

KILTARLITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Kiltarlity Community Council held on 19th February 2015 in Kiltarlity Village Hall. The Meeting commenced at 7.30pm and finished at 9.30 pm.

**PRESENT: Norman Grant (Chairman); Dorothy Ward (Treasurer); Ron MacLean; Adrian Hooper; Hamish MacLennan
Also present were Elaine Cameron, Bill Fraser and Constable Maclean of Police Scotland**

The Chairman welcomed those present and in particular Elaine Cameron who had expressed an interest in becoming Secretary of the Community Council.

1. APOLOGIES

Eunice Ramsden, Sandra Johansen, Cllr Helen Carmichael; Cllr Margaret Davidson

2. POLICE LIAISON

Constable Maclean explained that there was nothing to report. There was some discussion on the recent road flooding and its likely causes.

3. SECRETARYSHIP

Members welcomed Elaine Cameron's interest in the post of Secretary. On the motion of Dorothy Ward, seconded by Adrian Hooper it was agreed to (a) co-opt Elaine as a full member of the Community Council and (b) to appoint her to the post of Secretary.

It was noted that the Community Council now had its full complement of 8 members and it would not be possible meantime to co-opt Bill Fraser who, however, was happy to continue attending meetings as an interested member of the public.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22nd JANUARY 2015

**The Minutes of the meeting of 22nd January were agreed as a true record
Proposed: Ron MacLean
Seconded: Adrian Hooper**

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MINUTES

Defibrillator

The defibrillator and outdoor box were fully funded with a surplus of £66.79. It was agreed to reserve this sum meantime to meet any further expenditure that might arise in connection with the Defibrillator. The company Logistic would, free of charge, install the defibrillator at the Hall and also CCTV camera equipment to protect the equipment from possible vandalism.

Kiltarlity War Memorial

Work would be done when the weather improved.

Beaully Hub and SSE

Neil Anderson of SSE had admitted that communication with regard to the Beaully Hub had not been good. Community Councils had been told that two and a half million pounds had already been spent on attempts to mitigate the 'Beaully Buzz'. It was noted that this represented a very small proportion of SSE annual profits.

With regard to the recent power cuts members had been informed that SSE could provide a Resilience Plan for communities and an SSE advisor was available to speak to communities on the plan. It was agreed that we would not meantime request the services of the advisor but would first obtain a copy of the Resilience Plan. Ron MacLean reported that he had received compensation from SSE on the basis of experiencing a power cut of more than 48 hours and that any one in a similar position could lodge a claim.

It was noted that SSE were to stage a further public exhibition/consultation on their proposed Loch Buidhe (Bonar Bridge) to Beaully upgraded line. This would be on 2nd March in Kilmorack Public Hall.

It was noted that work was progressing at Balblair on a new footpath being provided by SSE after negotiations with Kilmorack Community Council. SSE had invited members to visit their switching station at Tealing in Perthshire but no Kiltarlity members had taken up this offer.

Community Artificial Sports Pitch Facility

Ongoing.

Update on John Taylor's TECS repair list

There was no progress to report and a wide ranging discussion ensued regarding the many current road problems. It was agreed to provide Bill Fraser details of matters which were the responsibility of SSE since he had already begun such list and had had an undertaking that Highland Council would not sign off these issues until they had all been put right by SSE.

Matters that were solely the responsibility of the Council would be raised with them by the Chairman who should be given a note of such issues that members were aware of. It was agreed that, with an updated list, a further meeting should be arranged with John Taylor of Highland Council.

Fencing of play area

The Treasurer had been told by Highland Council that there was no money available for this work, and she had explained to Linda Bell, Lovat Shinty Club Secretary, that this work was not the responsibility of the Community Council. Payback workers would probably be able to carry out the work but they would have to be supplied with the materials. Members did not rule out the possibility of the Community Council making a

contribution towards these but agreed that the first step must be to obtain an estimate of the likely cost from Cluny Revel of Payback.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Funds directly available to the Community Council stood at £2274.62.

Ron MacLean explained that it would not after all be necessary for the Community Council to buy a set of ISBN Numbers) which would have cost around £150. ARCH had offered to gift us an ISBN from the batch they had already bought. This would not affect the copyright of the Boblainy Archaeology booklet which would still belong to the Community Council. He suggested that the money set aside could perhaps be used for an associated purpose if necessary.

7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The latest amended application for additional houses at the Glebe site was discussed. It was agreed that the Chairman would, on behalf of the Community Council, submit an objection on the basis that more houses were being proposed than the 24 that had been agreed as an earlier amendment and that the houses being proposed were not 'affordable', despite this being the basis of our original agreement to an increase to 24 houses. We would also object to the design and density of the housing now being proposed.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Inverness Area Forum

Ron MacLean gave a report on the meeting of the Inverness Area Community Councils Forum which he and the Treasurer had attended on Tuesday 17th February.

Apart from routine discussion of problems and raising of matters which Council Headquarters had not satisfactorily dealt with, the Forum heard an explanation of the development and latest position on the attempts being made to increase the powers of Community Councils and to improve local democracy generally. A full picture could be obtained from three key documents; the Christie Report; Effective Democracy; and the Community Empowerment Bill. Ron was most familiar with the report on Effective Democracy, which he said made very radical suggestions for giving bodies like community councils and local communities real power, based on the principle of 'subsidiarity' and a bottom up approach rather than a top down one.

He promised to send out to members the internet links for these three documents and he suggested that once there had been time to read and consider them it might be a good idea to discuss them at a future Community Council meeting.

Woodlands Improvement Forest Plan

It was agreed this was best dealt with by the Boblainy Forest Group and Ron MacLean undertook to pass the paperwork received from Forestry Commission Scotland to the Group.

War Memorial Project

A member of the public had told the Chairman about a custom in France where there was no school on Armistice Day and local pupils attended ceremonies at the local War Memorial and read out the names of all those remembered on the Memorial. It was agreed we should write the school about the possibility of having a project which would involve the pupils and mark the fact that 100 years had elapsed since the start of the First World War.

Support for Fund Raising

Elaine Cameron explained that her employer the Bank of Scotland had a scheme for matching funds which had been raised by employees for good causes. Members agreed to note the possibility that this might in the future be very helpful to the Community Council.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Kiltarlity Community Council was scheduled for Thursday 19th March 2015, in Kiltarlity Village Hall, at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm approximately.