

Kiltearn Community Council



Minutes –

Held in Ante Room, Diamond Jubilee Hall

Held on Tuesday 11th November 2025

PRESENT

Elected Members

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

Councillors

Cllr Sinclair Coghill
Cllr John Edmondson
Cllr Richard Cross

Public

John Ross
Gary Payne

Item Discussion

1 **Apologies/Welcome**

Apologies noted from Mike Finlayson (MF)

2 **Finance**

- Business Reserve Account: £84,438
- 95 Day Current Account: £51,645
- Business Current Account: £63,117
- Overall Profit/Loss: £18,170

2.1 Cai MacIver, Community Support Officer, to be contacted for advice over having all accounts held within the same bank.

JM,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 14th October 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 he has heard nothing about future plans from Scottish Water. Cllr John Edmondson said that Network Rail have confirmed that neither Scottish Water nor Caledonian Water has contacted

them. Iain Moncrieff has rejected the current application. Cllr John Edmondson said he would write again to Scottish Water.

- 3.2 • **Remembrance Service – Sunday 9th November**
The service went well with good attendance.
- 3.3 • **Disabled Parking bay outside Co-op:** JM advised he had contacted the Highland Council and he is still awaiting a response. JM
- 3.4 • **Nadara Forum** on 30th October at the Kingmills Hotel was attended by JM. No new information arose from it but noted that it was a large event showcasing Nadara's sizable presence in energy projects.
- 3.5 • **Grant applications paused from last month** for school buses fees and P7 trip. JM will write to head teacher with suggestions that were put forward by KCC. Cllr Richard Cross mentioned there may be a need for private individuals driving a mini bus to have business insurance – to be checked. JM

4 Police Report

October Report for Ward 6 has been circulated. Nothing noted in Evanton area. It was felt that there is less police presence in the village at the moment.

- 4.1 Next online Community Council meeting with police for Ward 6, 17th Dec at 6.30pm.

5 Correspondence

- 5.1 • **Notification of roadworks (resurfacing)** 01/12/2025 – 09/12/2025. North of Evanton A9 junction. Nights only with convoy system.
- 5.2 • **Easter Ross Community Partnership** – Friday 28th November 2-4pm. GB offered to attend. GB

6 Councillors updates & things to raise

Cllr John Edmondson

- 6.1 • Cllr John Edmondson said that he is still chasing up the removal of dead trees and cutting back of the hedge outside the school.
- 6.2 • Cllr John Edmondson said it has been confirmed that Highland Council own the strip of land between Teandallon and the new builds and work has begun on clearing it – however, this has been temporarily stopped due to other commitments.
- 6.3 • Cllr John Edmondson reminded about the Transport Forum and for KCC to put in top priorities and transport needs/wishes before 21st November.
- 6.4 • Cllr John Edmondson asked about the KCC Place Plan and MM advised it had been submitted. MM advised to chase up response as nothing had been heard back regarding this. MM
- 6.5 • Ref access routes planned for the big pylon line and battery storage facilities. Cllr John Edmondson voiced concern that there has been no consultation around this and recommended that the KCC make a Participation Request for all transport plans that affect the Kiltarn area. JM and John Ross agreed to look further into the access routes planned for the pylon line. JM

Cllr Sinclair Coghill

- 6.6 • The broken street lamp at the Skiach bridge should now be repaired (to be checked).
- 6.7 • Fyrish Crescent playpark - work started but then temporarily halted due to 'other commitments'.
- 6.8 • Cllr Sinclair Coghill contacted Education ref the Crossing Patroller and they would want to employ the person on a fixed term contract. Discussion with Isobel Sinclair, Payroll, to explore options.
- 6.9 • Cllr Sinclair Coghill said that there may be Highland Council 'Comfort Scheme' funding available for the toilets project. He will send information to MM.

