



COMHAIRLE COIMHEARSNACHD CILL MHÀLAIDH
KILMALLIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held on Monday 25th June 2018, following the AGM
at Kilmallie Community Centre**

Present:

Christine Hutchison (Chair) (CH)

Cllr Ben Thompson

Carol Anne Campbell (CAC)

Cllr Denis Rixson

Mandy Ketchin (MK)

Sixteen members of the public

1. **Apologies:** Jan MacLugash, Russell Leaper and Jim Ramsay

2. **Declarations of Interest** None.

3. Approval of previous minutes and Matters Arising

The Chair noted that the meeting was inquorate and so the previous minute could not be approved.

4. Police Update

No report.

5. Update on progress on the Review of Social and Health Care Services in Lochaber including a replacement for the Belford Hospital

The Chair welcomed Maimie Thompson, Head of PR and Engagement NHS Highland who chairs the Communications and Engagement Group for the project.

Ms Thompson noted that much of the NHS' business was about managing change, largely as a result of demographic change in society. The entire review of Social and Health Care Services is being overseen by a Steering Group, with Clinical, Transport and Communications and Engagement Groups underneath. NHS Highland has never built a Rural General Hospital before. It needs to be fit for the future; what is inside depends on what is outside, viz. the complementary social and health care services, hence the whole is being handled as one project. Having the Blàr Mòr site helps greatly and, with a fair wind, construction is expected in 2020/21.

There is much current emphasis on trying to reduce the number of people that travel to Raigmore for very brief appointments and NHS NearMe is being developed which allows video appointments in the Belford or GP surgeries. There will be a workshop on service design on 9th August from 10 – 3pm and she encouraged folk to register for that.

Questions raised included:

- *Is provision being made to recognise expansion of the community?* Yes;
- *Is funding secure for 2020/21?* Business case underway and there is optimism over the £40m cost;

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- *Is the site big enough?* Yes confirmed by Estates Dept (and confirmed in Q&A1);
 - *What is plan for attracting trained staff?* Various disciplines explained;
 - *Is work being done with professional colleges to discourage trend of further specialism?* Yes;
 - *How can you kick against trend to reduce numbers of hospitals?* Principle of RGH already agreed;
 - *What happened on Skye?* Explained matter of two community competition;
 - *What can be done to reduce road traffic delays?* Some discussion;
 - *Why will there be no mental health beds?* To be discussed on 9th August when Cons Psychiatrist present;
 - *Will the new Belford still be a leading trauma teaching hospital?* Yes, being formalised with UHI;
 - *Will any relatives' accommodation be provided?* This is in the proposal;
 - *Could there be a new railway halt closer to the Blar Mor site?* Would feed back to SGroup;
- Ms Thompson again encouraged attendance at the workshop on 9th August, was thanked by the Chair and left the meeting.

6. Proposed housing development on the Blar. Feedback from Highland Council consultation event

John McHardy from Highland Council had been expected to attend but data from the event had not yet been collated. While the deadline for comments had possibly passed the Chair encouraged any comments to be placed in the suggestion boxes, for inclusion in a KCC response.

7. Update on the consultation related to a pedestrian crossing on A830 at Corpach

There had been further contact with Transport Scotland and David Devine had been expected to attend the August meeting with appropriate plans. It had now been intimated that he would be on holiday but the CC would press for a substitute to attend, together with the plans. It was noted that the maximum number of parking spaces at and opposite the Coop should be retained.

8. Update on Banavie War Memorial

The Chair had heard from Alf Leslie of the Highland Council who confirmed that cleaning and repainting of the lettering would be undertaken before November.

Jim Ramsay and a team had cut whin and discovered much of the old access path, that wound down the hill in front of the Memorial. They had verbal consent from Lochiel Estates to re-establish the path using a small excavator and there would be discussion with the Planning Service. The overall aim would be to create a more manageable route and, if that is successful, the plan will be to remove the uneven, slippery concrete steps.

9. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer had sent her monthly statement which explained that the opening balance on 1st May was

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£2,346.20 whereas the total balance available on 1st June was £2,422.20. The Community Fund had been static at £635. It was noted with some disappointment that the Highland Council grant would reduce from £1,190.72 to £586.53 for the current year and there was some discussion. Denis Rixson explained the background to the decision but emphasised that individual Highland Councillors recognised the worth of the CC role.

10. Copies of 'Passing Glimpses' by Johnny Wilson - the Bard o' Bogmonie

The Chair explained that the KCC in 2003 had published the above and learned from the then Chair who was fortuitously present that 500 had been printed. Around half remained and various means of selling were discussed.

11. Questions and Contributions from the Public:

There were several questions and contributions:

- *Cllr Ben Thompson asked whether SSE had approached the KCC regarding extraction routes from Coire Glas. It was agreed to approach SSE.*
- *Regarding the overgrown vegetation in the vicinity of the Scout Hall. Agreed to write to BEAR.*
- *Regarding the suspected misalignment of the sensor on the 30mph warning sign that faced westbound traffic on the A830 at Corpach. Agreed to write to BEAR.*
- *Highlighting the survey currently being undertaken on the interest in a consumer gas network, suggesting that it was biased. No KCC action.*
- *That several speed limit repeater signs were obscured by vegetation. Agreed to write to BEAR.*
- *Alasdair Ferguson of Ferguson Transport highlighted a forthcoming development whereby their small slipway would be improved to take vessels up to 1,000tonnes and the proposed rail extension would be made operational, all to achieve modal shift, taking traffic off road and onto sea and rail. This should be viewed as a significant development and was partially linked with timber extraction from Rannoch Moor, overnight by the West Highland Line. Most of this was already consented and many of the planning conditions had been met. Marine licensing was outstanding. There was significant discussion but it was agreed that Mr Ferguson should attend the August meeting to allow a proper presentation and sufficient time for discussion.*
- *It was noted that there was more frequent smoke and dust from BSW in recent months. The complainer to pursue.*
- *It was noted that the increase in timber lorries had caused blockage of main road gullies and offlets. Agreed to write to BEAR.*
- *It was reported that there was a little difference in noise levels from the Corpach industrial area but it was noted that monitoring by the Council was still ongoing.*
- *It was reported that a special meeting of the Banavie Quarry Liaison Group would be held this*

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Thursday and it was suspected that this might relate to applications for evening working. Residents would attend and would report back to the CC.

12. Any Other Business

- The Chair reported that applications can now be made to the Lochaber Housing Association Community Fund and the KCC had in mind so to do, to assist Newsletter production costs.
- Cllr Denis Rixson reported that he was contacting local interest groups with a view to presenting a Lochaber cultural perspective as part of the work of the Highland Culture Strategy Board. He would be in touch further about this.

13. Next Meeting

Next meeting to be on Monday 27th August at 7:15pm.

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