other Community Councils in the affected areas with likely objections to the preferred route that SSE has put forward.

JM said that he would forward the link showing the SSE plans and distributed a print out for attendees to look at.

The maps are quite confusing and not overly clear but the SSE 'preferred' route is actually further away from Evanton but obviously affects other areas more directly. MM said that it would nonetheless be good to be part of the community discussion and JM agreed that it was better to be selfless and be part of the other Councils objections. It was agreed that it was important to consider the overall environmental impact and also to understand why the old pylon route could not be used.

The group meeting date was not confirmed, but JM advised that he would try to join the meeting if available, and if not then CP will try to take part.

**JM/CP**

### **9.3 Evanton.online**

Gary Payne advised that an Evanton.online newsletter is due to be printed in early May 2023 and he needed articles submitted from the KCC and from the ECT as soon as possible.

JM

#### 9.4 **Highland Council Local Development Plan**

MM advised that she had spoken with Helen Ross who is co-ordinating the local plans. However, she advised that there is no funding available to implement any proposals suggested by the plans. GB advised that the ECT would try to raise funding for the creation of the plan. AM stated that the KCC should not fund it at all.

MM advised that creation of the Plan would be an opportunity to highlight what would be beneficial for the village, but unfortunately any proposed actions would not be funded.

#### 9.5 **DJ Hall painting**

AM asked about the future of the large picture in the DJ Hall. JM advised that it is owned by the Highland Council and he believed that it would remain hanging in the hall for the meantime, and will be stored safely during the time when the hall eventually gets refurbished.

#### 9.6 **Communication**

CP advised that there had been some complaints that folk were not getting any response to emails sent to the KCC, not even an acknowledgment of receipt.

SD advised that she did not have any access to emails that were sent to the Treasurers email address.

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

AM advised that he had repeatedly asked for copies of the "missives" together with copies of the certified extracts of the Minutes delivered to the solicitors in confirmation of KCC's decision to accept ECT's offer to purchase the Hall for one pound.

JM advised that he had sent AM all the paperwork that he could find regarding this matter and did not have a copy of a "missive".

#### 10 **Next meeting:** Agreed as Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7.00pm in Cornerstone.

The Chair thanked those present for their attendance.