

Kiltearn Community Council



Minutes –

Held in Ante Room, Diamond Jubilee Hall

Held on Tuesday 14th October 2025

PRESENT

Elected Members

John McHardy (JM)
Shelagh Dennett (SD)
Annelie Graham (AG) & Minute Taker
Mike Finlayson (MF)
Mandy Macleman (MM),
Susan Crookes (SC)

Councillors

Cllr Sinclair Coghill
Cllr John Edmondson

Public

John Ross
Jo Newton

Item Discussion

1 **Apologies/Welcome**

Apologies noted from Sarah McNair (SM), Gabrielle Buist (GB), Cllr Richard Cross, Cllr Tamala Collier

2 **Finance**

- Business Reserve Account: £84,366
- 95 Day Current Account: £51,505
- Business Current Account: £32,369
- Overall Profit/Loss: £12,789

2.1 Cllr John Edmondson said that he had confirmed that accounts held within the same bank were not separately protected. SD & JM will check with the bank & confirm as they had been told otherwise.

JM,SD

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

JM,SD

2.3 SD queried the Go Fund Me transactions. SD, MM & JM will look further into this.

**JM,SD,
MM**

3 **Previous Minutes/Matters arising**

The minutes of the meeting of 9th September 2025, were agreed as proposed by MF and seconded by SC.

3.1 • **Planned road closure - A862 Dingwall - Ardullie TTRO for Scottish Water Mains Renewal.** JM advised that he had received an email from

Dingwall Community Council who said that they were keen to be involved in any of the communications and actions. They suggested that Strathpeffer Community Council would also have an interest in this. They also thought another public meeting would be a good idea.

JM advised that despite sending follow up emails, there has been no response for requests for an update from Scottish Water or Caledonian Water. There are unconfirmed rumours that Network Rail had made unreasonable demands regarding the option to bore under the track.

MF thought it would be a good idea to now involve an MSP in this matter. JM agreed to do this. Cllr John Edmondson/Cllr Sinclair Coghill agreed to contact Iain Moncrieff for any further updates.

JM

3.2 • **Remembrance Service – Sunday 9th November**

MM advised that Mark would pipe for the service. Price to be agreed.

JM had asked Keith Bower about a battery operated PA system but he did not have one. SC advised that the school has one and will ask to borrow it.

SC

It was agreed that MF lay the wreath on behalf of KCC.

Cllr Sinclair Coghill advised that Cllr Tamala Collier had offered to attend the service.

JM confirmed that he will be organising the programmes.

JM

3.3 • **Christmas lights** – SM is organising the Christmas tree and decorations and intends on creating a big event for switch on. Possible Santa sleigh to be considered.

SM

It was agreed that as the cost of different brackets are so expensive to enable the new lights to be turned to face the road that it would just be left as it is for now.

4 Police Report

September Report for Ward 6 has been circulated.

4.1 AG attended the Quarterly online Community Council Inspector Meeting with a number of other representatives from other community councils on 23rd September. Issues raised included parking on double yellow lines outside Co-op and speeding through the 20mph limit areas. Next meeting will be on 17th December 2025 at 6.30pm.

4.2 The query over if there is a time limit on how long someone can park in a disabled parking place was a Highland Council rather than police matter. Police suggested requesting two disabled bays.

JM advised that he found out that there is no time limit on parking there unless there is a specific traffic order & sign stating that. It was agreed that this would be requested both for the Co-op and the Cornerstone disabled spots.

JM

5 Correspondence

5.1 • Minutes from the last Easter Ross Community Council online meeting of 23rd September. Cllr Sinclair Coghill chaired the meeting. Views were gathered

around the local needs and gaps in services. The meeting concentrated on encouraging the Community Councils to put together their Place Plans if they had not already done so.

Cllr John Edmondson advised that he was putting together a Transport Forum for December 2025 to gain information of what community active travel facilities could be improved in the local areas including walking, cycling etc. Community Councils are asked to think of 5 things that could be better. It was suggested that issues around a bus to take the school children to swimming lessons was a big item that could be added to that list.

