

Minutes of Meeting held at 19:15 on Monday 23 October 2017, at Kilmallie Community Centre

Present

Kilmallie Community Council

- Christine Hutchison (Chair)
- Mandy Ketchin
- Russell Leaper

- Cllr Allan Henderson
- Cllr Ben Thompson
- Andy Bilton (Police Scotland)

Apologies

- Carol Anne Campbell
- Jan MacLugash

1. Approval of previous minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 25 September 2017 had been previously approved by email. The chair noted that with only three members present, no decisions would be taken at the meeting.

2. Treasurer's report

The total balance available on 01/10/2017 was £3834.01

3. Police Update

Andy Bilton has a new job with the CID in Fort William and will no longer be able to attend Community Council meetings. Members congratulated Andy on his new job and thanked him for all his help and support over several years. KCC looks forward to working with the new representative from Police Scotland.

4. Complaints of noise from Annat Point

Graeme Corner (Senior Environmental Health Officer) had provided an update by email on works by BSW to address noise issues. BSW had also advised Highland Council that none of these were required for them to meet their current planning permission obligations. The works include:

- Relocation of the mobile chipper away from noise sensitive properties and to a better shielded location.
- Design drawings for acoustic panels for the mill infeed have now been prepared by an engineering consultancy and the civil and steelwork elements have gone to the tender stage.
- Smaller scale works are currently being undertaken on the sawline extraction system again for the purposes of minimise noise emissions.

Kilmallie Community Council had also passed on complaints regarding noise from loading of logs onto vessels at Boyd's pier. GC had advised that these activities were probably being undertaken within hours permitted by the planning consent and as such any investigation by the Environmental Health Service would be under statutory nuisance provisions.

A number of points were noted in discussion. KCC had received complaints of noise from a number of different sources and it was often difficult to identify which operator was responsible. For action to be taken, any complaints need to be made directly to Environmental Health. Noise diaries are critical to identifying the source of the noise, but to date only three have been returned to Environmental Health.

Chair – Christine Hutchison chairman@kilmallie.org.uk
Secretary – Russell Leaper secretary@kilmallie.org.uk
Treasurer – Jan MacLugash treasurer@kilmallie.org.uk
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It was agreed to contact any residents that had been sent noise diaries to remind people to send these to Environmental Health.

5. Dumping at Mount Alexander

Kilmallie Community Council (RL) met with SEPA officials (Jim Frame and Linda MacLeod) on 18 October to discuss the next steps that might be taken to stop the dumping and clear up the site. SEPA stressed that it is a difficult situation because of the ongoing uncertainty about land ownership. It seems most likely that the land where the worst of the dumping has occurred will revert to crown ownership, but action to prevent further dumping, such as gates and fences would need to involve other landowners including Locheil estates. SEPA do have an ongoing investigation into who is involved in the dumping. They have been trying to make their presence felt over recent months and believe that that has reduced the amount of illegal dumping that is going on. Because it is an ongoing investigation the information they can give on this is limited. The police have been helping SEPA with enquiries and they appreciated the greater police engagement. SEPA's advice is that it would likely do more harm than good to disturb the area by trying to remove the historic waste from previous decades (including cars and white goods). They were reasonably confident there were no current pollution issues but that disturbing the waste could create such problems.

6. Possible pedestrian crossings of A830 at Corpach and Banavie

Kilmallie Community Council had met with David Devine of Transport Scotland on 2 October to discuss possible crossing designs. It was clear from the road engineering study that the current situation at both Banavie and Corpach creates an unnecessarily high level of risk to crossing pedestrians. The risk to crossing pedestrians has been assessed to be such that it is not safe to install crossings at the optimum locations at either Banavie or Corpach. This is due to a combination of currently poor sightlines and vehicle speeds.

At Banavie swing bridge the sightlines are currently very limited due to the structure of the road bridge. These sightlines are also deceptive and many people are not aware that their view of oncoming traffic is limited to the extent that it is. The current speed limit is 40mph and the data suggest that there is reasonable compliance (85percentile around 40mph). Maintaining these traffic speeds would require placing the crossing 95m away from the desired crossing point. It was agreed that this is not a realistic option since the crossing would be unlikely to be used and the majority of pedestrians would continue to cross at the current locations. Therefore the only option is to reduce traffic speeds.

At the Corpach Co-op the current parking on both sides of the road presents a high risk at the natural crossing point using the current traffic island. There is more scope for different crossing locations than at Banavie because there is not such an obvious crossing route. However, all the options put forward would result in the complete loss of parking on one or other side of the road (depending on the crossing location). It was agreed that any of the options put forward could cause difficulties and thus more consideration and consultation was required.

KCC contacted Transport Scotland to pass on all the comments and suggestions related to the crossing options, but was not able to recommend a particular option.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting of KCC will be at 19:15 on Monday 27 November 2017 at Kilmallie Community Centre.