

DRAFT Minutes of Meeting held 19:15 on Monday 24 January 2022 by remote video link

Present

Kilmallie Community Council

Carol Anne Campbell
John Hutchison (Chair)
Russell Leaper
Ann Moffat

Highland Council

Allan Henderson
Denis Rixson
Jane Young

Leigh Brown (Police Scotland)
2 members of the public

Apologies

Gwyn Moses

1. Approval of previous minutes

The November meeting had not had a quorum and so did not approve the minutes. The minutes of the October meeting were approved and the minutes from November were accepted.

2. Declarations of interest

DR noted that on the item on climate change he represented Lochaber Environmental Group on this issue.

3. Police update and A830 road safety

Leigh Brown (Police Scotland) joined the meeting briefly. She is just waiting to receive a guidance note to accompany the 30mph wheelie bin stickers and then these can be distributed. 20mph stickers are still being investigated. The Police continue to receive complaints about speeding on the A830 through Corpach and the B8004 through Banavie. Operation Close Pass which aims to ensure that drivers provide cyclists sufficient space to travel safely on the roads has been ongoing for some time but there has not yet been an evaluation of how effective it has been.

4. Treasurer's report and accounts

The accounts have been sent to Highland Council and we have now received the annual grant of £586.53. Many thanks to Joy Biggin for checking the accounts. Prior to the grant payment, the balance on the account was £4089.

JH has continued to assess the funding needed for Kilmallie Community News and with ongoing commitments from local businesses and some further approaches it looks like we are in a good position for sustainable funding for printing of the newsletter.

5. Scottish Government Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2)

Transport Scotland is consulting on the second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2). AH noted that the draft document did not include everything that was hoped for, but it was good to see that Fort William did get a mention. The review has a welcome focus on active travel including objectives and management plans for cycle paths. Cycle paths need to be maintained in order to be a safe alternative to cycling on the road. RL noted that the Scottish Government target of a 20% reduction in car use would solve the summer congestion problems on the A82 if it was actually achieved. JH noted that the heavy, crawling, traffic on the North Road was likely to cause problems with air quality and that this would be an important area to monitor emissions.

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Secretary – Russell Leaper secretary@kilmallie.org.uk
Treasurer – Carol Anne Campbell cacampbell.cac@gmail.com
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Bus travel has dropped substantially as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and there has been less attention on maintaining bus services. It is also expected that fares will rise as a result although the free bus travel scheme for young people (21 and under) will be very welcome.

It was agreed to include an item on STPR2 in the March newsletter to encourage people to participate in the consultation or share their views with KCC.

6. FW2040 Transport Working Group

The Linnhe Community Alliance had attended a meeting of FW2040 which had been chaired by Kate Forbes MSP. Subsequently KCC has been invited to participate in the FW2040 Transport Working Group. JH will represent KCC at FW2040 TWG meetings.

7. Update on Belford Steering Group and Blàr Mòr developments

The Initial Agreement that has been approved by NHS Highland will allow funds to be released to take the project to the outline business case once it has been agreed by the Scottish Government Capital Investment Group. JH had attended meetings and although the process of finalising the Initial Agreement hasn't been quite as expected, the project still seems to be making progress.

8. Update on Community Fridge

CAC reported that the Community Fridge had been very well used over the Christmas period and was still saving over a ton of food waste each month. The system seems to be working well thanks to an active team of enthusiastic volunteers.

9. Climate change - How can Kilmallie CC contribute to efforts to reduce the impacts

There are many ways in which the community can contribute to climate change targets. KCC has concentrated on reducing food waste and travel but we are always looking for further ideas and suggestions. Lochaber Environmental Group are very active in this regard with their electric bike scheme and local food growing schemes. It was agreed to work more closely with LEG and to invite them to a future KCC meeting.

10. Collaboration with Kilmallie Community Centre

At the Kilmallie Community Centre AGM it had been suggested that there should be a joint meeting with Kilmallie Community Council and Kilmallie Community Company to discuss joint initiatives. It was agreed that this would be useful.

11. Collaboration with Kilmallie Community Company

It was agreed to nominate Colin Wood to represent Kilmallie Community Council on the board of Kilmallie Community Company.

12. Steps to the Banavie war memorial

JY reported that Highland Council had inspected the access to the war memorial on 17/01/2022 and work will be scheduled to improve the access and repair loose steps. Any updates will be passed to the Community Company who have been investigating installing a hand rail.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 28 February

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