

Minutes of Meeting held 19:15 on Monday 22 March 2021 by remote video link

Present

Kilmallie Community Council

Carol Anne Campbell
John Hutchison (Chair)
Russell Leaper
Gwyn Moses

Highland Council

Cllr Denis Rixson
Cllr Allan Henderson
Cllr Ben Thompson

Apologies

Colin Wood
Ann Moffat
Ross McCartney (Police Scotland)

8 members of the public

1. Approval of previous minutes

The minutes of the remote meeting on 22/02/2021 were approved.

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. Treasurer's report

Aside from the specific Covid related grants, the bank balance stands at around £1400. The main expense is the newsletter. Many thanks to the Oban Times for printing the latest edition.

4. Recommendations to improve safety on A830

KCC had written to Transport Scotland and BEAR in relation to the ongoing concerns about the A830. BEAR have undertaken to inspect the sunken drains issue which is a particular hazard to cyclists and creates unnecessary noise from passing vehicles. Transport Scotland has been invited to a future meeting.

5. Planning application for a third storey accommodating for an increase of 25 bedrooms at the Moorings Hotel Banavie (21/00398/FUL)

AH, DR, BT did not take part in the discussion.

KCC had written to Historic Environment Scotland (HES) to encourage them to engage with this application and provide comment. They continued to decline to get involved. We were surprised and disappointed that HES did not consider the impact on Neptune's Staircase of national interest and note that this represents a change in policy for HES who had commented on previous smaller applications.

6. Blàr Mòr developments and Belford steering group (Lochaber Health & Social Care Redesign Steering Group) update

Acting Chair – John Hutchison jch@abrach.com
Secretary – Russell Leaper secretary@kilmallie.org.uk
Treasurer – Gwyn Moses gwynmoses@gmail.com
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A condition of the planning consent that was granted in 2018 was that a Community Liaison Group should be established before any developments took place. A group has now been formed and will meet on 1 April. RL will represent KCC. Key issues related to the housing scheme are play facilities and transport links, including the proposed road for a bus link through to the health centre.

JH continues to represent KCC on the Belford steering group. There is some optimism that senior NHS management are now paying more attention to the project but we are still waiting for a confirmed timeline for the hospital project.

7. ALVANCE consultation on expansion of Lochaber smelter (which will have implications for Corpach harbour)

Several members had logged on to the ALVANCE online consultation event on 25 Feb. However, the main information of relevance to the community which would be contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment was not available. It was also not possible to see other people's questions or responses. Generally, it was felt that this could not be considered a consultation event and that KCC should write to planning to make it clear that there had been no effective consultation on these proposals.

8. Annat Liaison Group

AH had written to companies at Annat to ask whether they would join a liaison group. Ferguson Transport would be willing to join and supported establishing a group. Boyd Brothers did not see this as useful but noted that they did attend monthly Community Council meetings. JH explained that the formation of the group should result in fewer meetings for the companies involved because these would be quarterly rather than the monthly CC meetings. However, it would be much more effective to discuss issues at Annat in a dedicated meeting with the key officials rather than take up time every month in CC meetings without making any progress.

9. Kilmallie Community Centre car park

The Community Centre was congratulated for the resurfacing work on the car park which will greatly improve the facility.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 26 April 2021 at 19:15 by remote video link. Please contact secretary@kilmallie.org.uk to join the meeting.