KCC Place Plan – MM advised that the KCC Place Plan has a whole section on travel. JM said this could be circulated to the committee to refresh minds and look again at it. JM,MM

MM advised that the Place Plan had been submitted. JM said he would check if accepted. Cllr John Edmondson advised that David Cowie, Principal Planner – Development Planning, is the contact for this now. JM

- 5.2
- Notification from Nadara about their Forum to discuss their windfarm plans, and visit a Novar wind turbine on 30th October at the Kingmills Hotel. MM & JM will attend. JM,MM

6 Councillors updates & things to raise

- 6.1
- Cllr John Edmondson advised that he had been notified that the hedge had been cut at the school. SD said it hadn't. Will be double checked to confirm. JM,SD
- 6.2
- Cllr John Edmondson said that the dead trees at the school and Sports Hall will be looked at in due course.
- 6.3
- Discussion was had around the ownership/responsibility for the strip of land between Teandallon and the new builds. Exact area needs to be confirmed and then go back to Highland Council. JM will take a look and then liaise with Cllr John Edmondson. JM,SD
- 6.4
- Cllr John Edmondson suggested that the KCC look carefully at the access routes planned for the big pylon line. JM
- 6.5
- Cllr Sinclair Coghill said he would chase up the repair of the broken street lamp at the Skiach bridge.
- 6.6
- MF asked if a polite request could be given to the owners of broken down vehicles parked in the large bay at the Novar entrance to the village to keep it tidy.
- 6.7
- Fyrish Crescent playpark - no work has yet started so Cllr Sinclair Coghill will chase it up.

7

ENERGY

- 7.1
- Nothing new to report on this.

It was agreed that once the Ceislein windfarm and Novar proposals are confirmed then KCC will create a Google survey to gather community views to inform KCC response. JM,SC

8 **PROJECTS**

- 8.1
- **Village Community Caretaker** – the new person is settling in well. He is undergoing training and getting all the equipment he needs. He has been asked to tidy up around the Memorial in time for the Remembrance Service. In regards to taking on the crossing patrol vacancy the Head Teacher has advised that they cannot give the money for this to a third party (despite the job being vacant for the last two years). Cllr Sinclair Coghill will find out the best person to approach in Highland Council to move forward on this.
- 8.2
- **Public toilet** – another application to the Regeneration Fund had been submitted and there should be a decision in early November.
- 8.3
- **Winter relief fund** – MM advised that nobody has contacted AliEnergy or applied for the relief fund. Suggested that district nurses and health visitors could be asked to mention it to clients. It was agreed to roll it over for another year and try and keep promoting it on social media. JM will check there is still a notice about it on the noticeboards.

AG
JM

9 **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

- 9.1
- Blackrock Community Sports Association
For costs towards insurance, lease of football pitch, solar panels, grass cutter and other equipment.
Total cost £5000, applied for £5000.
APPROVED (by email)
- 9.2
- Kiltearn Primary P7 Parents
For costs towards P7 leaving trip.
Total cost £8442, applied for £540.
It was agreed that this application will be reconsidered after there is evidence of more fundraising carried out.
- 9.3
- Kiltearn Parent Council
For costs towards swimming buses.
Total cost £3000, applied for £3000
It was agreed that the school should ask if Highland Council has bus availability since taking over the operations of D&E Coaches and establishing its own in-house bus services.
The KCC would also like to express their disappointment that only two year groups will be included in swimming lessons considering how important learning to swim is.
- 9.4
- Kiltearn Parent Council
For costs towards two teachers gaining a minibus driving licence.
Total cost £2400, applied for £2400
It was agreed that the school should ask if there are people in the local community who already have this licence and availability to drive a bus to swimming lessons due to high cost of gaining the appropriate licence and limitation on teacher availability over time.

9.5 It was agreed that SD, JM and SC would meet up with Claire Mollet, Chair of Kiltearn Parent Council to discuss these decisions. **JM,SD, SC**

9.6 Kiltearn Parent Council
For costs towards whole school trip.
Total cost £1500, applied for £1500
APPROVED

10 **GROUPS**

- 10.1
- **Evanton Community Trust** – MM advised that the land at the back of the Jubilee Hall has been levelled and gravelled and will soon be fenced. While funding is underway to raise money to build the extension, the area will in the meantime have seating and an edible garden with herbs and fruits for all to make use of.
- 10.2
- **Evanton.online** – Gary handed out a draft of the latest newsletter which was considered very comprehensive and well put together.

11 **AOCB**

- 11.1
- **Kiltearn Konnects** – MF suggested that it would be good to make a presentation at a Kiltearn Konnects meeting to raise the profile of the KCC. It was agreed that this would be a good idea. **MF,JM**
- 11.2
- MF suggested that KCC should look at trying to spruce up the entrance and general signage around the village to make it look nicer and improve the overall image. **JM,MF**
- 11.3
- Since the last meeting the defibrillator at the Blackrock field has now been officially registered and will be regularly serviced.

12 **Next meeting:** Tuesday 11th November 2025 at 7pm

The Chair thanked those present for their attendance.