

# Kiltearn Community Council

## Minutes of Meeting



Held on Tuesday 9 March 2021, 7pm

### PRESENT

#### Members

Cai MacIver (CM) Chair  
Shelagh Dennett (SD) Treasurer  
John McHardy (JMCh) Secretary  
Alpin Macdonald (AM)  
Celina Peoples (CP)  
Gary Payne (GP)  
Mandy MacLeman (MM)

#### Highland Councillors

Cllr Carolyn Wilson (Cllr CW)  
Cllr Michael Finlayson (Cllr MF)  
Cllr Pauline Munro (Cllr PM)

#### Also in attendance

Lynn Bell, KCC Bookkeeper (LB)  
Sgt Michael Gallie of Police Scotland  
3 Members of the Public.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies/Welcome</b>	
1.1	Those present were welcomed by CM with apologies noted from Cllr Maxine Smith. CM noted the MS Team protocol and in particular that microphones should be muted unless speaking and that the "Raised Hand" should be used when seeking to speak. It was agreed that the meeting should be recorded.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Previous Minutes/Matters arising</b>	
2.1	The Chair thanked MM for acting as Chair at the February meeting and invited question on the notes of the previous meeting. The following comments/agreements were made:-	
2.1	<b>3.2.</b> Noted that advice had been provided by THC and circulated in relation to the use of Community Benefit monies to support a Post Office. Noted that a view was expressed that it was for KCC to decide and that advice of THC was not required.	
2.2	<b>6.1.</b> GP highlighted potential differences in financial statements and confirmed that he would e-mail the sheets referred to.	GP

- 2.3 **7.1** Councillor Finlayson reported that the funding application for the entrance features around the Skiach Bridge was being prepared by THC.
- 2.4 **7.2.** It was reported that the repair of potholes remain a priority and that Councillors had requested that “cold tar” repairs should be avoided.
- 2.5 **7.3** Councillor Wilson reported that the new Head of Alness Academy had made a good start in getting the new School up and running.
- 2.6 **8.4.** Following discussion, it was agreed that the formal minute in relation to the Rail Halt vote should not include identification of who voted but rather simply record the result.

JMcH

### 3 **Police Report**

- 3.1 Sgt Gallie provided a full report on recent incidents (few in number) highlighting the need for people to check their MOTs given that some may have missed renewal dates. Work with the School was also highlighted which will be supported through the School Liaison Officer, PC Logan.
- 3.2 It was noted that Police Scotland had received a number of complaints arising from “Scammers” using the internet to mislead people, the advice being to be vigilant and report concerns through the 101 number.
- 3.3 Sgt Gallie noted that there has been an increase if folk making use of the open space around beauty spots such as Loch Glass and that, refreshingly, there are no reports of inappropriate behaviour.
- 3.4 It was confirmed that the written report could be forwarded.
- 3.5 Sgt Gallie was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting.

JMcH

### 4 **Correspondence.**

The Secretary identified 3 items for discussion which had been recently received, Members were invited to raise others which were circulated by e-mail.

- 4.1 **Strathroy Wind Farm** (proposed). Noted that very recent emails had been received from Community Councils who share a geographic boundary with Kiltearn which proposed a round table meeting of Community Councils. It was agreed that the Chair would seek to attend such a meeting.
- 4.2 **Christmas Lights.** An e-mail had been received from Nicola Campbell which included quotes for lighting. It was agreed that CM and SD should lead on this along with Nicola to develop a proposal for consideration by KCC.
- 4.3 **Black Rock Pavilion.** An e-mail had been received (and circulated to

CM

CM  
SD

Members) from ESEG. ESEG had requested that it was read out at the meeting. The Secretary read out the text of the e-mail following which there were various comments in relation to the comments within, these comments included the following:-

