

Kiltearn Community Council



Minutes –

Held in Ante Room, Diamond Jubilee Hall

Held on Tuesday 14th January 2025

PRESENT

Elected Members

John McHardy (JM)
Shelagh Dennett (SD),
Annelie Graham (AG) & Minute Taker
Mike Finlayson (MF),
Susan Crookes (SC)
Gabrielle Buist (GB)

Highland Council

Liam Clancy, Community Support Officer

Councillors

Cllr Sinclair Coghill
Cllr John Edmondson

Public

Moira Mckenna, Deputy to Lord-Lieutenant
Maureen Cusick
John Ross
Gary Payne

Item Discussion

1 Apologies/Welcome

Apologies noted from Mandy Macleman (MM), Sarah McNair (SM), Cllr Maxine Smith, PC Jaia Pirrie

2 Finance

Balances are £50,212 (in new savings account), £47,869 & £83,639.
Cash flow budget projection work ongoing. SD, JM & MM working on this.
JM pointed out that the KCC has given out over £40k in grants over the past year to numerous groups across a wide variety of age groups, projects and areas. AG to publicise this information as it is worth celebrating.

SD, JM
MM

AG

3 Previous Minutes/Matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of 10th December 2024, were agreed as proposed by SC and seconded by JM.

- 3.1 • **Sports Hall:** MM to contact those who expressed an interest in being part of an Evanton Sports Club. MM not available to give update - ongoing. **MM**
- 3.2 • **Winter relief fund** – MM not available to give update - ongoing. **MM**
- 3.3 • **Multiple major energy planning applications & consultations** –
 1. JM is due to meet the Ardross Community Council secretary next week. **JM**
 2. **Power line:** JM lodged KCC views that the proposed route serving the Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm through Fannyfield was most favoured with the caveat that legitimacy is given to fire hazard considerations when it passes beside Evanton Woods in terms of both construction & maintenance.
 3. **Lochbuie/Spittal Line:** no further details have yet come out.
 4. **Windfarm proposal behind Fyrish:** a lot of background work has been done on this by the Ardross Community Council and it is proposed that a joint meeting is convened between the Ardross Community Council, the Kiltearn Community Council and the Novar Estate to express concerns. Liam Clancy agreed to check if this is allowed within the constraints of the KCC Code of Conduct and Highland Council planning may need to be spoken to first. **JM**
- 3.4 • **Post van:** needing a more sheltered position. MF will check if it will be okay to use the Church carpark. **MF**
- 3.5 • **Xmas lights** – These have now been taken down. Thanks again to Micheal & Hugh for doing this.
- 3.6 • **Tourist Tax** – Highland Council consultation deadline 31st March 2025. Details to be distributed to committee and discussed for comment. More information needed regarding who is affected, particularly in relation to travelling for health care reasons, and how and where the money raised will be spent. AG to circulate original information sent by email. **AG**
- 3.7 • **Place Plan – ongoing.** Maureen Cusick hopes to get it lodged in a couple of months time.

4 Correspondence

- 4.1 • **Katewell road closure:** Email received from Roads Operations regarding road closure between 20th – 24th January. Householders were not notified. AG to forward email to GB. Cllr Edmondson advised that it was works being done by BT. **AG**
- 4.2 • **Wyvis Estate woodland creation:** notification of consultation. AG to forward information received. **AG**
- 4.3 • **Strathroy Windfarm:** notification of clearing and widening works being carried out along the route for the delivery of wind turbine abnormal loads.

5 **Police Report**

PC Jaia Pirrie had submitted the latest Police update to the KCC, very little of note to comment on.

6 **Moira Mackenna, Deputy Lieutenant to Lord-Lieutenant Mrs Joanie Whiteford**

Moira provided an update as to the role and function of the Lieutenancy and how it may be of help to the community council and community. In particular organising:

- The delivery of 100th birthday cards, but also 60th wedding anniversary cards.
- Co-ordinating royal visits for projects or celebrations, large or small. A bid can be put in, ideally 18 months in advance to allow for planning.
- Awards – the National Honours system for individuals and the BEM medal for people who have done something special on a local level. The King's Award for Voluntary Service where groups can be nominated within their category. The Kings Award for Enterprise where a business will nominate themselves within their category.
- Opportunities for deserving people to be nominated to attend Royal events like the Royal garden party or carol service etc to recognise their achievements.

