

Meeting of the Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council

Minute of Meeting, 7:30pm, Tuesday 17th December 2024

Community Councillors present:

Éamon Doorley, Cameron Kemp, Inglis Lyon, Jayne MacMillan, Judith Rumbold, Lindsey Stout.

In attendance:

George Hogg, Councillor Emma Knox.

The meeting was held in person at Kirkhill Community Centre.

<p>1. Apologies</p> <p>None received.</p>	
<p>2. Minute of Last Meeting: 12th November 2024</p> <p>The minutes of November's meeting were agreed; Councillor Knox proposed and Jayne Macmillan seconded their acceptance, pending corrections.</p>	
<p>3. Matters Arising</p> <p>Minutes of Meeting of 12th November 2024:</p> <p>Parking outside Kirkhill Primary School/Road Safety/Speed of Traffic</p> <p>Jayne Macmillan and Councillor Knox discussed road safety for the children on their way to and from school. Jayne has spoken to the Head Teacher and the schoolchildren have a JRSO (Junior Road Safety Officers) group. Councillor Knox will discuss crossing to and from school with the Road Safety Team. New banners were discussed at the last meeting and these could either be provided by Safer Routes to School or by a Ward Discretionary Fund application. Cameron Kemp, Chair, asked Road Safety to be an agenda item for the next meeting.</p> <p>Crannog Newsletter</p> <p>Inglis Lyon had been in touch with Mark Drain from the Crannog team and was keen to endorse further financial support for the Crannog, at least until the newsletter has adequate funding in place for future editions and the Community Council was in support. Lindsey Stout abstained from voting due to also being on the Crannog team.</p> <p>Local Place Plan Consultation</p> <p>Jayne Macmillan said that she had not been able to attend Kirkhill Tots yet to see if they had any suggested additions to our Local Place Plan. In any case we have missed the date of submission. The</p>	<p>Jayne M.</p>

Planning Department will look at any partial Local Place Plans submitted after the date, as many Communities are finding this task difficult and time consuming.

Cameron Kemp said that he will send Beauly's Local Place Plan (LLP) to the other Community Councillors for comment. Lindsey Stout is to draft the LLP out after Christmas. George Hogg suggested drafting the Local Place Plan, flying it past the Community Council first then going back to the Community for comment, as most people only wrote a word or two on a post-it. This would help find where the gaps are and it would be interesting to see how it evolves over a number of years. George would be happy to include publicising the redraft in a joint ACT/Community Council event. There were a few gaps which Community Councillors had noticed. There were no suggestions regarding planning except the provision of more affordable rental housing in the area for people moving to the area to pursue a job opportunity or before buying a property in the area. There were also no suggestions regarding improving the school, which is positive.

Councillor Knox said that she had raised the question why there still are no road markings or cat's eyes on the newly surfaced section of the A862 Beauly to Inverness once more with the Roads Department. She has not had a response. The first response was that it was safer not to have line markings because it made drivers reduce their speed. The Community Council were unanimous that it is more dangerous not to have any road markings or cats' eyes and there are frequent bad accidents on this section of the A862. Any improvement in visibility in the dark improves road safety. Cameron Kemp asked Councillor Knox to look into the stretch of surface dressing on this section which has failed (a shiny surface) and ask when it will be redone.

Councillor Knox and George Hogg said that the Active Travel Path volunteers from Aird Community Trust have dealt with the branches overhanging the multi-use path beside the A862 on the stretch of path west of Inchmore, beginning at Drumchardine and continuing to Reelig.

Lindsey Stout has actioned a reply on our behalf to the Local Transport Strategy Themes and Policies consultation and it was also shared with ACT and with the community on our Facebook page.

SSEN/Community Interaction

We were asked by the U.K. Government to respond to an Electricity Infrastructure Consenting in Scotland paper from the Scottish Electricity Consenting Team within four weeks, received in November 2024, which is not long enough to consider a response. Reading between the lines, one of the proposals of this paper would take away the rights of local Councils to hold a Public Inquiry.

Cameron Kemp and Councillor Knox both made an application on behalf of Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council for an extension of time. No extension of time was granted. Cameron Kemp, Éamon Doorley and Inglis Lyon prepared a response on behalf of the Community Council and submitted it within the timeframe. Highland Council discussed the paper on 12th December 2024 with the South Area Planning Manager. Highland Council agreed that the right to an automatic Public Inquiry should be retained with a period of time for a judicial review. Councillor Knox expressed the

