



COMHAIRLE COIMHEARSNACHD CILL MHÁLAIDH
KILMALLIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at 19:45 on Wednesday 19th March 2014, at Police and Ambulance Station

Present

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

1. Meeting venue

KCC would like to thank Andy Bilton for taking the time to give us a tour of the new Police station on the Blar and for hosting the meeting.

2. Approval of previous minutes

The minutes of 19/02/2014 were approved.

3. Treasurer's report

Current monies available are £3400

4. Local council by-election

Following the resignation of Councillor Eddie Hunter, a by-election for a new councillor for the Caol and Mallaig ward of Highland Council will be held on 1 May. The deadline for nominations is 27 March. In previous elections there has been very little information provided for the electorate on the policies and aspirations of prospective candidates. KCC will investigate ways to ensure that the community receives better information prior to the by-election.

5. Banavie war memorial

CH submitted a proposal to the War Memorials Trust to improve access to the memorial with a handrail and new steps. The proposal also included seating benches close to the road, half way up and by the memorial itself. The Trust had indicated that it would consider the access work for funding but not the benches. Funding will cover 75% of the costs and so additional funds will need to be sought. (**Action:** CH to complete full proposal and also identify and contact the land owner and owner of the memorial)

6. Community forest acquisitions and woodland crofts

Jamie McIntyre gave a presentation about Woodland Crofts and the National Forest Land Scheme. A woodland croft is a croft (i.e. an area of land whose occupation and cultivation is subject to the Crofting Acts) with sufficient tree cover overall to be considered a woodland under UK forestry policy. Woodland crofts offer the possibilities to use the land in a number of ways either as an owner or a tenant (see www.woodlandcrofts.org). The National Forest Land Scheme offers opportunities for communities to purchase or lease land from the Forestry Commission. This could be for a range of uses including recreational activities and renewable energy schemes. The community can make proposals even if the land is not for sale. Community Acquisition is in addition to the community's right to buy under the Land Reform

Act. There is currently considerable interest in community woodland in Kilmallie and the presentation was much appreciated.

7. Go Wild on the Canal – 17 May

There will be a public event around Neptune's Staircase and Banavie basin with water activities and wildlife displays. KCC hope to have a presence as part of an ongoing effort to attract new members.

8. Dumping at Mount Alexander

KCC have written to SEPA several times expressing concern about ongoing dumping of waste at Mount Alexander beside the Allt Mor burn. Piles of waste are visible from the Great Glen Way. Although the response from SEPA stated that action was being taken, these actions were the same as promised two years ago and no progress has been made in that time. It was agreed to write to SEPA again asking for an expected date to implement the actions that they are pursuing. KCC will also offer to raise the profile of the issue through the media and with Highland Council in order to assist SEPA in addressing the problem. (**Action:** RL to write to SEPA again)

9. Coordination between Community Councils to assist Highland Council improve services

KCC had been contacted by Kilmuir CC regarding ways in which community councils could work better with Highland Council and to ensure that public bodies take community views into account in the way that they operate. This covers a very wide range of issues and there was not time to go into them in detail. It was agreed to continue discussions with a view to developing specific actions and recommendations.

10. Next meeting

The next meeting of KCC will be on Wednesday April 16 in Kilmallie Community Centre

Distribution

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