

Kiltearn Community Council

Minutes of Meeting – (MS Teams Meeting)



Held on Tuesday 13 April 2021, 7pm

PRESENT

Members

Cai MacIver (CM) Chair
Shelagh Dennett (SD) Treasurer
John McHardy (JMCH) Secretary
Gary Payne (GP)
Mandy MacLeman (MM) – joined at item 7

Highland Councillors

Cllr Carolyn Wilson (Cllr CW)
Cllr Michael Finlayson (Cllr MF)
Cllr Pauline Munro (Cllr PM) from item 7

Also in attendance

Helen Ross, THC Ward Manager (HR)
and 2 Members of the Public.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	Apologies/Welcome	
1.1	<p>Those present were welcomed by CM with apologies noted from Lynn Bell, KCC Bookkeeper and Sgt Michael Gallie of Police Scotland. C P had joined the meeting but then sent apologies as had problems gaining access.</p> <p>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 for the benefit of the Community Council and not for wider circulation. HR noted that the recording is a recording but that the minute is the formal record of the meeting.</p>	
2	Previous Minutes/Matters arising	
2.1	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 9th March were agreed following a proposal by CM which was seconded by GP.</p> <p>The following comments/agreements were made:-</p>	
2.1	<p>CM noted that Cllrs PM and CW are not members of the North Area Planning Committee of The Highland Council.</p>	

- 2.2 Noted that some progress had been made in relation to the Christmas lights and that this would be looked at further at the next meeting so that KCC could make use of any advantageous prices which may be available early year. JMch
SD
CM
- 2.3 Helen Ross clarified that it was up to individuals to decide if they membership of a particular group should remove themselves from discussion on a particular issue. Noted that at THC meetings Councillors who have a financial interest remove themselves from discussion.
- 2.4 Street Speed Signs. Noted that the Secretary is to contact the Council's engineer for speed information. JMch
- 3 Police Report**
- 3.1 Apologies were noted from Sgt Gallie.
- 4 Correspondence.**
- 4.1 **Strathroy Wind Farm** (proposed). JMch highlighted the recent discussion and the funding split proposed by some of the 8 Community Councils noting that it is for the Wind Farm Company to decide on who get what. Helen noted that the Highland Council had provided guidance but that the decision is for the Company. Agreed that KCC have decided to "*leave it to the Wind Farm operator*". Agreed that KCC should seek to attend the next meeting – date to be circulated for attendance as available. JMch
- 5 Diamond Jubilee Hall**
- 5.1 Reported that Solicitors are progressing. The Secretary confirmed that electrical checks and repair works were ongoing and that PAT testing is now up to date. Also confirmed and that the building insurance remains in place.
- 6 Finance**
- 6.1 It was noted that a paper detailing accounts had been circulated with a Closing Balance as at 31 March 2021 noted as £114,846 & £452 (both accounts). Noted monies will be moved between accounts to ensure that the £85,000 limit is not exceeded. GP requested that the statement include a little more detail. SD
LB
- 6.2 Following consideration, it was agreed to offer grant, utilising Community Benefit monies held by KCC, of £2,091 to the Cornerstone project as part of the shortfall identified in an application to KCC (previously shortfall was identified as £6,000). Noted that Cllr MF declared an interest being a trustee of Cornerstone and therefore took no part in discussion. SD
- 6.3 Noted that KCC had agreed to support a bid to the Land Fill Tax if one made by ESEG toward the Black Rock pitch. Noted that Evanton was within the area which can benefit from Aggregate Tax grant.

7 Councillor's Report (including answers to questions raise)

7.1 **Playparks.** Cllr MS noted that some playpark equipment had been assessed as not compliant with safety standards and thus would be removed. However, new equipment would be installed as possible through the wellbeing fund, acknowledging that KCC had offered a contribution towards the cost of replacement equipment at Novar Crescent. Also noted that there would be improvements to the Teandallon Playpark as part of the new housing development. Also reported that playparks are proposed to be *Creative Play Areas* – with consultation to take place.

7.2 **Rail Halt.** Cllr MF shared an update on the study which will be carried out in support of the proposal to reopen the Station as a Rail Halt. It was noted that a view was expressed that the KCC should not have supported the study by offering of grant and that the Study may not lead to the reopening. Cllr MS reflected on the timescales concerned in developing complex infrastructure projects such as the Rail Halt. There followed a debate around this issue with contributions from a number of those present which also included a discussion around use of Community Benefit money.

7.3 **Entrance Features.** Cllr MF confirmed that design work was underway in relation to improvement to the entrance around the Skiach Bridge and Novar Crescent.

7.4 **General.** Cllr PM recorded the hard work undertaken by Members on behalf of the Community in the most challenging of fiscal positions. Cllr W confirmed that Members of the Council are available to provide Community support.

DC (a member of the wider community) stated that comments made by him during the meeting were not intended to be a personal attack on any Councillor.

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 SD should order baskets from Munro Nursery at an approximate cost of £1,000 (was £900 in 2019). Noted that it was believed that AM had the baskets in storage. Also noted that KCC will require the services of a person or persons to carry out watering and general maintenance.

SD

8.2 **Place Standard.** MM provided a brief report on the survey which had attracted 143 responses and will circulate results once processed but that the Rail Halt figured highly. Mandy was thanked for leading on this.

MM

8.3 **Minutes.** GP requested copies of approved minutes for lodging on Evanton

online. GP also sought feedback on Evanton Online and will send a link to Highland Councillors

JMcH

8.4 **Landfill Tax.** GP requested contact details of Land Fill Tax grant body.

JMcH

8.5 **Pot Holes.** Cllr MF confirmed that he was happy to forward on concerns regarding the potholes on Glenglass Road and others as an when identified.

8.6 **Community Benefit Funds.** The management of the Fund was discussed with a view expressed from a member of the wider Community that management should be perhaps as per other areas such as Brora/Golspie/Rogart with an elected body to manage the Fund. Cllr CW commented that the KCC were elected from the Community and was unsure of what the difference would be if there were a separate elected group. MM noted that any “new” group was likely to be made up of the same people as others.

Cllr MS confirmed that in this Ward the relevant CC manage funds. Noted that KCC had look at options in the past.

In particular a view was expressed from the member of the wider Community that the KCC should have agreed to underwrite any bid made by ESEG in relation to the Black Rock improvements.

8.7 **A9 Trunk Road Surfacing.** Concerns were expressed over the likely timetable for works and possible disruption during the Summer. Agreed to contact Trunk Roads to gain understanding of timetable and mitigation of delays/disruption.

JMcH

8.8 **Next meeting:** agreed as **Tuesday 11th May 2021** using MS Teams. Secretary to issue invite prior to meeting.

CM thanked those present for their attendance and particular those from the wider Community.