



COMHAIRLE COIMHEARSNACHD CILL MHÀLAIDH
KILMALLIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minute of Meeting held on Monday 28th January 2019
at Kilmallie Community Centre**

Present:

Christine Hutchison (Chair) (CH)
Jan MacLugash (JML)
Carol Anne Campbell (CAC)
Mandy Ketchin (MK)
Jim Ramsay (JR)

In attendance:

Cllr Ben Thompson (BT)
Cllr Denis Rixson (DR)
Cllr Allan Henderson (AH)

Over one hundred members of the public attended.

Press representatives from Lochaber Times and Press & Journal

1. **Apologies:** Russell Leaper.

The Chair welcomed the large number of people attending and explained that she had been asked by Alasdair Ferguson whether an additional item could be placed on the Agenda regarding a Proposed Waste Transfer Station. The KCC had agreed that this would appear as a named item rather than under AOCB to allow the public to be aware of the matter. That, together with publicising on the KCC Facebook page, had no doubt led to the large turnout but she emphasised that tonight was the regular KCC meeting, not a public meeting for the proposal. The matter would be raised after Item 6.

2. **Declarations of Interest** None.

3. **Minute of Previous Meeting on 26th November**

Proposed by JR with JML seconding.

CH updated the meeting on some issues raised at last month's meeting:

- Hillview Drive. Pavement parking is a Police concern and this has been raised with Ross McCartney, Liaison Officer. The Roads Dept. is going to put monitoring equipment on the road to record speed of cars; potholes have been filled.
- KCC has been trying to get the results of the Corpach Deepwater Port Feasibility Study carried out by HIE to no avail.
- People had been experiencing delays at the swing bridge before 9am – BT awaiting response from Scottish Canals.

4. **Police Update**

No report as Sgt Ross McCartney did not attend.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

Total balance £1750.23 + £435 community fund. With Council budget cut, and no current other funding attained for community newsletter, the CC agreed to add the community fund back into to the total balance to help with costs. The CC

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agreed that they wished to keep the Newsletter free for all residents of Kilmallie as it still remains the best way of getting information out into the community. A member of the public reminded everyone that donations are always welcome.

6. Update on FW 2040 Vison and Blar Mor Masterplan

BT advised that Scott Dalgarno had presented the FW 2040 report to the Lochaber Area Committee in November but he was asked to liaise further with the community and then bring it back to the Committee. It was passed last week and they are now working on a final Masterplan.

On being asked what had happened regarding a gas storage plant at Corpach, BT advised had all gone quiet re the port development at Corpach which was being looked into by Boyds and HIE. Although BT advised that the consultation had found broadly that the public wish to lower heating bills so would welcome LNG (liquid natural gas), KCC expressed concern that widespread community objections to the LNG gas storage proposals at Corpach (made at both Sept and Dec consultations) had not been adequately represented in the report.

AH advised that the main point arising from the Lochaber Area Committee's consideration of the FW 2040 Plan was to assure community councils that they will be involved and that the Planners are looking to meet with the Association of Fort William Area Community Councils with the next consultation within 1 month.

7. Proposed Domestic Waste Transfer Building

The Chair explained that the proposals for a Waste Transfer Unit stem from Highland Council, and that Andy Summers, Head of Environment & Amenity, and Andy Tuckwood, Waste Operations Manager were attending to represent them, with Duncan Kelly representing Alasdair Ferguson's interests. She reiterated that this was a preliminary intimation of the proposal by the Highland Council at an ordinary KCC meeting, and should not be considered as a public consultation.

Duncan Kelly gave apologies from Alasdair Ferguson who could not attend himself. In 2018 Mr Ferguson was approached by Highland Council for a 1 acre, 1,000 sq metre footprint site for a waste transfer building. He then visited a similar site in Skye and agreed to look into the feasibility. The area suggested is at the north west boundary of the site on the north side of the A830 adjacent to Ferguson's Hub, and a preliminary design was approved by the Council. Alasdair requested that plan be put to KCC prior to the proposal going for planning consent and asked Highland Council to attend tonight's meeting. All transfer would be carried out within the building with the doors closed. There would be minimum noise and odour. He reiterated that no planning consent has been applied for yet, and should a planning application be made then the public and KCC would also have a chance to comment.

Andy Summers from Community Services at HC advised that the Council were developing strategies for accepting waste as they can no longer use landfills after 2021. They have been looking for alternatives including a new depot in Inverness. All Council areas will need a waste management system. The ban on landfill was announced in 2012 and a review in the Council in 2017 identified that the private sector should continue to deal with waste but that the Council would wish more control and to bring waste management back into the Councils hands. Other sites had been considered, for example, Carr's Corner has no proper junction and would be too costly to remedy. Ben Nevis Industrial Estate site is too small. The site at Corpach is the best they have found logistically. The site would handle all the Council domestic waste; approximately 12,000 tons in total, with 8,000 tons in the green bins with the rest in the blue bins. Sixteen lorries would run a day, which is the same number as currently go to Duiskey, so there would be no increase in traffic except for 2 artic

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lorries back out up to Inverness. It would be a highly regulated facility by SEPA. There would be a maximum of 3 days turnaround and pest control enforced. Duiskey is no longer available and there are no other suitable sites in the area.

Many questions were asked, mainly relating to the need for the station beside a residential area, smell and noise. It was suggested that there should be an overall decibel rating for the site and that any further industrial activities do not breach it. There was felt to be a need to get traffic out of Corpach, to places such as the forest at Aonach Mor. Brackletter was suggested as a more suitable location, given its previous use. Council representatives were asked why they were not looking into more recycling.

Key responses were as follows:

- a) It is proposed that the station will operate 7am – 5pm and 7am – 4pm on a Saturday.
- b) This area is zoned as industrial – the doors will be closed other than vehicles entering or leaving.
- c) The Council knows there is already increased noise at Boyd's, etc and that is being monitored.
- d) Sites such as Aonach Mor forest wouldn't be considered since it wasn't zoned for industrial use.
- e) Logistically the Council needs a transfer unit in the area as bin lorries are not economical long range transport – it is an operational model used throughout the UK.
- f) It was emphasised that no decision has yet been made; it is not a forgone conclusion.
- g) The Skye depot, where doors are never closed, was not a comparable facility.
- h) Any proposal in the Spean Bridge area would not be close enough to Fort William.
- i) There is no plan B and the Council has no other feasible sites in mind.

The public were advised that if the planning application did go ahead, they could view documents on the Council website with details being given to the Community Council. The Councillors present assured they would put their views across and Duncan Kelly said he would take the public's comments back to Mr Ferguson.

It was noted that this waste transfer station is yet another proposal for the West end of Corpach and that the KCC would benefit from having some members from that area.

8. Questions and Contributions from the Public Nothing further.

9. Any Other Business

There being no other business and the Chair closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance, emphasising again that tonight's meeting should not be regarded as a public meeting on the matter of the waste transfer station.

10. Next Meeting

Next meeting to be on Monday 25th February at 7:15pm in Kilmallie Community Centre.

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