

Minutes of Meeting held at 19:15 on Wednesday 19th June 2013, at Kilmallie Hall

Present

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

1. Approval of previous minutes

The minutes of 15/05/2012 were approved.

2. Treasurer's report

3. Matters arising

At a previous meeting concerns had been raised about broken glass at a former play park in Corpach used by the local playgroup. KCC welcomed efforts of local residents who had cleaned this up.

Concerns had been raised that a sign on Moy Bridge saying that there was no pedestrian access was in contravention of the Access Code. This was confirmed by the local access officer. It was agreed that it would also be useful to reinstate the sign on the B8004 indicating the path to Moy Bridge.

4. Scottish Canals consultation on camping pods at Banavie

A team from Scottish Canals described plans for the construction of up to 9 small buildings and a facility block beside the canal on the south side of the Banavie basin. These 'camping pods' would each provide accommodation for two people. The aim is to provide simple accommodation at various locations along the canal between Corpach and Inverness using a consistent style of building. The main objective is to generate revenue. A prototype of the pod design is currently being built and will be ready by the end of July. Scottish Canals will also employ a warden to clean up any litter and address any anti-social behaviour. The warden will cover several locations along the canal. Scottish Canals had held a drop in consultation in the Moorings Hotel in order to get comments and suggestions from the community. The intention is to incorporate comments the comments received and revise the proposals accordingly wherever possible. Scottish Canals will inform KCC of the revised proposals before any planning application is submitted. Although all the planning application will be submitted at the same time, the concept will be tested in other locations where there is more demand and need than at Banavie. Scottish Canals indicated that they intend to submit a planning application within the next two months.

KCC members noted general disappointment that having abandoned the consultation process for a masterplan for developments related to the canal between Corpach and Gairloch, Scottish Canals were now approaching developments in a piecemeal way. KCC re-iterated the need for a well thought out approach with broad support that maximises the benefits from, and preserves the unique aspects of, the canal. Scottish Canals acknowledged the failings of the previous consultation process and stressed that this had been initiated by British Waterways before it was broken up. Now Scottish Canals have responsibility for all canals in Scotland. Although the same

senior managers are still involved, KCC was assured that the mistakes of the previous consultation would not be repeated.

Concerns were raised over competition with local businesses providing accommodation. However the Scottish Canal's team responded that they believed the planned extra marketing would expand the local accommodation demand and help local businesses. Other concerns were raised over the design of the pods and the potential visual impact. The planned area also includes the track of the old railway line which served Banavie Pier and has significant historical significance.

5. Highland Council Consultation on Managing Obstructions within the Adopted Road

It was agreed that this consultation was not high priority for KCC but MM offered to look into it further. (Action: MM)

6. Association of Lochaber Community Councils (ALCC)

The June meeting of the Association of Lochaber Community Councils (ALCC) had to be cancelled but KCC had been represented at previous meetings. ALCC have raised concerns over apparent lack of interest from Community Councils. KCC continues to support having an association but does not believe regular meetings are necessary unless there are specific issues that would benefit from wider discussion amongst CCs.

7. Micro hydro schemes

KCC has recently considered two planning applications for micro hydro power schemes but has not made any representations. We do not know if Highland Council has an overall policy on allowing micro hydro schemes within an area. KCC will write to Highland Council asking what the overall policy is to ensure that micro hydro schemes are located in the best locations that also minimise environmental and other impacts. (Action: RL)

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