

Kiltearn Community Council



Minutes –

Held in Ante Room, Diamond Jubilee Hall

Held on Tuesday 10th June 2025

PRESENT

Elected Members

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

Councillors

Cllr Sinclair Coghill
Cllr John Edmondson

Public

Gary Payne
Richard Cross
John Ross
Kenneth & Lesley McKenzie
Edith McHardy

Item Discussion

1 Apologies/Welcome

Apologies noted from Mandy Macleman (MM), Cllr Tamala Collier

2 Finance

Noted in AGM

3 Previous Minutes/Matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of 13th May 2025, were agreed as proposed by SM and seconded by SD.

- 3.1 • **Easter Ross Community Partnership** – GB & MM attended meeting on 14th May. There was discussion around the planned turbines behind Fyrish – the original proposal has changed in that there will be less of them and they will be placed further back / potentially less visible.
- 3.2 • **Road at school** – MF asked if the Councillors can press the Highland Council to clear the overgrown weeds at the school and deal with the dead trees. There is currently no start date for putting the speed bump in the road outside the school. MF asked if the Safer Routes to School could be reinvestigated for school drop off/pick up issues.

- 3.3 • **Fyrish Crescent playpark** - Cllr Coghill confirmed there is equipment for this but the plan is to allow the new planting to get established before putting it in.
- 3.4 • **Village Community Caretaker** – the ILM proposal was circulated and all were in agreement to go ahead with it. SD will be the main point of contact. MF asked if the school would have an Education budget towards the crossing patrol that could be passed on to fund this – SC will ask the primary head teacher. **SC**

4 **ENERGY**

On 14th June a Community Council Energy Infrastructure Convention was held in Beauly on the impact on communities of major energy infrastructure in the Highlands. It was really well attended with over 60 Community Councils. JM attended on behalf of Kiltarn Community Council. It was clear that all were very concerned about the flood of applications to the Highlands.

5 **Correspondence**

- 5.1 • Notification from Scottish Forestry of consultation for new woodland creation on the North face of Cnoc Ravoch (near Mount Gerald) for a mix of spruce for timber plus native broadleaves over an area of between 2 - 8 hectares.
- 5.2 • Notification from Cycling UK of a Highland Cycle Campaign Workshop taking place on 21st June 2025 at the Spectrum Centre, Inverness to discuss local issues relating to cycling in the Highlands. Agreed to publish their poster on social media. **AG**
- 5.3 • Notification from Scottish Forestry of felling due to take place at Mount Rich Farm (on the back road near the Dingwall side) of roadside dead or damaged trees. Asked that they look at their dates & timescales for doing this in case it clashes with A862 planned road closure when the back road will likely get very busy.
- 5.4 • Reminder that a Joint Community Council Meeting is due to take place on 25th June at 6pm at the Port Office.
- 5.5 • Late notification was given from Highland Council that they had granted access restrictions on the Fyrish path for 5 days (2nd, 3rd, 4th, 25th & 26th June) for film crew. This has been queried due to closure of a right of way without consultation.

6 **Police Report**

April Report for Ward 6 circulated.

Quarterly online Community Council Inspector Meeting with a number of other representatives from other community councils will be on 18th June. No-one able to attend this time.

There are still problems with vandalism at the school, also with cars parking on the double yellow lines at pick up time, and cars going too fast when there is no crossing patrol.

7 **Planned road closure - A862 Dingwall - Ardullie TTRO for Scottish Water Mains Renewal**

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) – order of events	
23 January	Article in Ross-shire Journal dated 23 Jan 2025 Scottish Water is investing £3.3 million to upgrade a critical section of its water supply network between Evanton and Dingwall. <u><i>"A rolling lane closure will be in place along the A862 between the Cromarty Bridge Roundabout and Dingwall. Signs will be posted in advance ..."</i></u>
15 May	Roads Officer email to Local Councillors and various others attaching proposed TTRO – in essence closure of road for 3 months.
19 May	Roads Officer email to KCC with copy of email dated 15 May.
21 May	KCC meeting with Roads Officer recording concerns and asking for response to a number of questions.
28 May	Roads Offer email confirming that Scottish Water have been asked to respond to a number of the questions raised by KCC. Also recommending a further TTRO on the Old Evanton Road.
5 June	In response to an invite to a KCC meeting Scottish water responded. Unfortunately, due to annual leave and other prior commitments, we will be unable to attend the meeting next week." They did offer to meet after the 18 th June.
6 June	KCC responded to request early meeting (in D J Hall) with appropriate staff from Scottish Water.
10 June	Email from SW to say engineer returns from leave on Thursday after which they will propose a date for a meeting. Road Signs and note from SW to say works are going to start on Monday, 7 th July and complete Friday, 3 rd October.
12 June	Email from SW proposing a meeting 17 th June

