

KILTARLITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING 20 & 27 SEPTEMBER 2017

7.30pm KILTARLITY VILLAGE HALL

Draft, to be approved meeting 15 November 2017

In the chair:

Norman Grant (NG)

Present:

Members - Dorothy Ward (DW), Lucinda Spicer (LS), Eunice Ramsden (27th only)

Ex Officio members - Cllr Margaret Davidson (MD) (20th only)

Also present (20th only) - PC Maclean, various members of the public

1. Welcome and apologies

At the meeting on 20th, NG announced that since there was not a quorum of KCC members present, certain business on the agenda could not be dealt with, but a discussion with the members of the public present would take place following the police report.

2. Police report and public discussion (20th)

Police Report

The Police Report notified the meeting of traffic issues affecting Beauly (speeding, 4 accidents, failing to stop at pedestrian crossings) and also mentioned a fatal accident on the A833 near Brockies corner, investigation still ongoing.

Various other incidents under Public Protection, Alcohol/Antisocial behaviour and crimes of dishonesty, all out with the Kiltarlity area. .

LS reported that possible speeding along the C1072 (Belladrum Farm/Fassock/Moniack Mhor stretch) had been raised with her by local residents. The speed limit on that road is 60 mph (HGV 40 mph) and it seems extremely unlikely that this is being exceeded, however on investigation, a short (600m) stretch of this road appears to have sufficient density of housing with frontage onto the road (10 or more houses within 600m) to merit review for 40 mph limit under government guidelines. This has been raised with Highland Council, which is ongoing.

Public Discussion

NG opened the meeting to the floor. KCC had been previously advised that the 2016 calendar of social events (treasure hunt, Halloween disco, Christmas lights, etc) had been very well received

by the community, such that there was momentum to form a Social Committee to organise these events on an ongoing basis rather than the previous "ad hoc" arrangements between KCC and other community organisations and individuals. There was criticism raised from the floor, that KCC members had not attended some of the social events themselves, which was fully accepted by members present and acknowledged to be less than ideal.

It was explained that KCC's statutory duty was to represent the views of the community in planning and licensing matters, and it was increasingly being called upon to represent the community by input into local and national government consultations of various types, attendance at local forums and so on. A small grant was received annually from the Highland Council primarily to enable the CC to exist, of which some has been used to contribute to local good causes. With a current membership of 5 (expected to drop to 4 this month) and 1 co opted member (and bearing in mind the age of the current members), there was not sufficient resource for KCC to go beyond its statutory remit at present nor does it have the youthful energy that now seems to be present in the village for social events and building community spirit.

NG called upon the community to come forward to take up the vacant places on the council to increase the resources of the CC and the diversity of its membership.

MD explained that there were other ways of operating a full calendar of events, than having a community council taking on the social side of things as well as discharging the statutory duties. She referred to Glenurquhart, where a separate social committee organises all the social events and owns community assets, and GUCC fulfills the statutory remit. The social committee should be properly formed with its own constitution and bank account, and undertake its own fund raising, insurance, licences etc. It has more freedom to pursue its objects and set its membership and operating model than it would have under the statutory guise of a CC. Other communities may adopt the course of an expanded Community Council, with these social operations carried on through sub committees which are still part of the overall CC and with the CC having the bank account, insurances etc and subject to operating under the Highland Council Scheme for Community Councils. It is up to Kiltarlity to define how it wants to operate.

It was left that the members of the public who attended the meeting would get in touch with KCC, and communicate what they wanted to do. Either way, there is a need for the youthful enthusiasm for events management, building community spirit and fund raising ideas shown in the discussion to come forward, whether it is through formation of a separate Social Committee or through membership of an expanded KCC with or without retirements from the current KCC membership, but always subject to the fact that the full membership quota of KCC is 8 members.

There was a plea for the embryonic Social Committee to take on the 2017 OAP lunch from DW, whatever organisation ended up going forward with Social events.

At this point, the meeting closed with the balance of formal business deferred to a time when a quorum of KCC could be mustered. This was found to be 27th September and the remainder of these minutes cover that session. Those present for this second session were NG, LS, DW and ER, with no ex officio members or members of the public. Apologies were received from MD.

3. Minutes of last meeting and actions arising

The Minutes of Meeting 16 August 2017 were adopted, subject to the addition of the following comments on the relevant paragraphs under item 3, received from Bill Fraser in his absence:

- 1) John Trower Wood Monument. The monument in memory of John Trower (which is located at the gate into the wood) has not itself been damaged. However, the grassy area overlooking Loch Raineachan, together with the seat and picnic table that had been placed on this area to enhance its amenity, were just bulldozed away by the contractor who was working up there to create a turning area. It had been hoped that something could be done (possibly via Fountain Forestry) to get the contractor to rectify the damage he'd done by reinstating the grassy area, and replacing the picnic table he smashed. It would not be right if the contractor was permitted to get away with his mindless and disrespectful action.
- 2) Black Bridge Church Wall. Although no repair work had been commenced when last inspected, we cannot say "nothing has happened". The Council has erected building site wire mesh barriers all around the church, so that it's no longer possible to access the building. It is hoped that the Council will proceed to carry out the necessary repairs before too long so that access to the building can be restored. However, the risk that the loose boulders might fall on some unwitting visitor has been removed.

