

Kiltearn Community Council



Minutes –

Held in Ante Room, Diamond Jubilee Hall

Held on Tuesday 9th September 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
Cllr Richard Cross

Public

John Ross
Preston White
Lorna & Bill Shirran
Billy Murray

Item Discussion

1 **Apologies/Welcome**

Apologies noted from Mandy Macleman (MM), Gary Payne

2 **Finance**

- Business Reserve Account: £84,288
- 95 Day Current Account: £51,361
- Business Current Account: £34,531
- Overall Profit/Loss: £10,849

2.1 Cllr John Edmondson queried if the accounts were separately protected if within the same bank. SD to check & confirm. **SD**

2.2 JM & SD will continue to work on and update the draft budgeting spreadsheet. **JM,SD**

3 **Previous Minutes/Matters arising**

The minutes of the meeting of 10th June 2025, were agreed as proposed by SC and seconded by SD.

- 3.1
- **Fyrish Crescent playpark** - Cllr Sinclair Coghill advised that work will start on reconstruction of the playpark over the next two weeks with the goal for it to be ready by the end Oct 2025 with mounds and stepping stones in place. A swingset has been set aside which will be in place by the Spring after it is refurbished.

- 3.2
- Planned road closure - A862 Dingwall - Ardullie TTRO for Scottish Water Mains Renewal.** JM advised that he understood that Scottish Water have made another application to the Highland Council to close the front road in the Spring 2026 for 3 months as per the previous proposal. JM has recently confirmed with the Highland Café and with Foulis that neither have had any communication from Caledonian Water or Scottish Water for their input since the public meeting. It will be very disappointing if the road is shut without any further consultation despite all the objections, clear public concern and alternative suggestions. JM wrote to Scottish Water two weeks ago for an update but they replied that they were not in a position to give one. JM suggested that KCC ask them directly about the current application.

Cllr Sinclair Coghill advised that Iain Moncrieff, Highland Council Roads Operations Manager, has confirmed that the new application is unaltered from previous and Scottish Water will be asked to demonstrate and provide evidence that they have explored all potential options, otherwise the application may well be refused.

JM advised that he would contact Scottish Water and request that they work along with landowners, locals and their subcontractors Pat Munro to find solutions which will not cause major disruption and not encourage road users to use alternative, potentially unsafe, routes.

JM

MF advised that he understood that one of the four properties in question now has a new water pipe supply so the works is now for three properties.

Cllr Sinclair Coghill commented that there will be wider concern and interest from neighbouring communities who would be affected and they should be included in the discussion.

4 **Police Report**

June, July and August Reports for Ward 6 have been circulated.

- 4.1
- Quarterly online Community Council Inspector Meeting with a number of other representatives from other community councils will be on 23rd September. AG will attend.

AG

- 4.2
- Concerns raised are:

- Continued parking on the double yellow lines at the Co-op.
- Query over if there is a time limit on how long someone can park in a disabled parking place. A disabled user and local resident has been using the Co-op disabled parking spot for long term parking but this can make it difficult for those who need to park directly outside to pop into the shop. Cllr Sinclair Coghill advised that the KCC contact Ross Bartlett, Principal Traffic Officer, for advice on this issue.

JM

5 Correspondence

- 5.1 • Notification from Police ref their next information session on 24th September.
- 5.2 • Notification that the next Easter Ross Community Council online meeting will be on 23rd September.
- 5.3 • Notification from Nadara about a Forum to discuss their windfarm plans on 30th October at the Kingmills Hotel (no time given).

6 Councillors updates & things to raise

- 6.1 • Cllr Sinclair Coghill advised that the new Community Council support person would be Cai MacIver, Community Development Manager. Also Phil Tomalin is Senior Community Development Manager.
- 6.2 • Cllr John Edmondson advised that he will be chasing up getting a permanent 'queuing traffic' warning sign on the access road to the A9.
- 6.3 • MF raised again that the Drummond Road junction is dangerous at both ends. He also pointed out that the dotted white lines on either side of the main Evanton road for bicycle awareness have not been repainted and are disappearing.
- 6.4 • Cllr Richard Cross advised that he had been made aware of road bike use becoming a nuisance in other areas and to be aware if it becomes a problem in Evanton Woods in particular.
- 6.5 • SD raised that there have been issues in maintaining and query of ownership/responsibility for the strip of land between Teandallon and the new builds. The bushes are now tall and uncut and flytipping on this strip has now become an issue.
- 6.6 • MF again raised concerns about the rotting and leaning trees by the school both along the road and within the Sports Centre grounds which is on Highland Council land.
- 6.7 • SD added that the hedge needs to be aggressively trimmed back from the pavement beside the school as it is affecting children and parents.

