

Minutes of Meeting held at 19:15 on Wednesday 17th October 2012, at Kilmallie Hall

Present

- **Kilmallie Community Council**
- Christine Hutchison
- Mandy Ketchin
- Russell Leaper
- Maggie Mackenzie (Chair)
- Kshama Wilmington
- **Highland Councillors**
- Allan Henderson
- **Apologies**
- Jillian Clark
- Jan MacLugash
- Bill Clark
- Eddie Hunter

1. Opening remarks

The chair welcomed the participation of seven members of the community, commenting that this was the largest attendance so far for a KCC meeting.

2. Approval of previous minutes

The minutes of 19/09/2012 were approved.

3. Treasurer's report

Treasurer's report was presented. Current monies available are £3252.56

4. Presentation from John Stafford (Scottish Canals)

John Stafford (local operations manager) gave a presentation on the operation of the canal, including the locks and swing bridges for the road and rail crossings. Overall boat traffic has remained fairly stable over the last few years and the development of the Great Glen canoe trail has proven very popular. John described the procedures for minimising the disruption to traffic along the A830 caused by opening of the Banavie swing bridge. These include measures to ensure the emergency services are not delayed. Concerns had been expressed about the delays to traffic caused by bridge swings but it was agreed that current procedures minimise these as far as possible. However, it was suggested that more information could be provided and circulated by KCC on times of day when the chance of being held up were greatest. Scottish Canals keep a detailed log of all bridge swings and the length of time the road is closed for.

5. Community use of Lochaber High School facilities

There is now widespread support to site a new indoor sports pitch facility at Lochaber High School. Many groups are currently not aware of the facilities available for community use at the High School and it was agreed to approach the High School to request a short piece for the newsletter about what facilities were available and how to access them.

6. Road safety and speed limits through Corpach

KCC wrote to local MSP Dave Thompson and also list MSPs for Highlands and Islands (Rhoda Grant, Jamie McGrigor, David Stewart, John Finnie, Jean Urquhart, Mary Scanlon, Mike MacKenzie) outlining the case for extending the 30mph zone. The positive responses to these letters from the MSPs was very encouraging. It was agreed to contact Chief Inspector Derek Paterson, acting area commander for Northern Constabulary who had indicated to Councillor Henderson that he also supported a speed limit reduction. Unfortunately a report prepared for Transport Scotland had recommended no change to Corpach speed limits. KCC will approach Transport Scotland to present the technical case and demonstrate the local concern and support from Councillors and MSPs for the 30mph limit. An article also appeared in the Oban Times (Corpach speed cut call – 26/10/2012).

A positive development is that buses will now turn at Annat allowing school children to get off on the north side of the road and avoiding the need for them to cross the fast moving traffic.

Considerable concerns were expressed about the speed of traffic on the A830 in the vicinity of Banavie rail station and swing bridge. The sight lines for pedestrians crossing the road there are poor and many visitors are not prepared for fast moving traffic. It was agreed to push for a 40mph limit from the existing 30mph zone in Corpach across the Blar to the new roundabout. (**Action** RL contact Derek Paterson and Bob Mitchell, Transport Scotland)

7. Association of Lochaber Community Councils

MM and CH had attended a meeting of ALCC designed to revive the association. The meeting had been well attended with representatives from Arisaig and Morar, Nether Lochaber, Fort William, Inverlochy and Torlundy Community Councils present. An extensive schedule of meetings where Community Councils could be represented was circulated but with limited time available it was agreed to focus on meetings where members are available to attend and the subject is of particular interest to the group. KCC has previously offered web space for the Association and it was agreed to repeat that offer.

8. Grit bins

Highland Council had requested suggestions from the community for places where additional grit bins could most usefully be located. The junction with the old road and the B8004 beside the old police station in Banavie was suggested as a possible location to put forward. The bottom of the hill at Hillview Drive has also been suggested.

9. Next meeting

The next meeting will be 21st November at 19:15 in Kilmallie Hall.

Distribution

By email to all KCC members, Cllr Bill Clark, Prov Allan Henderson, Cllr Eddie Hunter, Elizabeth Toal (HC), Lochaber Archive Centre, Maureen McColl (ALCC)

Paper copy to Corpach, Banavie notice boards