

Kiltearn Community Council



Minutes –

Held in Ante Room, Diamond Jubilee Hall

Held on Tuesday 8th September 2026

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 John Edmondson
Cllr Sinclair Coghill

Public

John Ross
Claire Gordon (Kiltearn Primary Parent Council)

Item Discussion

1 Apologies/Welcome

Apologies noted from Mandy Macleman (MM), Gary Payne, Cllr Richard Cross

2 Finance

- 2.1
- Business Reserve Account: £65,018
 - 95 Day Current Account: £52,693
 - Business Current Account: £1,669
 - Overall Profit/Loss: £11,349

- 2.2 It was agreed that the budget and projections for expenses needs to be looked at/updated.

SD/JM

3 Previous Minutes/Matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of 23rd June 2026, were agreed as proposed by SC and seconded by SM.

- 3.1 • **Defibs** : At Kiltearn House - agreed that there should also be signage in the car park indicating where it is. Micheal to be asked about this.
- 3.2 • **Benches** – still need to be moved from Blackrock field to play park.
- 3.3 • **Port Authority Community Liaison meeting** – JM attended, nothing of note to report.

JM

- 3.4 • **National Emergency Briefing** film request has been made to Community Cinema to show it. Strathpeffer are showing it in October. **GB**
- 3.5 • **Climate Change Committee & Restoration Fund** - Cllr Sinclair Coghill/Cllr John Edmondson are still looking into this.
- 3.6 • **Basketball court at Teandallon play park** surface & goal posts in the park. Still to be looked at. **SM**
- 3.7 • **Overgrown Evanton sign** - Chris trimmed back the grasses/bushes.

4 Correspondence

- 4.1 • **Play Scotland** survey, from Highland Council Play Strategy Co-ordinator, looking for information & views about Council owned playparks. Forward to SM, SC, SD and Kiltteam Primary Parent Council. Deadline 16th September. **SM/SC/SD**
- 4.2 • **Planning Application related training for community councils** – feedback on training that would be needed. Agreed that it would be useful for members to learn more about procedures, timescales and legislation. AG receives emails on all planning applications in the area which she will now forward to members to gain an idea of the information KCC is given. **AG**
- 4.3 • **The Scottish Fire & Rescue Service** – seeking views on the draft Local Fire & Rescue Plan for Highland 2026. The Plan can be viewed and a short consultation survey completed. Agreed to be forwarded to MF for completion. Deadline 15th October. **MF**
- 4.4 • **Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Ltd** – AGM will be held on 14/09/2026. JM will attend & feedback. A director from KCC needs to be appointed. **JM**
- 4.5 • **Greenspace Biodiversity Management Strategy Consultation** – Highland Council seeking views on this. Forward to GB for completion. Deadline 4th Oct. **GB**

5 Police Report

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

- 5.1 Queries raised over what and what is not included in the Report.
- 5.2 MF raised that there have been complaints about motorbikes, trail bikes and quads churning up the river and shore paths. However, those responsible have behaved appropriately. To be monitored.
It would be good for them to be able to have a designated area to do this.
- 5.3 Next Inspectors quarterly meeting will be on 23rd September 2026 and 16th December 2026 at 6.30pm, online.

6 Councillors updates

Cllr Sinclair Coghill

- 6.1 • Cllr Sinclair Coghill highlighted the opportunity to apply to the Morrisons Foundations Connecting Communities funding.

- 6.2
- SD highlighted that the Teandallon play park needs to have a bin, ideally at the end of Hill Terrace. Cllr Sinclair Coghill said he would look into getting this in place.

Cllr John Edmondson:

- 6.3
- Transport Forum – looking to do a walking street audit to highlight any issues such as dropped kerbs, rough paving, bus stops etc. Suggested that it would be good to involve the tri-shaw team and also Gordon Macdonald to highlight any mobility issues. JM & SC agreed to be involved in this.
- 6.4
- JM thanked Cllr John Edmondson and Cllr Sinclair Coghill for pushing to get the bad sections of the back road tarmacked and passing place signs put back up. MF pointed out that the verges still need to be looked at as they have a deep drop offs.
- 6.5
- SC highlighted the difficulties with patients being able to get appointments at the Alness/Invergordon Medical Practice due to a number of issues. It was suggested that the Practice Manager is invited to a KCC meeting.

JM/SC

7 MAJOR ENERGY APPLICATIONS

- 7.1
- **Ceislein Wind Farm** – no further activity on this.
- 7.2
- **Novar 1 repowering** – no application in as yet.
- 7.3
- **Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm**, north of Evanton/Fanny Field – JM will review a recent change that has been made to the application.