Secretary

Councillor
Knox

<p>wishes of the community and also that the three month timescale for Judicial Review should be retained.</p>	
<p>4. SSEN/Community Interaction</p> <p>Cameron Kemp reported that there has been limited progress on a meaningful Community Liaison Group with SSEN being re-established. Councillors Crawford and Fraser have worked to support the Community Councils involved. Councillor Knox said that Councillor Fraser has done a lot of work on this. Inglis Lyon said that Councillor Crawford will Chair the first meeting only and the minutes will be recorded by a member of a Community Council, not SSEN, so that they reflect the actual meeting. There will be a meeting on the 8th of January with the other Community Councils involved. A group of four Community Councils will meet with MSP Kate Forbes on 17th January regarding electricity infrastructure. These Community Councils are: Kirkhill & Bunchrew, Kilmorack, Strathglass and Kiltarlity.</p>	
<p>5. Finance</p> <p>Inglis Lyon, Treasurer, reported that we have approximately £3000 in the bank and have written three cheques: one to Lindsey Stout for £16.75 to refund Secretary's expenses and the other two to Aird Community Trust, one for rent of £75 and the other for financial support of a Crannog print run for £78. Approximately £2600 is left.</p> <p>Inglis Lyon said that he has been in correspondence with George Hogg about a grounds maintenance solution. The Community Council will ring-fence £500 per annum for grounds maintenance in Highland Council owned areas the Millennium Garden, work filling and weeding the planters and the flowerbed near the bus stop. Lindsey Stout is to confirm with Erik Lundberg that the flowerbed with the cypress tree is included in the £500. The Aird Community Trust Community Centre team and George Hogg will order any maintenance on these areas on our behalf.</p> <p>To make sure it is an affordable cost and to avoid delays, a short email will be sent by George or another member of ACT to the Community Council to propose a cost. Inglis Lyon said that we now meet most months, so there will be fewer delays than in the past. Lindsey Stout suggested adding another signatory but Inglis said that we will soon have internet banking, which will mean that payments can be made when someone is away or cheques can be signed in advance in case of signatories' holidays. Inglis suggested that a reasonable cost, such as a fencepost for £350, should come to a Community Council meeting to be agreed, whereas a low cost such as £50 could be actioned by the Treasurer and Chairperson between meetings.</p> <p>Inglis Lyon said that he had been in touch with the finance officer in Highland Council for a proforma to apply for grant funding for the overdue grant. It should be two weeks from the form being received until the grant is paid.</p> <p>Cameron Kemp thanked Inglis Lyon for all his effort in dealing with the financial matters on our behalf.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>

<p>Future expenditures are: £15 rent invoice for the Hall (the cost of rent has risen) and printing costs. Lindsey Stout is to send in her receipts by scanning them in emailing them to the Treasurer.</p>	<p>Secretary</p>
<p>6. Police/Rural Watch Report</p> <p>Cameron Kemp attended the Inverness Community Councils Forum on Tuesday 10th December. Emma Wright, Police Scotland spoke about Operation Respect, Street Pastors, the provision of a Mental Health card and community safety, particularly in the city centre. There are problems in the Eastgate Centre and the city centre on Friday afternoons when the schools are out, particularly with shoplifting. She also said that some people find it difficult to report issues to the police.</p> <p>There will be dedicated Rural Beats Officers for Kiltarlity, Beaully and Cannich and a revamp of the Community Beats newsletter, which community councils receive, next due in January 2025. We can reply as Community Councillors to the Police Scotland email address with any queries or information about community safety in our areas.</p> <p>There was discussion around the lack of traffic management by police officers whenever the Kessock Bridge is closed, which results in traffic travelling quite a way before being diverted, rather than being redirected earlier at Scorguie, where there are more options for diversions, leading to vehicles turning and further slowing traffic and a high level of frustration and further congestion and delay. Councillor Knox said that if there are not enough officers available there is no traffic management available. Traffic issues on the A862 do not show up on Traffic Scotland or Google Maps because it is a Highland Council road rather than a trunk road, so people are not aware until they come across the issue as they are driving and it is not always mentioned on MFR. Lindsey Stout mentioned that she saw four police officers working in Raigmore Hospital's A&E Department on a Thursday evening (it was not even a weekend), which shows that police officers' staffing levels are affected in many ways.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us</p>	
<p>7. Planning Issues</p> <p>Jayne Macmillan said that she had looked at the planning applications as they came in and that there was nothing that required K&BCC to submit a request to be considered a Statutory Consultee. There was an application for three glamping pods at Meikle Phoineas. Cameron Kemp shared a response on behalf of Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council in favour of two planning applications in Newtonhill.</p> <p>There was a Consultation Request notification with a response due by 15th of January from The Highland Council. (Consultation on Application - 24/05097/S36, Knocknagael 200MW Battery Energy Storage System, for the land 500M South East Of Essich Farm Cottages, Inverness.) This actually reads 22nd January when the document is opened. Éamon Doorley said that this is across the road from an existing substation. There are a lot of archaeological remains in the area. This is close to a residential area, a new development and school, near Ness Castle and in farmland. It will be a lithium battery farm and the chemical fallout could reach a half kilometre radius, emitting carbon fluoride and carbon monoxide gases. Carbon fluoride is very dangerous and can scar your lungs. This fallout area is based on a soft breezy day, with chemical particulates reaching five to ten kilometres' radius in various strengths. He asked, is every pylon in the Highlands going to have a chemical battery farm</p>	<p>Chair</p>

