

Minutes of Meeting held 19:15 on Monday 25 January 2021 by remote video link

Present

Kilmallie Community Council

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

Highland Council

Cllr Denis Rixson
Cllr Ben Thompson

Apologies

Colin Wood
Cllr Allan Henderson
Gwyn Moses

8 members of the public

1. Approval of previous minutes

The minutes of the remote meeting on 23/11/2020 and a meeting to discuss developments at Corpach harbour on 21/12/2020, were approved.

2. Declarations of interest

None

3. Police update

There was no police representative at the meeting. There had been an incident at the Co-op in Corpach which was very frightening for the staff involved. KCC had written to the staff to express our best wishes and this was appreciated by the manager.

4. Project report on A830 through Corpach: identified issues and recommendations

A group of Corpach residents had conducted a survey through the newsletter to find out views on problems associated with the speed and volume of traffic through Corpach on the A830. Speeding remains a problem with the great majority of vehicles travelling at more than 30mph and triggering the flashing signs. Road signage is also an issue with poor signage for the village. There are four changes of speed limit between Lochybridge and Annat but if all the 40mph zones were changed to 30mph along this stretch, it would only add about 0.6 minutes to the journey. Traffic noise is a problem in addition to road safety with particular concerns about sunken drains and the noise from HGVs driving over these.

Although Transport Scotland have been unwilling to discuss speed limits it was agreed that there was a need to increase the campaign pressure. National policy has shifted towards lower speed limits in populated areas since the last review of speed limits on the A830 by Transport Scotland. There is funding available for road safety improvements through the

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'Spaces for People' funding, which has been used for improvements to Kilmallie Rd in Caol, but Transport Scotland have not taken up any of this funding for the A830.

It was agreed to endorse the recommendations in the project report and to develop a plan for how to present these to Transport Scotland.

5. Update on meeting (21 December) about possible future proposals for Corpach Port
RL updated on the discussions which are included as Appendix 1 to this meeting.

6. Belford steering group (Lochaber Health & Social Care Redesign Steering Group) update
JH had attended recent meetings of the Group which now meets monthly. The new executive lead for the Group is Louise Bussell. The service redesign and facilities will have more of a focus on mental health. NHS Highland has accepted that the road link to the Health Centre should be pursued and will share a proposal with KCC prior to making any planning application. There are still issues around project structure and timetable that have been deferred to future meetings.

7. Update from Linnhe Community Alliance meeting (11 January)

JH gave an update from the meeting with the draft minutes as Appendix 2 to this meeting

8. Youth membership

Encouraging your membership of the CC has been identified as a priority but is difficult with the current COVID-19 situation. FWITCC had approached S5 and S6 pupils at the High School but with no immediate response. It was agreed to contact the High School again when pupils are able to attend schools again.

9. Covid support group and Community Cupboard (funding application, location etc.)

CAC reported that the Covid support group was still operating when needed. DR commented that there had been an increase in applications for Universal Credit and that facilities such as the Community Cupboard were likely to become increasingly important.

10. Fly tipping in Glen Loy

KCC had received complaints about fly tipping in Glen Loy. SEPA had been informed. It was noted that incidents of fly tipping appeared to be getting more frequent and the situation at Mount Alexander had also got much worse in recent months. Other problems involved depositing glass in the wrong bins at the recycling point at the Community Centre. It was agreed to try and highlight some of the issues in the newsletter to try and encourage more responsible waste disposal.

11. Corpach Notice Board (maintenance)

The locks on the noticeboard had had to be replaced, but known users with keys had been given new ones. CW is working to replace the polycarbonate sheet which is in poor condition.

12. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 22 February 2021 at 19:15 by remote video link. Please contact secretary@kilmallie.org.uk to join the meeting.

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Appendix 1

Minutes of information meeting regarding planned developments at Corpach Harbour held 18:00 on Monday 21 December 2020 by remote video link

Present

Kilmallie Community Council

John Hutchison (Chair)
Russell Leaper

ALVANCE aluminium

Brian King

Boyd Brothers Ltd.

Christine MacColl

9 members of the public

Ardgour Community Council

Samantha Thomson
Claire Bennett-Levy

HIE

Scott Dingwall

Highland Council

Cllr Allan Henderson
Cllr Denis Rixson

Apologies

Colin Wood
Carol Anne Campbell
Cllr Ben Thompson

1. Opening remarks

JH welcomed everyone to the meeting which had been jointly hosted by Kilmallie and Ardgour CCs and local businesses involved with Corpach Port. The aim of the meeting was to receive updates on the deep water feasibility study that had been funded by HIE in 2018 and from ALVANCE aluminium on plans for future use of the port following their press release of 17/11/2020. The intention was to just receive information rather than having a discussion or commenting on the proposals.

2. Update from ALVANCE aluminium on proposals (Brian King, Chairman of ALVANCE British Aluminium)

Plans for an alloy wheel plant next to the smelter have now been shelved and alternative product outputs for the business are being considered. The intention is to produce aluminium billets for a variety of industrial uses. These billets are essentially 8m long cylinders of aluminium of different diameters depending on the intended use. The smelter has been working below capacity for a number of years, but this may change in the future. The raw materials for the smelter currently arrive by rail on the West Highland Line. Problems with the line in recent years due to landslip and flooding creates a supply risk for the business. Hence ALVANCE have been looking at Corpach or other ports to bring in the raw materials to the smelter. The intention is to have a dedicated 3-4000 GT vessel that is fully enclosed and could pump the aluminium ore into silos on shore. These silos would be new buildings, 20-25m high, that would require planning consent. The vessels would be

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similar in size to the vessels currently used for wood chips at around 90m length and 5m draught. The expected production would require a vessel to unload around once every 10 days. ALVANCE do not see any need to extend the port operating hours beyond that which is currently consented.

