

Minutes of Meeting held at 19:15 on Wednesday 21 October 2015, at Kilmallie Community Centre

Present

- **Kilmallie Community Council**
- Carol Anne Campbell
- Christine Hutchison
- Mandy Ketchin (Chair)
- Russell Leaper
- Jan MacLugash
- **Police Scotland**
- Andy Bilton
- **Highland Councillors**
- Allan Henderson
- Ben Thompson
- **Apologies**
- Geoff Heathcote
- Kshama Wilmington
- Bill Clark

1. Approval of previous minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 19 August were approved.

2. Treasurers Report

The total balance available was £5246.11. This included £785 available in the Community Fund.

3. Police Update

KCC had contacted Police Scotland in Inverness regarding concerns about the intercom system for visitors to the police station on the Blar but had not yet received a reply. Andy Bilton reported that speed checks had been conducted along the A830 at Kinlocheil.

4. Road safety. Requests for pedestrian crossings of A830

Annette Hobson described the difficulties for a partially sighted person of crossing the A830 in the vicinity of the swing bridge at Banavie. She noted the need for a pedestrian crossing in this area. This would cater for walkers on the Great Glen Way, canoeists on the canoe trail, and coach parties from the car park crossing to watch the steam train in addition to those who have difficulty with road crossings. The situation has improved since the reduction in speed limit from 60mph to 40mph but there is still a lot to be done to implement the recommendations from KCC in the Slower, Safer, Smilier campaign. KCC fully supports the establishment of a crossing at the swing bridges and also at the Co-op in Corpach. It was also noted that there were still problem with the provision of crossing patrols at Banavie school.

5. West Lochaber Deer Management Group (WLDMG)

Alistair Gibson, chair of WLDMG gave a brief summary of the work undertaken by the group which covers an area from Achnacarry in the east to Arisaig in the west bounded with the East Loch Shiel and Moidart DMG to the south and the Knoydart DMG to the north. This includes the whole of Kilmallie. The landholdings covered by the group include Achnacarry South, FES Forests (Glenloy, South Arkaig & Glen Mallie, Gairlochy), Fassfern Estate, Glenfinnan, Meoble, Rannachan, Glenmamie, Ardnish, and Arisaig. Alistair encouraged anyone in Kilmallie with any deer related issues to get in touch with the WLDMG.

6. Presentations from Lochaber Environmental Group

Cara Mackay summarised a project funded by Zero Waste Scotland which is mainly focused on domestic waste issues. This includes work with schools and individuals to increase awareness of recycling facilities in Lochaber and food waste issues. There was some discussion of what can and cannot be put in the blue recycling bins. There is still a problem with materials that cannot be recycled being place in blue bins. Particular attention was drawn to black coloured plastic food packaging trays and windows in envelopes. These could easily be made fully recyclable but needs to be tackled at source at national level.

Killian Mackay described the carbon reduction project. LEG will be continuing to provide thermal imaging and energy monitoring services throughout this project in order to help reduce Lochaber's carbon footprint. Kilmallie

is one of the areas of focus but there has been little uptake within Kilmallie for either electricity meters or thermal imaging surveys.

7. Highland wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP) including onshore wind supplementary guidance

The HwLDP will be revised in the next 2-3 years. The intention is that the replacement HwLDP is a policy only Plan to guide how development should happen. The first stage is the Main Issues Report (MIR) which is now open for public comment up until 18 December 2015. The MIR is not a draft version of the HwLDP - it is a discussion document that seeks people's views on options for dealing with the main planning issues affecting Highland. MK, CH and RL had attended a workshop on HwLDP organised by Highland Council which had raised a number of issues. Based on this and other input, KCC will prepare comments on the HwLDP. (**Action:** RL to prepare first draft)

8. West Highland & Islands Local Development Plan (WHILDP)

The results of the call for sites and ideas in relation to the WHILDP are now available and the next stage will be to consult on a revised plan. No date has been set for this yet, but probably early 2016. Concerns were raised that some of the sites opened up more green field sites for development. In this context it was noted that there was currently a proposal to decroft one of the larger crofts in Banavie (Decrofting application 4.86.603346. Crofts 45&46). This croft lies within the currently designated hinterland but has already seen several new houses built. KCC supports Scottish Government initiatives through the Community Empowerment Act to promote local food production and small scale agriculture. Concerns were raised about the potential implications of decrofting for loss of valuable agricultural land. There are also Banavie residents on the waiting list to work crofts. It was agreed to raise these concerns with the Crofting Commission in the context of this application. (**Action:** RL to prepare draft comments)

9. Scottish Canals proposals for Banavie

As part of the Scenic Routes initiative, three designs for constructions on Neptune's Staircase had been put forward. KCC organised a community consultation event which was attended by over 50 people. For all three designs the majority response to the question 'How happy would you be to see this design built at Neptune's Staircase?' was 'extremely unhappy'. KCC was represented on the judging panel and welcomed the judges decision that none of the designs were suitable.

Of the alternative suggestions put forward by the community, one – 'From Southey to Northey' – has been worked up into a full proposal. KCC believes the proposal holistically satisfies all the criteria in a way that would attract widespread support. It has intellectual and creative merit and would be a popular addition to the canal with no negative impact. KCC will send the proposal to Scottish Canals and Scottish Government to encourage interest in the design concept. If this receives a favourable reaction then a further community consultation will be organised. (**Action:** All to discuss appropriate distribution list)

10. Banavie Quarry liaison group

Following staff changes at Breedon Aggregates there had been over a year between liaison group meetings. A meeting was held on 20 October and meetings every six months are now anticipated. Breedon have now concluded that restoration of the conspicuous quarry face with vegetation will require work to adjust the angle which is currently too steep. This may require negotiation to acquire land beyond the current boundary.

11. Public toilets at Neptune's Staircase car park

KCC had written to the Moorings Hotel asking when the planned toilets accessed directly from the outside which will be made available to the visitors of the Neptune's Staircase tourist attraction were expected to be built. No reply had been received.

12. Community Council elections

The current KCC will be dissolved on 17 November. There were five nominations for the next term of KCC (CAC, CH, MK, RL, JM). With only five nominations no election was held and so all five were appointed. Thanks were expressed to Kshama Wilmington and Geoff Heathcote for all their work as members of KCC.

13. Next meeting

The next meeting of KCC will be at 19:15 on Wednesday 18 November 2015 at Kilmallie Community Centre (main hall). This will be the inaugural meeting of the next term of KCC and a meeting timetable for 2016 will be developed then.

Chair – Mandy Ketchin – chairman@kilmallie.org.uk
Secretary – Russell Leaper – secretary@kilmallie.org.uk
Treasurer – Jan MacLugash – treasurer@kilmallie.org.uk
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