

Kiltearn Community Council



Minutes –

Held in Ante Room, Diamond Jubilee Hall

Held on Tuesday 8th April 2025

PRESENT

Elected Members

John McHardy (JM)
Shelagh Dennett (SD),
Annelie Graham (AG) & Minute Taker
Mandy MacLeman (MM)
Gabrielle Buist (GB)

Councillors

Cllr Sinclair Coghill
Cllr John Edmondson

Public

John Ross
Gary Payne

Item Discussion

1 **Apologies/Welcome**

Apologies noted from Mike Finlayson (MF), Susan Crookes (SC), Sarah McNair (SM)

2 **Finance**

Balances are £50,648 (95 day savings account), £46,479 & £83,902.
Overall Profit/Loss as at 28 February 2025, £10,366

JM circulated a draft of a KCC budgeting spreadsheet which was approved and suggested that a reserve of £60k be incorporated in.

JM,SD

3 **Previous Minutes/Matters arising**

The minutes of the meeting of 11th March 2025, were agreed as proposed by SD and seconded by GB.

- 3.1 • **Community Regeneration Funding** – the Highland Council funding of capital projects. MM has submitted an application for funding of the village toilet block project.

- 3.2
- **Port Authority Community Liaison meeting** – JM & John Ross attended. They were shown information about the planned large quayside structure including a big crane, to be used to build turbines at the jetty. A new jetty is also planned for the cruise liners. Cllr Edmondson has queried the environmental impact and has called for a marine biologist to be on the Port Authority consulting team. The tides are changing due to the manmade narrowing of the firth entrance creating deep scouring & deposits in the firth. JM added that groups should remember that they can apply to the Port Authority for funding for projects.
- 3.3
- **Flower baskets** – JM advised that the person who did the watering last year has agreed to do it again this year for the same cost.

4 Correspondence

- 4.1
- **SEPA (Scottish Environment Protection Agency)** – they are consulting on an Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme regarding looking at new ways of assessing businesses compliance to the protection of the environment. GB will look at this. **GB**
- 4.2
- **BEAR Scotland** – notification of resurfacing work just south of Cromarty Bridge resulting in 5 nights of lane closure with convoy system, 14th – 22nd April.
- 4.3
- **Easter Ross Community Partnership** – to continue to look at various services & issues across the local community councils and prioritise/co-operate together. Meeting scheduled for 14th May 2-4pm. JM & MM may be able to attend. **JM,MM**

5 Police Report

None received in time for the meeting.

AG attended their quarterly online Community Council Inspector Meeting with a number of other representatives from other community councils. This was the first one of this new way of police contact and can be a forum for bringing up issues that would concern police.

6 Councillors updates

- 6.1
- Cllr Edmondson advised that Cllr Crawford's Motion on Major Electricity Development Applications and Community Engagement is going ahead next month.
- 6.2
- Cllr Edmondson advised that Traffic Scotland and BEAR are planning meetings which will examine all the junctions that are of concern.
- 6.3
- Cllr Edmondson advised that he had taken up with Legal issues arising from temporary road traffic orders, as previously discussed, and they are setting up a working group to look at this. For example not allowing bikes or pedestrians on the back road while it is closed when access should have been

factored in. The Daffodil Tea at Foulis is scheduled for 19th April and it is unclear how the traffic will be managed when the road is still closed and hundreds of visitors in cars will be trying to get to the event.

- 6.4
 - Cllr Edmondson commented on the traffic calming measures work planned for outside the school which KCC had also been notified about. It was suggested that a one way system at beginning and end of school day would also be beneficial and Cllr Edmondson advised that the school/KCC could reply to the notification to put this idea forward.
- 6.5
 - Cllr Coghill had forwarded information around the Highland Investment Plan, for capital investment by Highland Council. The long term aim set out is to reduce the number of buildings but the buildings that are there will have greater usage/facilities. School buildings and facilities for example would be looked at. Surveys and consultations will begin in May.
- 6.6
 - A by-election to fill the post that Cllr Maxine Smith has vacated will likely happen at the end of June.

No update received from the other councillors.

7 **ENERGY**

- 7.1
 - **Ceislein Wind Farm proposal – behind Fyrish** – The ‘Save Fyrish’ group had to change the petition platform due to technical issues. They need a lot more signatures. AG alerted that notices about it had been removed from the Fyrish path.
- 7.2
 - **Averon Battery Energy Storage System** scoping document out for consultation. Comments invited for the 200 megawatt BESS planned for farmland behind Novar Sawmill.
- 7.3
 - **Beinn Tharsuinn repowering & extension** – notification received of scoping consultation for comments by 28th April. Planned 31 new 230mtr turbines.
- 7.4
 - **Glasa Wind Farm within the Strathvaich and Kildermorie Estates (Coriolis Energy)** – proposal for 27 x 250mtr turbines. This is just outside the Kiltarn area.

8 **PROJECTS**

- 8.1
 - **Sports Hall / set up of Evanton Sports Club** - SD has given MM details of interested parties so that it can be progressed.
- 8.2
 - **Public toilet** – the planning application is now online. MM submitted a submission of interest to the Community Regeneration Funding via ECT. ECT combined it with requests for other projects on the village green like creating an orchard, wildflower planting and a stretch tent. JM has spoken to Streetlighting and they agree that CCTV can be linked into the street lights to cover the toilet and green.

MM

- 8.3
 - **Village Community Caretaker** – SM, SD & JM had a productive meeting with ILM Highland. ILM will come back with a proposal in which they will train and manage the caretaker who will be part of an ILM team. KCC will have control over who the caretaker is. It was raised that a storage area will be needed for tools and possible works vehicle. MM said that ECT are looking at storage for their trishaws so could be combined with this.
- 8.4
 - **Highland News Group spotlight on Evanton** – GB has submitted information to Highland News and it will hopefully be published this week or very soon.
- 8.5
 - **Winter relief fund** – MM advised that the leaflet is just about ready to be printed.

9 **GRANTS**

9.1 **The Evanton Social & Events Group**

Looking for support for the creation and upkeep of the flower bed rotunda opposite the Co-op..

Total cost £500, asked for £500

Agreed

10 **GROUPS**

- 10.1
 - **Stay & Play** – This is starting in May.
- 10.2
 - **Evanton Community Trust / Jubilee Hall** – MM advised that funding from SSEN (for solar panels & battery storage), EB Scotland (for heating), HIE (for LED lighting and windows) has been approved for energy efficiency measures for the hall. Work is due to commence in next couple of weeks.

12 **AOCB**

- 12.1
 - **Fyrish Crescent playpark** - funding had been earmarked for this but nothing has ever been done. SD highlighted that the playpark is in complete disrepair and unusable. MM will look into the funding.
- 12.2
 - **Evanton.online** – Gary asked if it was okay to put photos of the school building into his newsletter and no-one thought that would be a problem. MM said she would send some information to Gary for his newsletter and JM said that he would be sending in his regular KCC update. Deadline of 20th April.
- 12.3
 - **AGM** – it was agreed that the next KCC AGM will take place on Tuesday 10th June in the main hall, with refreshments.

- 12.4
- **Thanks to Maureen Cusick** – Maureen is moving away from Evanton. She has been a valuable member of the community and has done some great work recently on producing the Place Plan. She will be sorely missed and KCC would like to wish her the very best of luck.

13 **Next meeting:** Tuesday 13th May 2025

The Chair thanked those present for their attendance.