- It was clarified by the Chair that KCC had not rejected the application for funding made by ESEG.
- The Chair asked if application to external agencies had been made. GP reported that applications were underway.
- A member of the wider public asked to speak, commenting that he was now more aware of the background to the decision of KCC and noted that seeking external funding was good stewardship of the benefit funds. This sentiment was agreed by a further member of the wider community.
- Cllr Wilson commented on the benefit of using Community Benefit monies to secure much larger funds available out with the Village.
- There followed a short discussion in which AM expressed a view that “*Regional Councillors*” are not permitted to influence decisions on use of funds held by KCC and that a Councillor had acted inappropriately. Cllr Wilson, supported by Cllr PM clarified that Highland Council Members had not sought, and would not seek, to influence investment decisions other than to provide guidance on what funding may be available elsewhere and the benefit of seeking such.

## **5 Diamond Jubilee Hall**

- 5.1 CM read out an amendment, proposed by ECT, to the paper agreed by KCC at the meeting held on 17 September 2019 as follows.

### **Under the Heading of Role of KCC**

*“To support the appointment of a Community Development Officer who would undertake the steps necessary to produce a Community Development Plan for Evanton and Kiltearn and to produce the Business Plan required for the Diamond Jubilee Hall. In addition to this remit the CDO would assist any group within the area to meet its objectives so far as time permits. Such support from KCC would include meeting any shortfall in the funds obtained for the employment of the CDO and oversight of the CDP process.”*

### **Under the Heading of Role of ECT**

*“To recruit, employ and seek funding for the establishment of a Community Development Officer for the remit described above.”*

### **Under the Heading of Financial Responsibilities**

*“KCC have agreed to meet the all reasonable legal costs of both parties and*

*this should be included in the Memorandum of Agreement.”*

- 5.2 MM, on behalf of ECT, described an approach to Community Consultation as promoted by the Scottish Government – “*The Place Standard*”. A number of those present were aware of the Place Standard
- 5.3 A member of the wider public asked to speak and commented that the approach “*sounded exciting and a good plan*”. This was echoed by a second member of the public.
- 5.4 A discussion followed on the agreement and the ability of Members of an organisation to vote on issues such as the transfer of the Hall to such organisation. The Secretary noted previous advice, which was that it was up to individuals to decide whether a conflict of interest barred them from voting.

Following some discussion, it was proposed that the transfer of the Hall continue as per the agreement of 17<sup>th</sup> September, with amendment as read by CM (detailed in section 5.1 of these minutes) – this was agreed, proposed by SD and seconded by CM.

## **6 Finance**

- 6.1 Closing Balance as at 31 March 2020 noted as £105k (both accounts). LB noted that further statements would be circulated shortly. SD  
LB

LB and SD were thanked for pulling accounts together

## **7 Councillor’s Report** (including answers to questions raised and not raised within section 2 of these minutes).

- 7.1 **Town Centre Funding.** Noted that Town Centre Fund is available.
- 7.2 **Ward Discretionary Funding.** It was reported that monies are available via the Fund (but limited)
- 7.3 **Role of Highland Councillors at KCC meetings.** Councillor Finlayson wished to record that he refuted any suggestion made that any Councillor had acted inappropriately in relation to decision making of KCC and in particular those decisions relating to finance, emphasising that Councillors stood aside from decision making. Cllr Munro reminded those present that all Councillors, and in particular Cllr CW, worked hard for communities and commented that she was disappointed in suggestions made to the contrary.

CM thanked Councillors for their attendance and work undertaken on behalf of the community.

## **8 Other Business**

- 8.1 **Flower Baskets.** It was agreed that KCC should provide baskets for 2021.

8.2 **Speed Signs.** It was agreed that the Secretary should enquire if the Highland Council could provide a print-out of the recorded results from the signs to demonstrate the level of compliance by motorists. It was commented that the Swordale sign appeared to have resulted in a moderation of speed but that disappointingly a small number of motorists appeared to ignore the sign.

JMcH

8.3 **Next meeting:** agreed as **Tuesday 13th April 2021** using MS Teams. Secretary to issue invite prior to meeting.

CM thanked those present for their attendance with the meeting