

Minutes of Meeting held at 19:15 on Wednesday 19 August 2015, at Kilmallie Community Centre

Present

- **Kilmallie Community Council**
- Carol Anne Campbell
- Christine Hutchison
- Mandy Ketchin (Chair)
- Russell Leaper
- Jan MacLugash
- **Highland Councillors**
- Allan Henderson
- **Apologies**
- Geoff Heathcote
- Kshama Wilmington
- Ben Thompson
- Andy Bilton

1. Approval of previous minutes

The minutes of the meeting on June 17 were approved.

2. Treasurers Report

The total balance available was £5076.11. This included £785 available in the Community Fund.

3. Police Update

Concerns had been raised to AH about enquiries in person at the police station on the Blar. The current system is that the intercom at the station goes through to the control room in Inverness. If the enquiry requires a response from a police officer, the control room will contact local staff on the radio to return to the station and speak with the member of the public. If the enquiry does not require a response or is considered not urgent then the member of the public might be asked to come back at another time. This process is not clear to people calling at the station who are often left waiting outside uncertain about what is happening. It was agreed to raise these concerns with Police Scotland.

4. Road issues and speed limit signs

A resident in Locheilside had drawn attention to speeding along that section of the A830 and hazards to pedestrians there. KCC contacted Police Scotland whose Road Policing unit will investigate this.

5. Kilmallie Cemetery Fence

Complaints had been received about the state of the fence and adjacent areas. These had now been addressed and KCC received a message that residents were very pleased with the work that had been done.

6. Proposals for Corpach Marina

KCC had submitted a summary of responses and suggestions related to the marina proposals to the Corpach Marina company.

7. Banavie Quarry Liaison group

There had been concerns over recent blasts at the quarry. RL noted that the liaison group had not met for some time due to changes in staff at Breedon Aggregates. However, he had been in touch with Adrian Howe, the general manager (west) and a meeting will be organised in the near future.

8. West Highland & Islands Local Development Plan (WHILDP)

Highland Council has now published responses to the call for sites and ideas. KCC plan to produce a Community Planning Charter for inclusion in the WHILDP. The content of the Charter will be the subject of participative consultation within the Kilmallie Community. (**Action:** convene small group meeting in September to consider the sites proposed and how to progress the consultation on a Community Planning Charter)

9. Scottish Canals proposals for Banavie

KCC had received notification on 14 August of a new competition for a structure at Neptune's Staircase, Banavie on land owned by Scottish Canals as part of the Scenic Routes initiative. Closing date for entries is 31 August. It was agreed that the £60,000 of public money available would be most effectively used if the designs take into account the views of the local community and the special aspects of the location. It is unfortunate that the timescale of the competition will make it difficult for entrants to gain a real understanding of the area. The design brief also makes no mention of consideration of the previous consultations organised by Scottish Canals. The brief also refers to Corpach train station as a short stroll away but makes no mention of Banavie station. This highlights concerns over the lack of knowledge of the area by those involved. One suggestion was that the structure could be a centrepiece for the Banavie play park, giving something that could be enjoyed by all ages. This could meet the design brief of providing a frame for photographs of Ben Nevis while being fun and functional. KCC would like to see the money spent on something that can be used and enjoyed by both locals and visitors. The project will only be a success if it produces something that people actually like and want.

A key concern is that the plans associated with the brief continue to include car park barriers to block free public access to the car park. KCC has previously communicated to Scottish Canals the strength of local opposition to car parking charges. In response, Scottish Canals had promised 'time to properly consult on all of the points raised' but this had not yet happened.

It was agreed to prepare a press release to make people aware of the initiative and to suggest more time be allowed for competition entrants to gain a better understanding of the area including the aspirations of the community. MK had agreed to be part of the judging panel. (**Action:** RL to prepare press release)

10. Interest and potential sites for allotments

Highland Council had asked KCC to advise on local interest in allotments and potential sites. Provision of allotments is a core component of the Scottish Government's Community Empowerment Act. Informal consultations had shown considerable interest in some form of horticultural association that would provide growing space for those without land or gardens, but also facilities such as community polytunnels to assist those with land to make the best use of their growing opportunities. (**Action:** RL to respond to Highland Council request and follow up on suggested locations)

11. Human waste at Neptune's Staircase car park

Complaints had been received about the use of the trees around Neptune's Staircase car park as a toilet. It had been suggested that this was related to overnight use by camper vans, but this seems unlikely since most camper vans have toilet facilities. An estimated 50,000 visitors a year visit Neptune's Staircase but there are currently no public toilets. When KCC discussed the planning application for the Moorings Hotel extension one of the considerations was the provision of public toilets as part of the plan. The plans were to provide 'toilets accessed directly from the outside which will be made available to the visitors of the Neptune's Staircase tourist attraction without the need for these visitors to come into the hotel or use the cafe facilities'. There is currently no sign of these facilities or any indication that the cafe toilets are available for public use. (**Action:** RL to write to Moorings asking when the toilets are likely to be built)

12. Banavie swing bridge

A car driver had contacted KCC regarding delays to road traffic at the swing bridge. John Stafford from Scottish Canals had responded to this, but it was also agreed that it would be useful to further publicise the analysis of data on bridge swings which allowed people to plan their journeys to minimise the risk of delays.

13. Town Team

The work done by the Town Team in Fort William including gardening and painting had made a real difference to the area. There was some discussion about how to encourage similar activities in Kilmallie including featuring this in the newsletter.

14. Community Council elections

The current KCC will be dissolved on 17 November. There are a number of key dates related to elections for new KCC members;

16/09/2015	Closing date for 16 and 17 year old electors, wishing to stand as candidates, to be included in Supplementary Register
02/10/2015	Closing date for electors to be included in Supplementary Register for 16 and 17 year olds wishing to vote in the Community Council Election.
06/10/2015	Latest date for lodging Nomination Papers – papers must be received by 4.00 p.m.
08/10/2015	Latest date for withdrawal of Nomination Papers – notification in writing must be given by 4.00 p.m.
18/11/2015	Election day if more than 8 nominations received - postal ballot papers must be received by 12 noon.

It was agreed to contact the High School to make sure that this information had reached pupils who would be eligible to vote or stand.

It was agreed that there was a need to encourage more people to consider standing for KCC. The current geographic spread of members is also not representative of the area and more members are required from Corpach and westwards. (**Action:** CAC to produce a leaflet with information on joining KCC)

15. Next meeting

The next meeting of KCC will be at 19:15 on Wednesday 21 October 2015 at Kilmallie Community Centre (main hall)

Distribution

By email to all KCC members, Cllr Bill Clark, Cllr Allan Henderson, Cllr Ben Thompson, Elizabeth Toal (HC), Lochaber Archive Centre, Maureen McColl (ALCC), Andy Bilton

Paper copy to Corpach, Banavie notice boards

Chair – Mandy Ketchin – chairman@kilmallie.org.uk
Secretary – Russell Leaper – secretary@kilmallie.org.uk
Treasurer – Jan MacLugash – treasurer@kilmallie.org.uk
www.kilmallie.org.uk