Noise and environmental impact of the report remain a concern of the community, although it was pointed out that not all the noise associated with the Annat Industrial estate comes from the quay. ALVANCE has submitted a scoping document to planning and are expecting to hold a public consultation on 24 February. At that event there should be more information on the expected number of HGVs travelling through Corpach associated with the new proposals.

BK stressed that the priority for ALVANCE would be to minimise the impacts on the community. For their proposals there would be no additional marine structures or extension to current operating hours. The design of the silos would also aim to be visually acceptable and the use of a dedicated fully enclosed ship should eliminate problems with alumina dust.

3. Update on deep water port feasibility study (Scott Dingwall, HIE)

A feasibility study for a deep water port at Corpach was funded by HIE in 2018. The West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan (Westplan) subsequently included Eilean nan Craobh as part of the industrial use area in order to increase the potential for deep water berthing. This would have been required for gas carriers but there are currently no plans that require such large vessels. The results of the study are not yet publicly available.

Appendix 2. Draft Note of Meeting of the Linnhe Community Alliance
Monday 11th January 2021 at 7:30 pm

Attending:	Ardgour:	Sam Thomson, Claire Bennett-Levy
	Caol:	John Gillespie, Colin Strange
	Fort William, Inverlochy & Torlundy:	Patricia Jordan, Mark Linfield
	Glenfinnan:	Ally Entwistle
	Kilmallie:	Russell Leaper
	Nether Lochaber:	Dave Wrigglesworth
Observing	Highland Council	Andrew Baxter (part meeting)
	Secretary	John Hutchison

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Attendees were welcomed by Sam Thomson, nominated Chair for the meeting. Apologies given by Cllrs Allan Henderson, Denis Rixson and Ben Thompson.

2. Note of meeting on 30th November 2020

Agreed: proposed ML and seconded DW.

3. Issues and Projects of Strategic Interest

Belford Hospital: Those who had attended gave some background from the NESH steering group meeting in December with main points being: a move to monthly meetings; intended review of the project management structure; appointment of a new executive lead; publication of a fresh timetable. Although NESH had indicated that the new timetable would not be given until end March, press coverage and MSP interest may encourage this to be given earlier. **AE** to brief Lochaber Times.

Action

AE

Delivery Charges: This had come to prominence again because of Covid. Noted that THC website gave some background information as did <https://fairdeliveries.scot/> although the latter mainly highlights discrepancies between companies. Noted that a local businesswoman and Richard Lochhead MSP had been campaigning. **DW** to investigate within Chamber of Commerce, THC, MP and MSPs and report back to the May meeting. Any interim actions to be in conjunction with ST and JG as the chairs of this and the next meeting, with attendees kept advised.

DW

Cycle Route 78: Onich to FW: The published route information recommended that cyclists use the A861 rather than the A82, which presented different safety challenges plus uncertainty over ferry times. Agreed that the need to improve the route should appear in FW 2040 and that better signing at Nether Lochaber slip was essential (**JCH** pursue). Agree **PJ, CS** and **RL** to raise with the Active Travel Group. Possible route by Glen Righ and Lundavra to be highlighted

**PJ, CS,
RL**

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to Sustrans as well as seeking the status of their improvement plans (**JCH** pursue). **JCH**

ALVANCE Proposals: Recognised that interests of each CC would be different. ACC and KCC had hosted a meeting with ALVANCE and others on 21st Dec and **RL** would circulate that meeting note.

RL

Corran Ferry: Although of crucial importance to ACC, it was agreed that each CC had an interest. AB gave a useful update on the Corran Ferry Strategic Group which he chairs. The next stage is to find £1.5million to appoint naval architects; THC seeking 50% from SGovt.

Tourism Infrastructure: There had been widespread complaint over pollution by some tourists during 2020 mainly owing to caravan sites and toilets being closed. While THC had identified an ambitious programme of works, there was little confidence that there would be much of a change for 2021, which might only be saved if facilities can re-open. Noted that the Coastal Communities Fund had been over-subscribed five times, mostly by applications for projects designed to protect communities from tourists which, bearing in mind the original intention, felt disappointing. Noted that there were still no effluent tanks on the Jacobite Steam Train (**JCH** to check regulation timetable to install).

JCH

Fort William Shoreline/Marina: FWITCC had been given a presentation on the consented proposal (20/01095/FUL) to extend the existing pontoons at Fort William. Because of potential links with Corpach marina and elsewhere this was viewed as being of broader interest. Noted the relevance of the potential project to set up a Loch Linnhe Trust Port which had been put in abeyance owing to Covid restrictions on face to face meetings (**JCH** will pursue at appropriate time).

JCH

A82 Infrastructure: Noted the lack of current proposals to improve the A82. Transport Scotland to be asked about the timing of the review of speed limits from Drumarbin to Annat (**JCH**). Noted that NLCC had been seeking a reduction in the speed limit through Onich from 40 to 30mph.

JCH

A82 Diversions: While recognising the need to divert A82 traffic on to the A861 in emergencies, ACC believed there might be less community impact with better management. The management of diversions had impacts elsewhere too and it was felt appropriate to raise with the Police and Transport Scotland (**JCH**).

JCH

4. AOCB

With differing Covid responses in each CC area it was agreed that each should circulate details of their activities, with a view to co-ordination or seeking assistance when necessary. **ALL**

5. Date of meetings for 2021

- Monday 10th May to be chaired by Caol CC
- Monday 13th September to be chaired by Fort William, Inverlochly & Torlundy CC