Approval was proposed by NG, seconded by DW.

LS has established that the ownership of John Trower Wood is the Executors of the late G Foster, and the contractor involved would have been Sylvestrus.

Actions were reviewed and those not completed or otherwise on the agenda were dealt with as follows:

Lucky2Bhere and defibrillator session at Tomnacross -Nothing has been heard from Elaine Cameron about the school awareness raising session. In the event of default, his was to be picked up by NG. A further training session has been held in the village - NG attended. ACTION - EC/AM/NG.

KCC has donated £150 towards the cost of a new battery and pads, but the real cost to the charity is well in excess of this. It had been previously agreed that LS would put up a notice on the Post Office notice board seeking fund raising ideas and a volunteer, this has not been done yet. ACTION - LS.

Condition of Core path - NG reported that Lovat are responsible for this particular path and have started doing something. Continue to monitor - NG.

Druim Ba Long term Forest Plan - no draft yet issued, continue to monitor (LS).

SSE Resilient Communities Fund - LS reported that many communities across the UK had been funded over the last couple of years for items such as generator equipment, upgrading village hall facilities to provide an emergency hub in the event of floods or power cuts, equipment for dealing with the aftermath of power cuts or flood eg sandbags, and items such as centrally located defibrillators. ER to consult with the Hall Association as to ideas of what would be

needed to make the Hall an effective hub in the event of local disaster, which is most likely to come from wind and weather related power outages. The funding window opens next year, for which we need to be organised with some ideas. ACTION - ER.

Road patching to Belladrum - done.

Communities Empowerment Act - LS circulated the Outcomes from the 10 year Highland Improvement Plan (attached to these minutes for reference). It is these improvements that the partnerships formed by local bodies under the processes set out in the Communities Empowerment Act are seeking to achieve through the actions they take. Community bodies (including CCs) have some functions and opportunities under the Act so should keep themselves informed as necessary.

4. Newsletter

LS reported that Ian Davidson had come forward and volunteered to take on the Newsletter. This was well received by all those present. LS will meet with Ian to get this off the ground, DW to supply brief financial details for that meeting. The KCC laptop computer (with the most recent issue on it) is still with Elaine Cameron and its return has been requested so that progress can be made. Apparently there is also a printer with it. ACTION - LS.

5. Correspondence

NG has circulated the Planning Lists to members.

LS has received a CD containing the Beauly Woodlands Long Term Management Plan for the next stage of consultation. It was resolved that she would review it to see if any issues arose that needed KCC action. ACTION - LS..

6. Kiltarlity Social events and proposed Social Committee

NG briefed the meeting on the previous discussion on 20th (see earlier in the Minutes) - the choice is for those organising the Social events either to come under KCC's auspices or to have an independent Social Committee, with possibly more freedom in fund raising and operations; the response is awaited.

7. KCC Membership matters

Pending the outcome of this , LS briefed the meeting on the membership numbers and the processes that could be adopted under the Highland Scheme for Community Councils and the KCC Constitution for increasing the membership of KCC to the maximum of 8, should there be interest from the community in increasing the membership to this number.

KCC can have a maximum of 2 co opted members; there is one already, so only one further member can be admitted by vote at an ordinary meeting. To further increase the membership, an interim election would need to be called. The Highland Council administers these, and they are held 3 times a year, with the next expected early in 2018. If an interim election is called, co opted members cease to be members, and elected members continue as members since the CC

continues to exist. In the election process nominations of eligible individuals are sought from the community, which can include previously co opted members. It is expected that there would be a maximum of 4 vacancies potentially to be filled by election, if this took place early in 2018. If any elected member places remain unfilled, KCC can co opt up to 2 individuals at the first meeting following the election (subject always to the maximum of 8 members in total).

After discussion, it was agreed that calling an interim election would be in the community's best interests, to allow fresh blood to come forward and hopefully increase the diversity of the CC. It was therefore resolved:

- a. To call an interim election if it proved practicable;
- b. To instruct LS to check with Charles Stephen on timing and process; and
- c. To advertise the interim election in the community as widely as possible.

8. Newsletter

Already covered above.

9. Treasurer's Report

The annual grant has been received (£1,082.18). KCC funds stand at £2,090.21.

10. Consultations and other CC administrative and governance matters

- a. Belladrum Forest Plan revision - subject to the entry point for the timber lorries onto the A833, there were no other points to raise - ACTION LS
- b. Debt questionnaire - no responses received for LS to submit - this was raised again.
- c. Participatory budgetting - it was resolved that KCC would not seek to participate in the committee administering the process, due to lack of resources.
- d. Rural Communities Convention 1 November 2017 Craigmonie Centre - LS will attend to represent KCC.
- e. Quality Awards nominations - due to the deferral of the business from 20th September, the deadline for responding to this has passed, therefore item not taken.

For the record, LS attended the Inverness Kirking of the Council ceremony on Sunday 19 September at the Old High Church, to represent KCC.

11. Date of next meeting

The date was set as Wednesday 15 November 2017 at 7.30pm.

Lucinda Spicer

Secretary

Highland Outcome Improvement Plan 2017 - 2027 - Overview

