

Minutes of Meeting held at 19:45 on Wednesday 15th January 2014, at Kilmallie Community Centre

Present

- **Kilmallie Community Council**
- Christine Hutchison
- Mandy Ketchin
- Russell Leaper
- Maggie Mackenzie (Chair)
- Jan MacLugash
- Kshama Wilmington
- Andy Bilton (Northern Constabulary)
- **Apologies**
- Eddie Hunter
- Bill Clark

1. Approval of previous minutes

The minutes of 20/11/2013 were approved.

2. Treasurer's report

Current monies available are £3432

3. Update from Kilmallie Christmas Tree and Lights Fund

KCC congratulated the group on organising the lighting up event as well as on the lights themselves. Quite a few people came from outside of Kilmallie and so it is hoped this can become an annual event for the wider area as well as just Kilmallie. KW reported that the group had taken possession of the lights and were grateful to the Community Centre for storing them. Future costs should be less than this year but there will still need to be a fundraising effort. The group will try and avoid clashing with KCC newsletter funding requests.

4. Road Safety in Corpach

KCC has previously made requests to Transport Scotland for reduced speed limits along the A830 and a pedestrian crossing close to the Co-op store. Some of these have progressed but they have not all been presented together as a single plan. It was agreed to pursue further efforts to improve road safety and pedestrian confidence within a plan that presents a coherent vision for the section of road between the Lochybridge roundabout and Annat Pt. This will be included in the next newsletter to gather feedback from the community. (**Action:** RL to prepare draft plan for comment)

5. Mount Alexander fly tipping

Residents have reported to KCC that fly tipping at Mount Alexander continues to be a problem. Following previous complaints from KCC, SEPA recognised that this was a problem that they took very seriously but apparently have not taken any action. It was agreed to follow up with further letters to SEPA to try to get action to resolve the issue. (**Action:** RL to follow up with SEPA)

6. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service draft plan

A draft plan by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is open for comment until 14 February. Noting the serious hill fires that had occurred following an exceptionally dry spell in 2013 it was agreed to make specific recommendations for actions to help avoid such incidents that could be included in the plan. (**Action:** RL to make suggestions)

7. Garden competitions and trophies

A number of trophies are being stored at the Community Centre but currently there is no garden competition. Corpach in Colour and Banavie Floral Improvements had been contacted and hoped to start the garden competition again in 2014. Until then the Community Centre has offered to continue to store the trophies.

8. Banavie Quarry

Some residents had contacted KCC with concerns over the strength of blasting at the quarry and a lack of advance warning for a blast in 2013. RL drew attention to the Quarry Liaison group and that he was the KCC representative. The Liaison group should be the first point of contact for any issues related to the quarry and it is helpful to all concerned if any problems are reported as soon as possible.

9. Police update

AB reported that the police had moved into new station on the Blar and were very pleased with the new facilities. A road policing unit is now based in Fort William and will allow a quicker response to accidents. The Police have also been gathering statistics for speed cameras in Corpach that could be relevant to KCC's road safety campaign. The Ambulance service will move in to the joint premises in the next few weeks.

10. Scottish Canals Consultation

Scottish Canals held a consultation event on 11/12/2013 to present plans for Neptune's Staircase and Banavie which was attended by nearly 50 people. KCC thanked MK for her notes from the meeting to supplement photographs of the flip charts produced by Scottish Canals during the meeting (see www.kilmallie.org.uk). Scottish Canals have asked MK to be the community representative on a judging panel for designs of future projects.

11. Website and social media

It was agreed to allocate space in the newsletter and provide finance for a competition to promote Facebook. Some members noted that they were not prepared to use Facebook themselves because of concerns about the company's ethics. In addition, it was agreed to develop the web site further with forum facilities, Facebook and Twitter links. This will require funds but some monies have already been allocated. Rob Mason informed KCC of a project to establish a community website for Lochaber. KCC welcomed this initiative and it was agreed to ensure appropriate links between this and the KCC website. (**Action:** MM to organise competition and monitor Facebook posts)

12. Resignation of Eddie Hunter

KCC had been informed that Councillor Hunter had resigned for personal reasons and expressed appreciation for all his work over the years.

13. Venue for future KCC meetings

There was some discussion about the rising cost of the meeting venue. It was agreed to reduce costs by holding four meetings a year (August – November) in the High School while continuing to support the Community Centre for six meetings a year (January – June).

14. Next meeting

The next meeting of KCC will be on Wednesday February 19 at **19:45** (note later start time than usual) in the Kilmallie Community Centre.

Distribution

By email to all KCC members, Cllr Bill Clark, Cllr Allan Henderson, Cllr Eddie Hunter, Elizabeth Toal (HC), Lochaber Archive Centre, Maureen McColl (ALCC)
Paper copy to Corpach, Banavie notice boards

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