

**Meeting of the Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council**

**Minute of Meeting, 7:30pm, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**Community Councillors present:**

Cameron Kemp, Dr. Eleanor Kennedy, Inglis Lyon, Jayne MacMillan, Lindsey Stout.

**In attendance:**

Councillor Emma Knox

The meeting was held in person at Kirkhill Community Centre.

<p><b>1. Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Community Councillor Judith Rumbold and Highland Councillors David Fraser and Chris Ballance.</p>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of Last Meeting; Minute of Meeting of the Annual General Meeting, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024</b></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were circulated online. The planning section was improved and expanded upon by Dr Eleanor Kennedy. The minutes were proposed for acceptance by Inglis Lyon and seconded by Jayne Macmillan.</p>	
<p><b>3. Matters Arising</b></p> <p><b>Minutes of Annual General Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024:</b></p> <p><b>Bank Account/Change of Signatories</b></p> <p>Our new Treasurer, Inglis Lyon, said that we were still experiencing issues with the change of signatories so had no access to our bank account,</p> <p><b>Hanging paver at flowerbed near the bus stop in Kirkhill</b></p> <p>The hanging paver from the tree flowerbed near the bus stop was quoted for by a local firm, P.J. Waste Disposal – removing one would be £60 and removing all and disposing of them would be £160. All agreed to go ahead with the removal of the single unsightly hanging paver. It was thought that grass would not grow under the cypress and removing the other pavers might contribute to the issue of the flowerbed being unsightly.</p> <p><b>Planter near the disused Doctor’s Surgery</b></p> <p>Inglis Lyon and Lindsey Stout to agree to advertise again for help from the community on Facebook in moving the planter, soil and plants to a site in the Millennium Garden. There had been no interest when it was previously highlighted. Both to find a mutually convenient date.</p>	<p>I.L., L.S.</p>

**Belladrum Music Festival/Traffic Management**

Jayne Macmillan had attended a meeting on our behalf and had nothing more to add to the email from the Licensing Committee. The proposed traffic management improvements were listed in our previous minutes.

**Local Place Plan**

Lindsey Stout proposed holding a training evening for Community Councillors using the recorded Highland Council training event of 28<sup>th</sup> of May. Lindsey is to set up a meeting date and equipment and borrow a projector from Aird Community Trust.

Jayne Macmillan said that she has arranged for us to have a stall in the Hall on Gala Day to have a public consultation on Local Place Plans. Ten areas for a starting point to be decided on before Gala Day at our next meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> August, board and post-its provided by Jayne. All Community Councillors to take a turn.

Even if we cannot complete the Local Place Plan before the submission date of 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024, starting this process means that Highland Council planning staff can refer to our public consultation when preparing the Local Place Plan. It's also an opportunity to meet with and engage with the public on issues that concern them, as we need to become more visible and contactable. It also means that the future Community Council will be able to refer to the previous consultation by the time the next Local Place Plan is put into place.

L.S.

**4. SSEN/Community Interaction**

Councillor Knox informed us that Councillor Helen Crawford prepared a motion which was submitted to the Highland Council. The aim of Councillor Crawford's motion was to help concerned locals by putting the proposals for the major new electricity infrastructure (megapylons, substations and battery storage projects) into the bigger picture by mapping the infrastructure, which links up across vast tracts of the country. The motion was also concerned with getting training for Community Councillors in dealing with major applications. The drawing of the motion was on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and it was rejected because it was deemed incompetent as it asked the Council to defer planning under Sections 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act, 1989. Any amendments to the legislation go to the U.K. Government, so are outwith the Council's powers to act. The Scottish Government does not have the power to change the megawatt threshold.

Councillor Knox said that she is sympathetic and completely in support of training for the Community Councils. Councillor Knox said that she would like to work with colleagues to address the imbalance of power, knowledge and resource. Councillor Knox said that 'we' (she and her colleagues) are supportive of the principle to provide a dedicated resource in the Council (independent of the Planning Department) to provide support, help Community Councillors fill in applications and to help people find applications relevant to their own area.



<p>Inglis Lyon said that the electricity infrastructure provider (SSEN) is deciding upon the level of mitigation without effective communication or consultation. What's really required is an overhaul where the mitigations are independently assessed and agreed independently. Inglis asked if the Highland Council's Planning Committee have the authority to implement an independent review.</p> <p>Councillor Knox said that the Planning Committee is made up of Highland Councillors. It's not the Council that's the issue. Scottish Ministers/Transmission regulations/Ofgem put constraints on the Council and will limit this first stage when it goes to Planning Committee.</p> <p>Inglis Lyon asked that a reply to the three questions posed to the Highland Council be sought from the Convener, rather than the Planning Team. Councillor Knox said that a Citizens' Panel is needed, involving all the Community Councils.</p> <p>Inglis Lyon is to send out a Press Release on the three public questions. There are eight questions and only one motion now. All the Community Councillors agreed that statements to the Press be allowed.</p>	<p>I.L.</p>
<p><b>5. Police Report</b></p> <p>No issues were raised by the public. A police report is received every quarter, so there was not a new report to discuss. Lindsey Stout discussed police issues raised by regular Cybercrime bulletins and also raised by weekly Rural Watch emails, the major crime in rural areas being agricultural. These are shared to our Facebook page when appropriate.</p> <p>Cycling safety on the A862 – Inglis Lyon suggested that Lindsey Stout contact Hi-Trans for comment.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us">https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us</a></p>	<p>L.S.</p>
<p><b>6. Planning Issues</b></p> <p>Dr Eleanor Kennedy said that there was nothing new to discuss. The Scottish Reporter's Decision on the former Moniack Hatchery was that the planning application was agreed.</p> <p>We have asked to be a Statutory Consultee on planning applications 24/02209/PIP and 24/02211/PIP as a precautionary measure, because they are in our area, in case we are contacted by a resident.</p>	
<p><b>7. Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Éamon Doorley was co-opted for a year as a Community Councillor. All Community Councillors were in agreement. Lindsey Stout is to add him to communications.</p> <p>Councillor Emma Knox said that the 20mph limit consultation meant that speed limits in the area were under consultation. We were asked as Community Councillors which areas were of concern. We asked to extend the 40mph limit at Inchmore around the corner at Lentrán House towards Inverness, as previously minuted in detail in previous meetings. Lindsey Stout suggested that Councillor Knox contact former Community Councillor Karen Young for more detail on the exact area proposed for this extension of the 40mph speed limit. We are also concerned about the speed of traffic on the B9164, the back road to Beauly past Wester Lovat and Dunballoch and suggested that this road should be 40mph, especially</p>	<p>L.S.</p>

<p>considering the Lovat Farm pop-up shop and limited visibility for drivers pulling out of the field. Lindsey Stout suggested that Councillor Knox speak to Hugh Ashburner, of Mansefield Park Residents' Association. Councillor Knox said that she was going to speak to all the residents who have previously expressed concerns in our meetings about the speed of traffic in these two areas.</p> <p>Inglis Lyon suggested adding road speeds to the Local Place Plan consultation on Gala Day. Councillor Knox is to let us know when the 20mph consultation closes.</p>	<p><b>Cllr Knox</b></p>
<p><b>Further 2024 meetings: Tuesdays at 7.30pm to 9pm, The Williamson Room:</b></p> <p>24th September 12th November 17th December</p> <p style="text-align: center;">If you would like to attend a meeting by telephone or Zoom if you cannot attend in person, please contact us on <a href="mailto:kandbcommunitycouncil@gmail.com"><u>kandbcommunitycouncil@gmail.com</u></a></p>	