



COMHAIRLE COIMHEARSNACHD CILL MHÀLAIDH
KILMALLIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of meeting held at 7.15pm on Monday 25 November 2024 at Kilmallie Community Centre

Present		Apologies	
Gwyn Moses (Chair) Russell Leaper (secretary) Lyn Kilpatrick 1 member of the community 1 rep from the media Highland Council Cllr Liz Sagers (online) John Grafton (on-line)	GM RL LK LS JG	Carol Anne Campbell (Treasurer)	CAC

1. Apologies – None

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared

3. Minute of meeting

The minute of the meeting held on 28 October 2024 was agreed for accuracy, subject to approval at the next quorate meeting.

4. Treasurer’s Report

The balance on 24 November 2024 was £4221 of which £2284 is restricted for the newsletter and £322 for administration costs. £1600 is unrestricted. During the month £1273 had been paid in, of which £100 was a donation for the newsletter, and £1173 was a Grant for Kilmallie Community Fridge & Garden.

5. Road Safety Issues

- 1) **Crossing at Banavie Canal Bridge** – Bear Scotland had consulted on proposals for a crossing since the last meeting. A consultation response had been prepared by RL. It is known that the Chamber of Commerce, Sustrans and Kate Forbes were also responding in support. Counting is in place as well as camera monitoring.
- 2) **Transport Sub-Group** – GM had attended the meeting last week. There had been a discussion about canal opening times. These are under review because of the 35hour per week working directive which will require either more staff or fewer openings. The opening times are also under review because of the impact of congestion for school bus and other road users. A revised operation model is under consideration.

Chair – Gwyn Moses
 Secretary – Russell Leaper secretary@kilmallie.org.uk
 Treasurer – Carol Anne Campbell cacampbell.cac@gmail.com
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- 3) **Active Travel & Bus to Blar** – An additional 5.30pm bus is in operation for the winter period. The bus route is now alternating between the health centre and the new houses such that the service to the health centre has been reduced to provide a service for the residents at the new housing. The road works for the cycle route are causing a continuation of the summer level of congestion and delays. There is little chance of a reinstatement of the twice hourly bus provision in these circumstances.

It was noted that the criminalisation of parking on pavements is soon to be introduced.

It was also noted that there had been no response from Helen Cameron at Highland Council in terms of the poor design of the paths from the new housing on the Blar to the pavement of A830.

6. The Highland Council Local Transport Strategy

RL noted that there is an emphasis on bus travel, and that the strategy is positive. There is as yet no implementation plan. Feedback to RL for a response.

7. Lochaber Area Place Plan

A draft is in circulation for consultation. There is as yet no clear picture of the intentions for implementation and monitoring, for example, whether that will be through the Council's Lochaber Committee. It is hoped that details will be clarified soon.

8. Climate change

RL reported that the Community Council has provided a Letter of Support to Lochaber Environmental Group for continuation of their Food Waste Project.

9. AOCB

- 1) **Visitor Levy** – the media representative was looking for community feedback on pros and cons of the Highland Council's proposals which were currently out to consultation. There was disappointment that the proposals will not apply to campervans: concern that providers are facing yet another layer of tax and the impact this will have on small business operators in an area with dependency on the tourist economy: concern that it will not just apply to tourists but any member of the public using short term let accommodation – including for visiting family or hospital appointments, not an uncommon necessity given the geography of Highland.

JG noted that there were charging arrangements in place for campervans, that these were not mandatory and that the Council had experienced administration challenges with the scheme which had anticipated income of £500k and yielded just £30k

10. Date of next meeting

27 January 2024 at 7.15pm.