

Minutes of Meeting held at 19:45 on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014, at Kilmallie Community Centre

**Present**

- **Kilmallie Community Council**
- Mandy Ketchin
- Russell Leaper
- Jan MacLugash
- Kshama Wilmington
- Joan MacIver (Northern Constabulary)
- **Apologies**
- Bill Clark
- Allan Henderson
- Christine Hutchison
- Maggie Mackenzie
- Andy Bilton

**1. Approval of previous minutes**

The minutes of 15/01/2014 were approved.

**2. Treasurer's report**

Current monies available are £3424

**3. Declarations of interest**

All of the KCC members that were present at the meeting live beside the canal in Banavie and may be directly affected by Scottish Canals' plans for developments along the canal towpath. Full details of the planned development are not yet available. KCC members will decide if they need to declare an interest when Scottish Canals have finalised the details.

**4. Road Safety in Corpach**

A draft plan for identifying known hazards and presenting road safety improvements along the A830 between Lochybridge roundabout and Annat Pt. was agreed. Joan MacIver welcomed the plan and noted that road safety improvements were long overdue. The plan will be included as a colour A3 insert in the next newsletter to gather further community feedback. Additional copies will be produced and Joan MacIver offered to distribute these to schools during her liaison visits.

KCC welcomed the news that Scottish Ministers had approved the proposed speed limit reductions for the Blar. These include a 30mph limit from Lochybridge to the Blar roundabout and then 40mph between the roundabout and the 30mph zone entering Corpach. A particular concern is for pedestrians crossing by the bridge over the canal and this will now be a 40mph limit rather than the current 60mph.

**5. Scottish Fire and Rescue Plan consultation**

The draft plan by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service which is open for comment had been discussed at the previous meeting. At that time particular concerns had been expressed about wildfires including suggestions for reducing the risks associated with these. However, the new Wildfire Operational Guidance published by Scottish Government in October 2013 largely covers these concerns and it was agreed that no further action was needed.

**6. Scottish Canals plans for Banavie**

MK summarised information provided by Scottish Canals on their plans for the car park at Neptune's Staircase. These are not yet finalised and KCC will be submitting comments. A

major concern is the proposal to charge for parking. It was felt that this would be unacceptable to the community for a number of reasons. Local people have been using the current parking area for many years for brief stops for walks or to use the play park. In addition many visiting motorists are likely to park along the adjacent roads causing inconvenience and hazards in order to avoid parking charges. The setting of Neptune's Staircase is not appropriate for an urbanised car park with a barrier; this will deter visitors to the canal and the wider area. Stone walls and a barrier could be seen as symbolic of Scottish Canals attitude towards the community.

Other concerns about Scottish Canals' plans include felling trees between the current car park and the canal, a poor landscaping design that detracts from the canal and surrounding landscape, proposed coach parking closer to the B8004 directly in front of Crown Cottages, and moving the KCC notice board to a less convenient location.

It was agreed to invite Scottish Canals to review their plans taking these concerns into account before taking any further action.

(**Action:** Summarise all the concerns discussed so far in a letter to Scottish Canals)

#### **7. Banavie war memorial**

CH had been investigating funding for restoration work and to improve access to the memorial. There are national grant schemes to cover such work and Highland Council may also have limited funding. It was agreed to try and seek a volunteer to prepare a grant application.

#### **8. Community forest acquisitions and woodland crofts**

KCC had been in touch with the Forestry Commission to gather more information about possibilities for community activities on Forestry Commission land. Jamie McIntyre has agreed to give a presentation at the next meeting.

#### **9. Next meeting**

The next meeting of KCC will be on Wednesday March 19 in the new Police station on the Blar.

#### 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), Andy Bilton (Northern Constabulary)

Paper copy to Corpach, Banavie notice boards