At the meeting on 19th May it was made clear that the community are not happy with the plans which will cause traffic chaos and with the way the consultation has been done. The risk assessment was requested.

Kenneth McKenzie, Highland Café, said that Caledonian Water Alliance had liaised with them on behalf of Scottish Water on this. There had already been a complete road closure of the back road earlier this year. Scottish Water said they had 'no reason' to close the back road, but Highland Council suggested closing it due to safety concerns.

JM said that the Council's diversion risk assessment says there are only two hazards, one being Wyvis Homes in Dingwall and the other Dingwall Academy. The risk assessment also says that the back road is 'not a safe alternative'.

Aspirations for the planned work is for Scottish Water to consider putting the pipe into the soft verge, to have a rolling road block, to put in mitigation measures on the back road asap for passing places, edges and warning signs, overnight closures and timed openings. To delay the work until the Spring to ensure all measures and options are put in place.

JM advised that the Kiltearn Community Council has officially objected to the Order and all the concerns have been put forward. Scottish Water should take down the signs as the TTRO has not gone through yet and proper procedures are not being followed. The Highland Council should put their foot down on this.

Kenneth said that the planned start date is 7th July without a clear plan. Scottish Water and the contractors have not done this with due diligence. His business will really suffer.

It was agreed that a public meeting should take place which includes Scottish Water and Highland Council Roads Operations. This was agreed to take place on 17th June 2025 at 7pm. Separate Minutes will be noted.

8 Councillors updates

- 8.1
 - With reference to Cllr Crawford's Motion on energy proposals, JM asked if there will be a staff resource to support local communities. Cllr Edmondson advised that he would find out.
- 8.2
 - Cllr Coghill did not have any new updates.

No update received from the other councillors.

9 PROJECTS

- 9.1
 - **Public toilet** – the bid for the Regeneration Fund unfortunately did not go through. The planning application outcome will be known next week.
- 9.2
 - **Winter relief fund** – leaflets will be put onto the noticeboards.
- 9.3
 - **Sports Club** – no further progress in setting this up.

10 GRANT APPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Evanton Social & Events
For costs towards old folks summer bus outing
Total cost £1000, applied for £1000.
APPROVED

SD

10.2 Evanton Community Cinema
For costs towards seat cushions & film programme SD
Total cost £2224, applied for £2224.
APPROVED

10.3 Fox & Friends
For costs towards implementing a calendar of events to be offered monthly such as ASN trips to landmark, discos and family bingo. Plus updating their sensory supplies.
Total cost £15000, applied for £8000.
PENDING – form was received too late for all members to read it through. AG to circulate again. Further discussion & comment will be done via email on this. AG

11 GROUPS

It was felt that it would be really good if more of the Evanton groups attended KCC meetings and club together in a pro-active way.

- 11.1
- **Evanton.online** – Gary advised that he would now be looking for a volunteer to help him with the newsletter and webpage. It was suggested that it could be a student doing a journalism or media course. It was agreed that KCC can underwrite Gary's printing costs.

12 AOCB

- 12.1
- **Evanton Gala** – SD advised that she understood that there was no planned Evanton Gala or Fyrish Hill Race this year. It would be good if someone, or a group, could take this on for future years – make it a big and fun event for all age groups. SD suggested that this would be a good opportunity for all the Evanton groups to come together and collaborate on creating something.
- 12.2
- **Highland Energy Training for Community Councils** – AG attended the online event hosted by Planning Aid Scotland with a view to delivering training to assist Community Council's in understanding and responding to applications relating to energy proposals. A video recording and notes will be circulated to the members once available.

13 **Next meeting:** Tuesday 9th September 2025 at 7pm in the main hall.

While the KCC is on summer recess for July & August, urgent decisions will be taken via group email.

The Chair thanked those present for their attendance.