JM

8 PROJECTS

- 8.1
- **Toilet** – still no confirmed delivery date. MM is following up.
- 8.2
- **Gala week** – suggested date for last day/school summer fayre 12th June 2027. SM will ask Evan for match dates. Marin Henderson to be asked ref organising a Fyrish Hill race. Survey to be created for feedback/suggestions from the community.
- 8.3
- **Community minibus** – SC advised she had received no further information. To be followed up.
- 8.4
- **Armistice Day** - arrangements need to be finalised. Wreath to be ordered. A member of the armed forces to be asked to lay the wreath. SC suggests scouts could have an input. SM advised she had a PA system that could be used. SM advised she knew of a piper who could attend. Confirmation sought that the minister will do the reading. Confirmation sought of which Councillor will be attending.
- 8.5
- **CHRISTMAS** – SM will liaise with MM for a date that coincides with the Xmas Market (Sat 29th Nov?), so likely Fri 28th Nov for lights switch on. JM will ensure Christmas lights are up in time. SM will contact Martin Henderson for a suitable Christmas tree. School will asked to take part in a 'design a Christmas light' competition – SM will send the template for this. SC will ask Johnny Bremner for music. MF said it would be good if both churches could have a joint service.

MM

SM

SC

SC/SM/
JM/MF

JM/SM/
SC/MF

9 NEW PROJECTS

- 9.1 • **Training café** – not discussed this time.
- 9.2 • **Co-opt a younger person onto the committee** – not discussed this time.
- 9.3 • **Memorial steps renovation** – not discussed this time.

10 VILLAGE OFFICER

- 10.1 JM & SD are going to have a meeting with ILM ref Chris's appraisal and discuss how to progress with his work role. His employment has been a great success and is positive for the village.

11 Village Groups

11.1 Evanton Community Trust

A new member of staff has been appointed with a view to them concentrating on marketing the Jubilee Hall and increase its usage.

11.2 Black Rock Community Sports Association

Discussions are still ongoing ref the hire of the Sports Hall and Highlife Highland. Over at least the last year there have been numerous meetings with Highlife Highland where they have specifically stated that the booker needs to be a constituted group with charitable status and the creation of the Sports Association clearly covered all the requirements. However, JM advised that just 2 weeks ago Highlife Highland have now completely u-turned and said that they are not willing to accept bookings via the new Sports Association due to the hall being an 'unmanned facility'. JM has asked why the hall can't be leased/subleased but this was declined as not possible. JM saw a copy of the Highlife Highland lease and a clause states that they can allow occupation of the premises if approved by Highland Council. Negotiations still ongoing. JM

11.3 Kiltearn Primary Parent Council

- Claire advised that the school defib will be fitted this week.
- They are still looking at various ways to try and fill the crossing patroller position.
- Swimming lessons – a survey was carried out, 38 parents responded and 37 of them wanted lessons to continue, 35 said they were willing to contribute towards bus cost. The Parent Council continues to look at transport options. Cllr John Edmondson advised that the Transport Forum wants to look at ways to integrate these services more.

11.4 Evanton Community Cinema

GB advised that they have a full programme over the next seven months. It was discussed that it can be hard deciding on a day that is most convenient for most people to attend.

12 AOCB

- 12.1 • Nadira trip – discussion over who will attend. JM will go if Billy cannot. JM

- 12.2
- SD reported that there is a split tree hovering over the pavement at the Skiach bridge that needs to be cut back, the hedge opposite the school still needs to be cut back and the dead trees by the Sports Hall have still not been dealt with. Cllr John Edmondson said that he would speak to Gary, Highland Council.
- 12.3
- **Evanton online** – Gary Payne sent an email to be read out:

I hope you are all well and have enjoyed your summer. Please accept my apologies to the meeting on Tuesday 8th Sept. and ask if this letter can be included at item;

8. Updates from Village Groups

It is my intention to fully restart production of 'The Evanton Post' and the total rebuild and update of the website; Evanton.Online. The popularity and following of them both have continued despite my poor attentions through various setbacks and health matters. This also gives reason for my continued search for a volunteer or helper.

The next Newsletter will be entitled 'October 2026, Issue 19' (closing date 18th October) giving time to invite KCC to supply the current position of the village news and views as is usual on page 1.

I take this chance to thank you all for the support and articles in the past and hope to see you all at the next meeting.

With Best Regards Gary

- 13
- Next meeting:** Tuesday 6th October 2026 – early due to school holidays

The Chair thanked those present for their attendance.