

Kiltearn Community Council



Minutes of Meeting –
Held in Cornerstone Cafe

Held on Tuesday 16th May 2023.

PRESENT

Members	John McHardy (JMCh) Chair Shelagh Dennett (SD) Treasurer Cai MacIver (CM) Secretary Celina Peoples (CP) Alpin Macdonald (AM) Mandy MacLeman (MM) Annelie Graham (AG) Minute Taker
Public	10 Members of the wider Public

Item Discussion

The KCC welcomed Andrew MacMaster from Compass to give an update about the new houses planned for Evanton, before the meeting proper began. The key points highlighted were:

- The Novar Estate approached Compass to take the original planning forward for 160 previously approved houses. It was agreed that Phase 1 would be for 19 affordable houses, followed by 50 private units for Phase 2.
- Planning in principal is in place with certain conditions as part of a legal agreement with the Council.
 - Of the 160 units, 40 have to be affordable housing
 - All units have to be designed for accessible needs
 - Contributions are to be made to the school and community facilities.
 - The offsite requirements are that there are active travel links including pedestrian pathways, widening of pavements, traffic calming measures and a bus stop.
 - A road safety audit on the proposals is to be carried out by an independent consultant.
 - The housing scheme will itself have a 20mph limit
 - Areas that have been surveyed as being potential flood areas are not to be built on.
- The plans are available to view online, and comments/queries can be made on there
- The building work will likely start in Spring 2024

It was agreed that KCC will submit a response to the proposed plans.

CM

- Although Compass undertook the change of priority road layout at the DJ Hall junction, this is nothing to do with the new housing, and they are unable to comment on its purpose as they were simply the Council's allocated contractor to carry out the work.
- There was no requirement given to Compass to install a carpark for a potential railway stop.

1 Apologies/Welcome

- 1.1 Apologies noted from Lynn Bell KCC Bookkeeper, Cllr Smith, Cllr Munro, Cllr Nolan, Cllr Collier and Sgt Gallie of Police Scotland.

2 Outstanding Actions from Previous Minutes

- 2.1 Revision of Grant Application form CM
- 2.2 Replacement of bus shelter panels – *CP advised that Gary Urquhart had responded to her emails to say that the shelter would be repaired within the next two weeks.* CP
- 2.3 Sports Hall usage information, invite Catriona Fraser to next meeting. *Possibility of setting up a Sports Hall Group* CP
- 2.4 Cost of Living crisis proposal MM
- 2.5 School to be asked to design new Christmas lights. CM
- 2.6 Flower baskets – *JM advised they should be ready this week* JM
- 2.7 ECT's purchase of DJ Hall – JM advised that Macleod and MacCallum were aware that a letter had been communicated to the Complaints Commission and they had no further comment at this stage.
- 2.8 Village Officer – *SD provided a proposed list of duties for a 16hr a week position @ £10.42/hr and it was agreed that the Highland Council would be approached for a contribution towards the budget especially for equipment and materials that the Village Officer would require.*
It was a majority agreement to go ahead with planning for instating a Village Officer on a trial basis for one year. AM did not agree and felt the Highland Council should fully fund this but it was recognised that the funding for this from the Council is not forthcoming. SD

3 Previous Minutes/Matters arising

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting of 17th April 2023, were agreed as proposed by SD and seconded by CP.

4 Correspondence – none received

- 5 **Police update** – Acting Police Sergeant Harry Milton advised via email that he has been covering for PS Gallie who has been absent this year. He apologised for the lack of updates and is happy to be contacted for any police issue that arises.

6 Councillors - No updates given

6.1 CM commented that since the elections it has been noticeable that there has been hardly any attendance or updates made by the Councillors to the KCC meetings. JM will write to all four of the Councillors to invite them to the AGM and emphasise that their representation and updates would be appreciated. **JM**

7 Finance

7.1 Balances are £64,841 & £89,124. A full set of audited accounts will be issued for the AGM on 22nd June 2023.

8 Village Groups – nothing new to report

9 Other Business

9.1 Roads

Although Gary Urquhart was invited to the meeting, he did not attend this time so will be asked to attend next time to answer queries on:

- Bus stop panels
- New road layout at DJ Hall. Trevor asked for the KCC to give their support to changing the layout to how it was previously or consider other options. CP to be in contact with John Swanson, a Senior Engineer at Highland Council, who has responsibility for this area. **CP**
- Potholes
- Extension of 30mph and 20mph zones
- Drummond Road / Glenskiach turning
- Questions around the housing planning
- Concern that the completed work done for the installation of Highland Broadband cables has not been adequately sealed.

9.2 Grants

Susan Crookes supplied more information about the grant application for smart boards for Kiltearn Primary School that was requested in January 2023 (original request was for £12,000 for a total project cost of £20,000). The Highland Council will only fund Chromebooks and other schools have also had to rely on parental fundraising to purchase smartboards. Susan advised that they have so far raised £7000 – JM commented that the KCC fully credited the parents for raising so much money already.

It was agreed that KCC would give a revised grant amount of £3306 for a discounted smartboard that can be obtained immediately.

9.3 Battery Installation at Swordale

There is still no planning application in yet for this scheme. John Ross advised that he saw the company surveying the road and field two weeks ago. JM has received no response as yet from the Fig Power representative Brian Devlin.

9.4 SSE proposed new power line construction

JM advised that the Community Councils are asking for a public enquiry. Martin Godwin was unable to attend today's meeting but sent an email response to KCC stating that *"We are committed to working with stakeholders on the development of*

our proposals and we are working on a strategy that will allow us to keep all Community Councils along the route up to date on our proposals.”

9.5 Black Rock Gorge Bridges

CP advised that both bridges are badly damaged and with a view to finding a way to get them repaired, following a discussion within the Woods Group, an email was redirected to the Novar Estate to be in contact with the Army Royal Engineers who were previously involved in constructing it.

9.6 Public Toilets

Consideration for the installation of public toilets in Evanton to be discussed at next meeting.

10 AGM meeting:

It was agreed that the AGM be held as a separate meeting on Thursday 22nd June and with a possible talk at the beginning of the evening.

Next meeting: To follow AGM

The Chair thanked those present for their attendance.