MM

7 ENERGY

- 7.1 JM advised that the Nadara application is now not scheduled to be submitted until February 2026 for the Novar 1 Repowering.
- 7.2 Cllr Richard Cross said that there is concern about changes being made to the energy applications after they have been approved and the way some of these projects are being managed.
- 7.3 Nothing further has yet been heard ref the Ceislein windfarm proposal

8 PROJECTS

- 8.1 • **Village Community Caretaker** –suggestions for additional work tasks are encouraged.
ILM said they will donate a pavement gritter.
It was agreed that the Caretaker needs a number of tools including a hedge trimmer and brush cutter. JM advised a quote of **£1600** and this was **agreed**.
It was previously **agreed** that the Caretaker needs a quad. JM has researched this and following today's meeting all members **agreed** to its purchase with ILM to buy it on our behalf, as per JM's message:
£6,960. The supplier has generously added, free of charge as a contribution to KCC as we are using for community use, the following -
 - 1) *AGRI Registration (allowing road use) and number plate*
 - 2) *Rear Cage Rack (for carrying smaller tools etc)*
 - 3) *Detachable Flashing Beacon (as a warning light as may or may not be required)**INSURANCE. ILM have confirmed that the machine will be added to their block insurance at no cost to KCC.*
DRIVERS. The main driver will be our Village Officer but we, along with BCSA, can add drivers as long as ILM have copies of their driving licences. I would suggest 2 from BCSA and 2 from KCC, but with Chris holding access to the keys as the priority user.
TRAINING. We can arrange as necessary, but the most important thing is that users are confident and aware of how the controls work!
MAINTENANCE. We will have a 2-year parts and labour warrantee.

TRAILER. We have a small trailer (6x3ft) available for use at the moment but hope that a bid by BCSA (Black Rock Community Sports Association) to the Beinn Tarsuinn Fund for a more useful trailer is successful (their application also includes a tractor mower).

JM

- 8.2
- **Public toilet** – Overall the project may require KCC funding of 30K rather than 40k. A Building Warrant has been submitted and is waiting approval. Planning of this project will now be done via a separate meeting subgroup including KCC and ECT. JM & John Ross, along with the Caretaker, agreed to clean the site prior to work starting.

JM,MM

- 8.3
- **Winter relief fund** – MM advised that nobody has contacted AliEnergy or applied for the relief fund. More notifications to be put out on Facebook

- 8.4
- **Christmas** – SM advised that the big 'switch on' event will be on Friday 28th November. Local groups will be involved and there will be a float with Santa. SM has also organised a big tree for the hall as well as outside. MM advised that Keith, Prism Event Lighting, offered to do a lighting display behind the outside tree as well as the hall and church and this was agreed. His costs will be same as last year **£1450 – agreed.**

SM

9 GRANT APPLICATIONS

9.1 Alness Community Association

For costs towards combating dry rot in the Alness Heritage Centre.

Total cost £150,000, applied for £5000.

APPROVED

SD

10 GROUPS

- 10.1
- **Evanton Community Trust** – MM advised that the land at the back of the Jubilee Hall has now been fenced ready for the seating area with edible garden. The extension for that area will probably be underway in approx. 2 – 3 years time. Funding has also been put in for a Community Orchard at the back of the village green and for a covered seating area there. ECT have also applied for funding for a staff member.

- 10.2
- **Evanton.online** – Gary advised that the deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is 10th January 2026. He has asked that he is kept in the loop for local news as it happens rather than later on.

- 10.3
- **Community Cinema** – the next showing will be on 30th November for The Tailor of Inverness with a Q&A from the actor/director. On 5th December Home Alone, and on 28th December Dune. The cinema also now have new equipment.

- 10.4
- **Black Rock Community Sports Association** – SM advised that this is very much in the process of being set up and they are still working on a system for taking bookings for the Sports Hall.

11 AOCB

- 11.1
- **Flower Baskets** – agreed that these can now be taken down and the baskets sent back to Munros for storage until next year. JM, John Ross and the Caretaker to do this.

JM

12 **Next meeting:** Tuesday 9th December 2025 at 7pm.

A good time to reflect on the achievements of 2025 with a mince pie and festive cheer!

The Chair thanked those present for their attendance.