

Kiltearn Community Council

Minutes of Meeting – Held in Church Hall



Held on Tuesday 14th February 2023.

PRESENT

Members

John McHardy (JMCH) Chair
Shelagh Dennett (SD) Treasurer
Mandy MacLeman (MM)
Celina Peoples (CP)
Cai MacIver (CM) Secretary
Annelie Graham (AG) Minute Taker

Public

Gary Payne
Preston Whyte
Gabrielle Buist
Ewen Campbell
Mike Finlayson

<u>Item</u>	<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	Apologies/Welcome	
1.1	Apologies noted from Alpin Macdonald (AM), 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 10 th January 2023, were agreed as proposed by CM and seconded by SD.	
2.2	CM advised that the action for revising the Grant Application form has not yet been addressed. CM added that it would be good to get more feedback from the recipients of the grants like photos etc to showcase what they have used the grant for.	CM
2.3	MM wanted to clarify from point 4.1 of the Minute that the funds raised at the Hogmanay Ceilidh of £570 were split with Befrienders Highland.	
2.4	With reference to the Fox & Friends grant application, MM will circulate the application and the Committee agreed to the grant in principle.	MM

2.5 With reference to the bus shelter vandalism, JM had contacted Gary at Highland Council who came out to see the extent of the damage but has not yet heard anything back, or any indication of what the smashed panels will be replaced with. The KCC has offered to help with the installation of the panels if it would speed up the process. Mike Finlayson advised that Alness and Invergordon had received funding for the installation of CCTV which might be worth pursuing for the same.

2.6 With reference to the Sports Hall, it was hoped that Catriona Fraser would attend today's meeting to give an update.

CP

2.7 MM advised that she is not yet ready to put forward her proposal regarding the Cost of Living crisis and hopes to do that next meeting.

2.8 CM advised that she had not yet spoken to the school with reference to designing new Christmas lights.

CM

3 Report from Cllr Molly Nolan

3.1 Cllr Molly Nolan submitted a full report to the KCC regarding the Highland Council budget constraints. She encouraged members of the public to report all potholes. Gary Payne will put the direct link to the Highland Council pothole reporting web page on Evanton.online

4 Finance

4.1 Balances are £64,506 & £97,121

5 Village Groups

5.1 Evanton Community Trust.

Gabrielle Buist reported the community consultation regarding the DJ hall is underway, looking at the opportunity to purchase the patch of land to the north of the hall and upgrade its structure, facilities and usage.

CP asked if the integrity of the hall will be maintained as she feels it is deemed 'of historical interest'. JM advised that it is not a listed building and the wood panelling and flooring for example would have to be removed in order to put in the necessary insulation.

Gabrielle advised that Stage 2 of the funding application will go ahead once everyone's voice has been heard. MM agreed that there has to be evidence of community support for the proposals.

The Welcome Pack was circulated and Gabrielle confirmed that copies have been posted to the new houses and are available in the shop.

6 Other Business

6.1 **Community Grants.**

Evanton Wood Community Company

Requesting funding towards five planned summer events in the woods and includes equipment for this.

Total costs: £1200

Grant request: £1000

The amount requested was agreed

Evanton Community Trust

(MM declared an interest)

Requesting funding for maintenance of the village green, website fees and maintenance of records kept of graves

Grant request: £1766

The amount requested was agreed

Scout Group

Requesting funding towards capitation fees.

Grant request: £2000

The amount requested was agreed

6.2 **Church news**

Mike Finlayson, Session Clark, advised that the central Church of Scotland presbytery in Edinburgh are currently looking at reappraising their land and buildings and are planning on closing some of the smaller churches. The proposed plan is for this parish to be linked with St Clements in Dingwall and subsequently sell the Evanton church and the congregation would instead use the Church hall for services. The church could potentially then be demolished or turned into a private residence. It is not yet certain if this would go ahead and is currently being reconsidered in Edinburgh. The final decision will be made in December 2024.

Mike continued that this would be a great loss to the community. Ardross had formed a community church to save their church building but is different because it had been owned by the Estate and not by Church of Scotland.

CP said that the community will have their view on this and need to have a say in what happens. It is a focal point of the village even for those who do not regularly attend services.

It was suggested that the KCC could look at ways to help preserve the church and along with the community possibly help with funding to buy out the building. The village is growing and a community consultation would be needed, including establishing the church running costs.

MM stated that KCC could probably help publicise the proposal so that wider community are aware of what might happen.

6.3 **Battery Storage Facility**

The proposed battery storage facility up Swordale Road would be built to service the Alness substation – storing surplus electricity for a maximum of two hours before pumping it back to the substation. The Committee heard how this would be transferred via an underground cable. The facility is nothing to do with windfarms or renewables and will not be for supply of power in Evanton. The proposal is currently in the pre-planning phase.

The KCC was not contacted regarding this proposal. It was agreed that more information was needed about the proposal and JM suggested that the KCC register a concern on behalf of the community and contact the elected councillors.

JM
CM

6.4 **Roads**

JM confirmed that the 20mph speed limit will be put in place in Evanton probably in September and there will be plenty of road signs to indicate this plus a number of traffic calming installations.

Preston Whyte asked if the KCC would fund some *Slow – Deer Crossing* signs up Swordale Road and *Caution - Pedestrians*. This was agreed.

6.5 **Highland Council Local Development Plan**

MM advised that each community is being asked to produce its own Plan to identify its needs for facilities and amenities to inform future Highland Council funding. As the village is growing so quickly it is really important to have a consultation to find out what the community thinks and wants.

MM suggested that Gabrielle Buist is currently employed by the ECT as the development officer and would be ideally suited to carry out the necessary consultation for the village Local Plan. The ECT could raise funding for 50% of the cost of employing her to undertake this, for 6 months work, and propose that the KCC match this with the other 50%. A total of £12,000.

The 50/50 funding was agreed so that MM can immediately start the process of funding application for the ECT split, and it was agreed that further discussion for the detail of the proposal would be looked at more closely. The whole community and every group should be consulted.

MM

6.6 **Next meeting:** Agreed as Tuesday 14th March 2023 at 7.00pm. Venue to be confirmed.

The Chair thanked those present for their attendance.