Moira said that Joanie is really keen to be involved in the community and the KCC is encouraged to publicize all the nominations that can be made. Moira has provided templates & contact details for doing this.

AG

7 **Community Support Officer**

The Community Council Support Officer, Liam Clancy, introduced himself and explained his role in being the first point of contact for the KCC committee for any queries on it's functionality and processes, along with any help on contacting the right people within the Highland Council.

Liam also mentioned that the audited accounts still need to be submitted – JM to sign off & forward.

JM

8 **Councillors updates**

8.1 Roads:

- Cllr Sinclair Coghill advised that Iain Moncrieff, Highland Council Roads Operations Manager, had a list of road issues that the councillors had highlighted and he asked for them to be prioritised. As the list he had did not seem to include either direct issues put forward by the KCC or those input on the Highland Council reporting portal it was difficult to make a strategic decision on this and Cllr Coghill asked that the KCC put them in order. JM advised that the Jubilee Hall junction should be top of the list. Cllr Edmondson said that there are concerns that the Highland Council are not properly assessing the road management of works carried out. JM said that there are ongoing concerns about the Evanton junction onto the A9, along with the other 3 junctions along that stretch of road and thought it might be worth trying to have a focused meeting with the other Community

JM

Councils in the area to discuss ways to push safety measures forward – Alness, Saltburn, Invergordon & Ardross. Cllr Edmondson advised that the Green Freeport Monitoring Group were looking at A9 junctions and will hopefully include these as well – it might be worth contacting them.

MF asked if Liam would be able to help push action forward for the roads issues that have been ongoing for a long time now without any progress. Liam advised that it was not within his role and would have to go via the councillors.

MF mentioned the trees by the primary school and sports hall which are dying and becoming a danger and should be cut down. Also the fence at the Katewell junction has been knocked down with an additional danger of a burn that runs high when in spate which would be a drowning hazard if a car went down the ditch into it.

JM added that the Katewell passing places are completely overgrown.

8.2

- **School nursery:**

Cllr John Edmondson advised that the projection figures for the school are that the numbers will increase to overcrowding levels and that Kiltearn is still on the radar for a new nursery.

SC advised that the building of the nursery had stopped because numbers had temporarily dropped, even though the forecast is for them to increase.

JM noted that the school Parent Council had been promised that it would be built.

GB added that the parking at the school is also an ongoing issue.

JM advised that some of these issues were included on the Place Plan and would hopefully be acted on later on.

No update received from the other councillors.

9

Public toilet JM advised that he had written to Gary Coutts, Estates Surveyor at the Highland Council, ref agreeing on the lease of the site to ECT for a nominal fee but had not yet received a response. There has also been no response regarding the money allocated for a public toilet a few years ago which MM has been chasing. JM to email Liam with the details regarding this.

JM,MM

10

Village Community Caretaker – still ongoing

JM,MF

11

Other Business

- GB asked that the school traffic control (lollipop person) position be highlighted on Facebook again as this is still vacant and is dangerous for the children when crossing.

AG

12

Grants

12.1

Scouts

For events and equipment

Total cost £2100, applied for £1700
APPROVED

SD

12.2 Evanton Social & Events

For costs towards old folks day out & dinner
Total cost £1750, applied for £1500.
APPROVED

SD

12.3 JM suggested that it would be good to have an annual budget for total grants paid out for forwarding planning. It was agreed that the constituted groups should be contacted and asked for a regular projection of grant applications planned, particularly for large capital project grants. Groups should also be encouraged to apply for funding from other places as well. In addition the condition to produce an 'end of project report', has lapsed and should be chased up so that the group give a brief description of how the money was spent along with invoices & photos. An update could also be forwarded to Evanton.online for publicising the group and also the fact that the KCC contributed funding towards it. Groups could be told that before consideration of grant applications they must have submitted their funding needs projections. AG suggested that this information could be sent out to the groups along with a copy (and link) of the new grant form (SM).

AG,SM

13 Groups

13.1 **Evanton.online**

- Gary gave thanks again to the KCC for their support and updates for his newsletter.

13.2 **Evanton Community Cinema**

- The plan is to continue with showings hopefully once a month.

13.3 **Evanton Community Market**

- The plan is to continue with these a on regular basis as tables have already been booked up for the next one.

14 AOCB

None highlighted

15 Next meeting: Tuesday 11th February 2025

The Chair thanked those present for their attendance.