

Kiltearn Community Council



Minutes of Meeting

Held on Tuesday 9 February 2021, 7pm

PRESENT

Members

Shelagh Dennett (SD) Treasurer
John McHardy (JMCH) Secretary
Alpin Macdonald (AM)
Celina Peoples (CP)
Gary Payne (GP)
Mandy MacLeman (acting as Chair)

Highland Councillors

Cllr Carolyn Wilson (Cllr CW)
Cllr Michael Finlayson (Cllr MF)
Cllr Maxine Smith (Cllr MS)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	Apologies/Welcome	
1.1	Apologies were noted from Cai MacIver, Cllr Pauline Munro, and Sgt Michael Gallie of Police Scotland. Agreed that MM would act as Chair for the meeting.	
2	Rail Halt	
2.1	Richard Gerring, the Integrated Transport Manager employed by the Highland Council, was welcomed to the meeting. Mr Gerring provided an update on discussions in relation to the possible re-opening of the Halt, explaining that the proposed feasibility study is required as part of the “case” justifying the re-opening. Following questions Mr Gerring confirmed that the final decision as to whether or not to open the Halt rests with Network Rail and Transport Scotland. It was also confirmed that the study would cost in the order of £18,000 with funding sought from sources including the Coastal Communities Fund and HITRANS (The Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership). It was also explained that funding bids were more likely to be successful if supported by investment from elsewhere and thus Mr Gerring suggested that the KCC may wish to contribute towards the study further suggesting a figure of £4,000.	

The Chair thanked Mr Gerring for his attendance at which point he left the meeting thanking KCC for the invitation to speak.

It was agreed to discuss KCC response later in the meeting (item 8.4 of this minute)

3 Previous Minutes/Matters arising

3.1 Notes of the meeting of 12 January 2021 were agreed. Proposed by GP and seconded by SD.

3.2 **8.4 Post Office.** The Secretary confirmed advice that had been received from the Highland Council to the effect that Community Benefit monies held by KCC could be used to support a Post Office in terms of building costs or supporting a constituted body but not as a gratuity to an individual.

4 Diamond Jubilee Hall

4.1 Noted that checks on the building continue in terms of general security.

5 Police Report

5.1 Apologies were noted from Sgt Michael Gallie who had provided a written report which was read out by the Secretary.

6 Finance

6.1 Noted that the Treasurer had provided a written statement for circulation but in a file format which the Secretary was unable to open. Noted that it would be circulated in a PDF form. Current Balance (end January 2021) recorded as £127k (before any grants awarded had been released). Secretary to circulate PDF version when available.

SD
JMCH

7 Councillor's Report (including answers to questions raised).

7.1 **Skiach Bridge.** Councillor Finlayson reported on the virtual meeting with Street Lighting Manager regarding new lighting at the bridge over the river Skiach and possible lighting of the entrance signs. Also mentioned that consideration would be given to bringing the "Evanton" sign at the end of Fyrish Crescent closer to the Village.

7.2 **Potholes.** Reported that the filling of holes remains a priority but that budgets may not allow more "minor" holes to be prioritised. Noted that holes can be reported direct to the Highland Council through the Website but that the Highland Council's building maintenance section will review condition of surfaces within the Council housing areas.

7.3 **Alness Academy.** Noted that the recently appointed Headteacher, Craig Paterson, has taken up his post.

7.4 **COVID 19.** Councillor Wilson highlighted the flexibility of approach in respect of taking on additional duties that had been demonstrated by Council staff which often resulted in longer hours serving the Highland communities and

publicly thanked staff for their willingness to embrace the challenges. The Chair recorded the thanks of communities for the work undertaken by Councillors during the pandemic.

7.5 Cllrs Smith, Wilson and Finlayson were thanked for their attendance.

8 Other Business

8.1 **Wood Group.** CP, on behalf of the Group, thanked the KCC for grant assistance.

8.2 **Scouts.** CP, on behalf of the Group, thanked the KCC for grant assistance.

8.3 **We Are Evanton.** Noted that the Group continues to provide support to vulnerable people and are currently providing hot meals to 3 households, 3 times a week.

8.4 **Rail Halt.** Following debate, and a vote of members present, KCC agreed to award a grant of £4,000 to support the Study into the possible re-opening of the Halt.

JMcH

8.5 **Question in advance of Meetings.** GP suggested that KCC should invite questions from the public in advance of meetings so that the Secretary could read these out at meetings.

8.6 **ESEG Grant Application.** CP asked if the all the attachment to the recent application form could be circulated. Secretary to arrange to circulate (including the sections previously circulated)

JMcH

8.7 **Strathroy Wind Farm.** Agreed that KCC should consider further at March meeting but noted that any discussion on likely Community Benefit is best kept separate from consideration of issues related to the more general issue of the merits of any Planning Application.

8.9 **Teandallon Housing Development.** Following discussion it was agreed that the second street name (in addition to Drummond View) should be "MacKenzie". Secretary to advise Highland Council.

JMcH

8.10 **Skiach Café.** Noted that correspondence had been received from Jim Oliver that outlined a proposal to provide a support project based in the Café premises. Further noted that Mr. Oliver had offered to provide additional detail when available.

8.11 **Next meeting:** agreed as **Tuesday 9th March 2021** using MS Teams. Secretary to issue invite prior to meeting.