

Meeting of the Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council

Minute of Meeting, 7:30pm, Tuesday 14th January 2025

Community Councillors present:

Cameron Kemp, Inglis Lyon, Judith Rumbold, Lindsey Stout.

In attendance:

Councillor Emma Knox.

The meeting was held in person at Kirkhill Community Centre.

1. Apologies	
Éamon Doorley, Jayne Macmillan, Cllr David Fraser, George Hogg.	
2. Minute of Last Meeting: 17 th December 2024	
The minutes of December's meeting were agreed; Inglis Lyon proposed and Judith Rumbold seconded their acceptance, pending corrections.	
3. Matters Arising, Minutes of Meeting of 17 th December 2024:	
Road Safety/Speed of Traffic	
Road lining and surface dressing on the A862; Councillor Knox said that she had received a reply on	
the white lining and that it would be dealt with in the new financial year. The white central lining will	
be dealt with first and then she will ask if there is evidence for the replacement of the cats' eyes.	Cllr Knox
Safer Routes to School representatives visited Kirkhill Primary School before Christmas. Traffic cones and banners do not prevent parents and carers parking in the area outside the school and the speed limit does not appear to be adhered to coming into the village to drop children off to school, when	
people are leaving early for work. The safety of the children relies on people altering their driving and parking behaviour.	
Bus Shelter/Noticeboard	
Inglis Lyon had written to HiTrans about improving Kirkhill Bus Shelter's noticeboard and has sent a copy to other Community Councillors.	
Reelig Glen Consultation, Forestry & Land Scotland	
The Secretary had difficulty in sharing the large files to do with this consultation with the other Community Councillors as access is only open to the Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council email address so only one person can access it at a time. George Hogg of ACT had downloaded the files onto ACT's shared drive and was able to share the link. Lindsey Stout, Secretary, had previously shared the link on the Community Council WhatsApp Group but it had been missed over Christmas.	Secretary



Lindsey would reshare it with the other Community Councillors for comment. The reply date to the consultation has closed (8 th 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	Secretary
the documents. Comments due by the end of the January.	Secretary
2025 meetings: Tuesdays at 7.30pm to 9pm, The Williamson Room, Kirkhill Community Centre:	
Meeting dates were adjusted from 18 th February to 11 th February because of the school break.	
December's meeting would be brought forward to 9 th December because the third week of December was too close to the school holidays and all the Community Councillors had family commitments.	
4. SSEN/Community Interaction	
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 16 th January.	
There will be a meeting on the 17 th 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 17 th January. There has been no reply from M.P. Jamie Stone.	
5. Finance	
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.	
6. Police/Rural Watch Report	
https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us	
7. Planning Issues	
Planning Ref. 24/05097/S36 Knocknagael BESS – Construction and operation of a 200MW Battery Energy Storage System	
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.	Chair
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).	



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.

Inglis Lyon asked where Highland Councillors get authoritative advice on the points which Éamon Doorley has raised. Who chooses the experts or decides *who is* an expert? It's important that the system is robust.

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.

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?

Cllr Knox

8. Any Other Business

Flooding

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.

Consultations

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.

ΑII

The Highland Council Budget Process

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).

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.

Chair



Contact from a resident at Englishton Muir

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.

Secretary

2025 meetings: Tuesdays from 7.30pm to 9pm, The Williamson Room, Kirkhill Community Centre. These are public meetings and all are welcome.

14th January

11th February

11th March

13th May

10th June

19th August

16th September

11th November

9th December

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.)