



COMHAIRLE COIMHEARSNACHD CILL MHÀLAIDH
KILMALLIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at 19:15 on Monday 25 June 2018, at Kilmallie Community Centre

Present:

Kilmallie Community Council

Christine Hutchison (Chair)

Carol Anne Campbell

Mandy Ketchin

Jim Ramsay

Cllr. Denis Rixson

Cllr. BenThompson

In attendance: Sixteen members of the community.

1. Apologies

Jan MacLugash and Russell Leaper

2. Approval of minutes of 2017 AGM

Proposed Mandy Ketchin, seconded John Hutchison from the community. The minutes of the AGM on 26th June 2017 were approved.

3. Chair's Report

The Chair presented her report, which is appended here. The report was accepted.

4. Treasurer's report and Annual Accounts to 5th April 2018

The Chair presented the annual accounts and thanked Joy Biggin for auditing these. These will now be sent to Highland Council in order that they can process the annual community council grant. It was noted with some disappointment that the grant would reduce from £1,190.72 to £586.53 for the current year.

5. Election of office bearers

The Chair reported that the Secretary had received nominations as follows:

Chair:	Christine Hutchison	Proposed by Russell Leaper	Seconded by Mandy Ketchin
Secretary:	Russell Leaper	Proposed by Mandy Ketchin	Seconded by Christine Hutchison
Treasurer	Jan MacLugash	Proposed by Russell Leaper	Seconded by Mandy Ketchin

These parties had indicated that they were willing to continue and there were no other nominations. Christine Hutchison was therefore elected as chair, Russell Leaper as secretary and Jan MacLugash as treasurer.

6. Meeting schedule for 2017/18

The Chair noted that there were varying views in the Community Council on whether to reduce or maintain the current number of meetings, given the level of activity in the area. Community Councillors would meet about this shortly but the dates that had been published in the Newsletter would be maintained, namely, 27th August, 24th September and 22nd October.

The Chair thanked all for attending, closed the meeting and moved on to the regular meeting of the Community Council.

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Secretary – Russell Leaper, Canal House, Banavie, Fort William, PH33 7LY

Treasurer – Jan MacLugash, Salen, Banavie, Fort William, PH33 7LY

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Chair's Annual Report 2017/2018

This is my second annual report and I still feel new to the job. I've never really seen myself as a leader but, on the other hand, I know there is an important job to be done and I'm prepared to play my part. I am very fortunate to have a good team around me in Mandy, Carol Anne, Treasurer Jan, Jim and Secretary Russell.

Our activities over this last year have fallen into the following categories:

- Pursuing local issues including, noise, bus timetable changes and dumping at Mount Alexander, with some results
- Supporting Banavie School with their outdoor classroom and the Friends of Banavie Park with their plans
- Communication and engagement with the community via:
 - four packed newsletters with special topic supplements, produced and delivered free of charge to every home and business in Kilmallie, completely by volunteers
 - our website, Twitter and Facebook pages, our two noticeboards and suggestion boxes
- Specific projects such as:
 - continuing our Slower Safer Smilier campaign, with a Corpach crossing inching closer
 - Banavie War Memorial access and lettering
- Direct community involvement with consultations and gatherings including
 - Final West Highlands and Islands Development Plan
 - Hustings for the Highland Council By-Election
 - Discussion with Liberty Aluminium, HIE and Highland Council Planning on proposals that will affect us
- Attendance at other meetings and events:
 - Lochaber Transport Forum and Lochaber Bus User's Group
 - Steering Group and Communications & Engagement sub-group for new hospital
 - Consultation on the proposed Alloy Wheels Plant
 - Fort William Congestion Group and the workshop that will lead into the A82 Pre-STAG Appraisal
 - Consultations on the expansion of Banavie Quarry and proposed housing on the Blàr Mòr

I am pleased that the Partnership of Fort William Area Community Councils has been reformed and we have now had two meetings. There's considerable scope to support each other on the many matters of mutual interest.

Our annual grant from the Highland Council was reduced this year; halved in fact, which we found demotivating. As the lowest tier in our democratic hierarchy our needs are modest and it is a shame that they can't be met.

We are starting to struggle with Newsletter costs. It now costs more than £1 but we're determined not to charge. Many local businesses do support us but sponsors needn't solely be local businesses. Some business owners working elsewhere but living in Kilmallie sponsor us too. Sums don't need to be large and it is my own view that individuals could consider donating too. The feedback I get helps me realise that this is much more than a production effort. The Newsletter takes the community into folks' homes and this is invaluable for those who are less active or those who are focussed on other things.

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Our thanks are due to many people:

- our Highland Councillors, Allan Henderson, Ben Thompson and the Late Billy MacLachlan. We again congratulate Denis Rixson and wish him well
- PS Ross McCartney, Police Liaison Officer and now-promoted DS Andy Bilton, who supported us well
- the Kilmallie Community Centre and Jimmy Milne the Manager
- all our newsletter sponsors, contributors and delivery teams
- and to all the individuals and community groups who make Kilmallie a great place to live

I would particularly like to thank my colleague community councillors for their work and support throughout this year.

Kilmallie is the biggest development area in Lochaber at the moment with the new Belford, the West Highland College Centre for Science and Technology and houses on the Blàr Mòr, together with the Marina and the possibility of a deep water harbour and gas storage at Corpach. We should all be glad that we have a Community Council; some places don't and we know you'll be with us when it's critical. That's what gives us confidence.

Help Kilmallie Community Council to help Kilmallie. Thank you all.

Christine Hutchison, 22 June 2018

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