

<p>Lindsey would reshare it with the other Community Councillors for comment. The reply date to the consultation has closed (8th January). Lindsey Stout to reply to the email address on behalf of Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council once the other Community Councillors have had a chance to peruse the documents. Comments due by the end of the January.</p> <p>2025 meetings: Tuesdays at 7.30pm to 9pm, The Williamson Room, Kirkhill Community Centre:</p> <p>Meeting dates were adjusted from 18th February to 11th February because of the school break. December's meeting would be brought forward to 9th December because the third week of December was too close to the school holidays and all the Community Councillors had family commitments.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>
<p>4. SSEN/Community Interaction</p> <p>There was no response from SSEN to Councillor Helen Crawford's approach to renewing the Community Liaison Group. There will be a meeting with Ward Councillors on Thursday 16th January. There will be a meeting on the 17th January and four Community Councils have been preparing questions for the meeting in Beauly. Inglis Lyon asked to what extent have SSEN's plans been modified as a result of local consultation and to what extent has it added to the cost of the original scope of the proposals? This question will be put to Deputy First Minister and M.S.P. Kate Forbes at the meeting on 17th January. There has been no reply from M.P. Jamie Stone.</p>	
<p>5. Finance</p> <p>Inglis Lyon, our Treasurer, reported that our bank balance currently stands at £2907.97. We have been accepted for Internet Banking and will be issued with a card reader. Lindsey Stout asked if we should adopt another signatory to prevent issues with approving payments in the future. Inglis Lyon replied that internet banking means that payments can be approved even when signatories are on holiday. Lindsey Stout requested a refund of £23.00 for inkjet toner and estimated that this would last for a year. This expense was approved and a cheque was signed.</p>	
<p>6. Police/Rural Watch Report</p> <p style="text-align: center;">https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us</p>	
<p>7. Planning Issues</p> <p>Planning Ref. 24/05097/S36 Knocknagael BESS – Construction and operation of a 200MW Battery Energy Storage System</p> <p>Chairperson Cameron Kemp said that Éamon Doorley has written an email objecting to this planning application. Cameron Kemp is to forward the email as a reply from the Community Council.</p> <p>Inglis Lyon asked to what extent do those on the Planning Committee or the Fire Service (a delegated responsibility) have current training. Councillor Knox replied that there is considerable documentation and evidence. For example, there was quite a lot of technical evidence raised for the Caley Thistle application (this application went to Full Council).</p>	<p>Chair</p>

<p>Inglis Lyon asked Councillor Knox if there is a bank of information that has continuity between Council meetings. Councillor Knox replied that evidence would have to be raised for each planning application.</p> <p>Inglis Lyon asked where Highland Councillors get authoritative advice on the points which Éamon Doorley has raised. Who chooses the experts or decides <i>who is</i> an expert? It's important that the system is robust.</p> <p>Councillor Knox said that Statutory Bodies will give evidence – S.E.P.A., the Scottish Fire Service and other bodies are obliged to provide accurate and up to date information, as they are classed as experts. Regarding access, this would be the Highland Council's Roads Department. Inglis Lyon replied that there should be a mandatory schedule, so that there is no risk of missing important evidence, a quasi-judicial process, evidence-led and represented. Councillor Knox replied that Highland Councillors can only consider evidence which has presented for each planning application. A planning decision cannot be pre-determined. Highland Councillors on the Planning Committee can only consider the evidence prepared for each planning application, otherwise the scope would be too great and some important evidence could be missed. Cameron Kemp replied that Planning officials have to know what is important. Councillor Knox replied that Planning Officers have thorough training and will be kept up to date on current legislation.</p> <p>Inglis Lyon asked Councillor Knox to prepare a few lines on the training that Planning Officers have to ensure that they are asking the right questions when companies make their representation. Are they knowledgeable in current developments?</p>	<p>Cllr Knox</p>
<p>8. Any Other Business</p> <p>Flooding</p> <p>Winter flooding appears to be a recurring issue on the B9164 from Kirkhill to Inchmore, particularly at Balcarse. Councillor Knox said that the ditches and drains were cleared this year after Lindsey Stout had been in contact about blocked drains during the summer. The B9164 from Kirkhill to the A862 at Dunballoch has been deeply ditched by Lovat Estates and this has prevented flooding and ice forming here, on the brae. This has, however, worried drivers who wish to pull over to allow others to pass.</p> <p>Consultations</p> <p>Lindsey Stout asked for more responsiveness from other Community Councillors in dealing with minor queries and actions between meetings, such as replies to consultations which are time limited to between Community Council meetings.</p> <p>The Highland Council Budget Process</p> <p>Cameron Kemp asked Councillor Knox about the Highland Council Budget process. Councillor Knox replied that a three-year budget was set last year. A budget was agreed and Highland Councillors identified budget savings. The income comes from the Scottish Government settlement and the U.K. Government's National Insurance. Income from the Visitor Levy is not relevant for this financial year (consultation process still ongoing).</p> <p>Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council are to reply to the Visitor Levy consultation by the 7th of February. Chairperson to reply. Inglis Lyon asked Councillor Knox if the money was ring-fenced for tourism infrastructure and Councillor Knox replied in the affirmative.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Chair</p>

<p>Contact from a resident at Englishton Muir</p> <p>It has been brought to our attention that a landslide at Englishton Muir caused a lack of broadband coverage for more than a week. The main issue was the lack of communication about the date service might recommence. Secretary Lindsey Stout to contact British Telecom to ask that communication with residents should be a priority, especially as some residents are vulnerable and rely on broadband and telephone service for communication and carers rely on telecom services to check in on vulnerable adults.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>
<p>2025 meetings: Tuesdays from 7.30pm to 9pm, The Williamson Room, Kirkhill Community Centre. These are public meetings and all are welcome.</p> <p>14th January 11th February 11th March 13th May 10th June 19th August 16th September 11th November 9th December</p> <p style="text-align: center;">If you would like to contact us or attend a meeting remotely by Zoom or listen in and contribute by mobile phone if you cannot attend in person, please email us on kandbcommunitycouncil@gmail.com (A Zoom link cannot be arranged at short notice.)</p>	