7 ENERGY

JM advised that the KCC have until 8th October to respond to the consultation ref the SSE Spittal power line. The other Community Councils affected have asked for an extension to the closing date. As far as Evanton is concerned the route is suitable, however it was agreed that KCC should support the other Community Councils in their concerns whilst ensuring it does not adversely affect Evanton's position.

JM

JM advised that at the Community Council Energy Infrastructure Convention in June there was a large majority who agreed that they would like a period for the consultations and plans to pause and more time given to reflect before proceeding further so that more research can be done. No indication from government that this will be considered.

JM advised that the Ceislein windfarm application will be live very soon. With reference to the KCC response to the application, it is important that the KCC

represents the community views on this. It has to be recognised that not everyone objects to the plans.

SC suggested a simple Google survey is created to gather opinion on the proposals.

JM advised that he will email out the link to the visuals of how the Ceislein and Novar II turbines will look and agree a way to share this to the public. JM

MF commented that the KCC members have been elected to represent the community and entrusted to make decisions on their behalf. JM felt it was still worth canvassing opinion.

Cllr John Edmondson confirmed that the Novar I repowering plans do not have to take into account the Ceislein application in their review.

JM advised that there are no live applications at the moment. Ceislein will be the first one, followed by Novar. KCC have responded to the scoping documents.

8 **PROJECTS**

- 8.1
 - **Village Community Caretaker** – the new person will start in this post on 22nd September. It is still to be confirmed if the Village Caretaker can take on the crossing patrol vacancy. Cllr John Edmondson advised that he would find out if the school could subcontract this out to the Caretaker.
- 8.2
 - **Public toilet** – the bid for the Regeneration Fund had been unsuccessful but then the ECT were asked to reapply so there may still be funding available. The planning application has been passed.
- 8.3
 - **Winter relief fund** – MM can give an update at the next meeting.
- 8.4
 - **Sports Club** – this has now been established as the Blackrock Community Sports Association with a Constitution, and with Billy Murray as the Chairman. Billy advised that they have agreed on who are the office bearers, with SM as Treasurer, and how they intend to take things forward. There will be no membership cost and there will be a link to join. They have talked to Highlife Highland over how to book the Sports Hall. They have applied for charitable status. Everything is still very much in the early stages of getting organised.

9 **GROUPS**

- 9.1
 - **Evanton Social & Events Group** – the group have advised that they want to concentrate more on doing activities for the elderly in the village and are cutting back on some of the projects that they usually organise. JM extended his thanks to the group for all that they have done and for continuing to do many vital social events for the older members of the community. The group will no longer be involved in:
 - The Evanton Gala, as previously discussed.
 - They have given up the lease of the Black Rock Recreation Park and changing hut. This will now be taken on by the new Blackrock Community Sports Association.

- Remembrance Service. MF will put it to the Session to see if they will act on behalf of KCC to manage this. JM commented that that the PA and a piper along with paperwork would need to be organised. MF
 - Christmas tree – SM volunteered to take this on. SM
 - Planting of round flower display opposite the Co-op, suggestions to take this on would be the new Village Caretaker, SC thought maybe the scouts could help too. JM,SC
- AG asked that Lorna forward any contacts, checklists etc for these events to help out the new organisers.

- 9.2 • **Evanton Cinema** – GB advised that the next screening will be of Restless Natives on Sun 28th September 7pm.

10 AOCB

- 10.1 • **Easter Ross Community Partnership** – Cllr John Edmondson advised that up for discussion would be transport issues between Tain and Dingwall so there would be an opportunity for any concerns that include Evanton. They will also be discussing the Place Plans.
- 10.2 • **Christmas lights** – new brackets are needed to enable the new lights to be turned to face the road. JM to get quote. The Poppy light at the memorial will be put in place two weeks before Remembrance Sunday. The school will be asked again to design a Christmas light. JM
SM,SC
- 10.3 • **Sale of Kiltearn Church** – MF advised that the Church premises will be up for open sale from October 2025. Lots of ideas of how the Church could be used have been proposed including as a museum or for events. Enquires are being made for funding.
- 10.4 • **New bus service** - GB advised that a new bus service is available called Ember.
- 10.5 • **Indian takeaway** – GB advised that the restaurant Café India has closed in Dingwall but the owners have bought the old Chinese takeaway premises on Evanton high street and intend to make it into the Spice Garden Indian takeaway.

11 **Next meeting:** Tuesday 14th October 2025 at 7pm

The Chair thanked those present for their attendance.