<p>attached? Cameron Kemp and Éamon Doorley are to put bullet points into an email to reply.</p> <p>A previous application for a battery storage system (B.E.S.S.) at Kilmorack was turned down. This was headed by Energy Traders, a Dutch company.</p>	<p>É. Doorley</p>
<p>8. Any Other Business</p> <p>Belladrum Community Trust</p> <p>We received an email in August asking for a Board Member from our Community Council to serve on Belladrum Community Trust’s Board to decide allocation of funds from the festival to community causes. Each community council has been asked to supply a representative, as well as locals to Belladrum. Jayne Macmillan volunteered. Lindsey Stout to pass on her contact details to the organisers. George Hogg is to raise this with Kiltarlity Community Council to make sure that they are aware of the Trust.</p> <p>Consultation - Highland Wide 20 mph Speed Limit Traffic Regulation Order</p> <p>We were asked to reply to Highland Council’s roads team on the 20mph rollout consultation by 17th December. Lindsey Stout asked for an extension of time to reply as two weeks is too short. We agreed to write in reply as following:</p> <p>“We are in full support of the 20mph rollout in Inverness area and Kirkhill in particular. Our minutes show that residents have regularly been expressing their concern about road traffic speed in Bunchrew, Inchmore and Kirkhill since 2018. As well as the 20mph rollout we would like to see the implementation of the requests we have made through Councillor Knox for reduction to 40mph on the B9164 Dunballoch/Long Wood stretch from Kirkhill to the Dunballoch junction with the A862 just short of Lovat Bridge and the extension of the 40mph limit on the A862 in Inchmore east towards Inverness at Lentrán House, improving visibility and speed reduction before the bend. We hope that the constant and persistent views of locals are taken into account in speed reduction generally. There have been a number of accidents recently on the A862 and reducing the number of these, with the area being on the NC500 route, is paramount.”</p> <p>Bus Shelter/Noticeboard</p> <p>Inglis Lyon said that the bus shelter was not very welcoming or comfortable. There is a need for a better noticeboard with an up to date timetable in it. There is no confidence from the public that the timetable is correct. He said that the shelter erected at Lovat Bridge is now an attractive waiting area. Éamon Doorley said that there are no buses on a Sunday morning if people are working. Lindsey Stout said that this had been discussed with Stagecoach representatives at the public meeting she organised three years ago with Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council, Kiltarlity Community Council and M.P. Drew Hendry and the reason for no improvement to Sunday services (all other points were actioned) was due to economics – it must be worthwhile to run a bus demand-wise. Inglis Lyon is to draft a letter to Hi Trans for Lindsey Stout to finalise, seeking a way forward in improving the shelter.</p> <p>Reelig Glen Consultation, Forestry & Land Scotland</p> <p>A reply is requested by 8th of January. George Hogg said that Aird Community Trust volunteers with the Upper Beechwood are involved in the consultation and have thoroughly read it and made comment and will be writing in support of the plan to retain the Glen for recreation and conservation use. This proposal continues the current management of the area. The only clear felling would</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>Inglis Lyon</p>

<p>possibly be larch at the top end, if a larch disease took hold.</p> <p>There was discussion around the management of the wood and re-stocking following felling and thinning. George Hogg said that they would not only commit to native species because there are some specimen trees in the arboretum in Reelig Glen dating back to the eighteenth or nineteenth centuries and any that seed lead to a strong flush of conifers. The Woodland Group in combination with Forestry & Land Scotland are looking for conifer mixed with oak and natural reseedling is encouraged. George said that there was a great deal of biophytes and fungi in the wood. The Beechwood ‘cathedral ‘ shall be maintained but the spread of beech in other areas discouraged. Beech leaf compost discourages ground cover and limits the number of species found, plant, bird, insect and animal. Beech boughs can be prone to sudden drop. Volunteers and Forestry & Land Scotland staff observe and inspect the trees regularly.</p> <p>Éamon Doorley asked if beaver had been seen in the area yet and George Hogg said no, but feral goats and wild deer are managed by the local farmers in agreement with Forestry & Land Scotland, although protected within the wood. Lindsey Stout asked if a Heritage Group Member has been involved in discussions as there is a great deal of archaeology of water systems and historical buildings in the area and George confirmed this.</p> <p>Lindsey Stout said that she was having trouble sharing the files as there are so many and they are so large; George Hogg said that he would share a link to the files and Lindsey Stout would pass it on to other Community Councillors and the aim is to reply by the 8th of January.</p>	<p>George Hogg/ Secretary</p>
<p>Further 2024 meetings: Tuesdays at 7.30pm to 9pm, The Williamson Room:</p> <p>14th January 18th February 11th March 13th May 10th June 19th August 16th September 11th November 16th 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 well in advance on kandbcommunitycouncil@gmail.com</p>	