

KNOCKBAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL (KCC)
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17TH MAY 2016
(NOT YET APPROVED)

PRESENT

Bruce Adams (BA), Helen Barton (HB), Rachael Grist (RG), Sue Lowe (SL), Alan McDiarmid (AM), Roy Sinclair (RS), John Stott (JLS), Jill Tilford (JT) & Cllr McCallum (IM)

APOLOGIES: Sylvia Bertram (SB), Kate MacKay (KM) and PC Ali Lee (AL)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Action:

John Stott (JLS) opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON 19TH APRIL 2016

April's minutes were approved. These will be displayed on the notice boards in NK and Munloch.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None

4. FINANCE

The balance is £2,949.47, less £514 unrepresented cheques = £2,435.47.

5. INFORMATION FROM THE POLICE

In the last month a total of over 40 incidents were recorded on the Police system with all of the incidents being road traffic related on the A9.

In return our Roads Police Department issued the following FPN's for the below offences:

- Speeding
- No insurance

Two people have been charged with careless driving resulting in road traffic collisions on the A9 Munloch Junction and A9 Tore roundabout.

Speed checks were carried out in the North Kessock area by local officers where no offences were detected. Officers carried out foot patrols and licensed premises checks in the area where again no issues were detected.

With regards to the incidents which were reported to Police in the Month of April the fraud incident that occurred enquiries have been carried out with the suspect being identified out with the Police Scotland North Division area.

The report of the theft of the pedal cycle, Police enquires are still ongoing.

Regular patrols are being made in the area relating to the possible poachers in the area with no other reports been reported to Police.

A number of general issues are ongoing in the Wester Ross area that may affect the communities in Knockbain.

One of these is online/telephone scams are still featuring occasionally and some people are still being persuaded to part with cash to “release” alleged winnings or refunds which essentially do not exist so please encourage all members of your community to think carefully before responding to emails or telephone calls enticing the person to gain a larger sum of money by spending a smaller one first.

Road safety is another issue of note and whilst both local response officers and the road policing unit continue to educate and enforce drivers to moderate irresponsible behaviour, members of the public are encouraged to report any instances of dangerous/careless driving they see and anyone they suspect driving whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

6. CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 SPEEDING ON RURAL ROADS

The Speed Priority list will be email by JLS this week to BEAR and William Gilfillan. Once responses have been received, KCC will need to seek public / community support.

JLS

It was suggested that traffic traveling through Munlochry should go via Tore on the A832 instead. This is not a popular option with Avoch / Fortrose / Cromarty residents. There was also a suggestion to restrict HGVs but there is not a weight limit on Littlemill Bridge to deter them.

JT set the KCC a challenge to travel via Tore and time the journey. She stated that it was no slower and we need to look at ways to get the message across. There is a responsibility to make the road safer, especially as the Munlochry Primary School pupils walk back and forward to the Hall on a regular basis. Other traffic calming measures have been taken (chicanes, priority traffic on the bridge) so there is no reason other measures can't be introduced as there is a responsibility to make the road safer. TEC / Community Services should have responsibility for local roads and Community Councils should be listening to residents and sharing views with them.

There is a need to make locals aware of the ‘tipping’ point, e.g. introducing a 20mph limit through Munlochry as part of a 6 month pilot, thus making it awkward for motorists to travel that way, instead of going via Tore. We need to change driver’s habits. The Black Isle is a close-knit community and it shouldn’t be difficult to get their support. A 20mph speed limit would have to be subject to a public consultation.

The public should report incidences of erratic driving by dialing 101 and giving the licence plate. The police can trace and check drivers.

6.2 GORDON’S PARK BENCH

The bench for Gordon's Park has been ordered and the delivery date is the end of May. **Action: JLS** to speak to Donald MacLennan with regards installing the bench.

JLS

6.3 BROADBAND

No further information.

6.4 TOILETS

The Pier Group don't want responsibility for the buildings but the Ticket Office Project is looking at renovating the buildings, including the provision of 24hr open access toilets. This would be beneficial for the area.

7. PLANNING

16/02042/S/75D Request to discharge S75 for cottages at Lettoch Farm.

The application increases the garden area but doesn't appear to affect the cottages. The Section 75 policy has changed and it was suggested that KCC should refresh their knowledge of this area of planning.

16/02094/PNO Increase to roof height of Agricultural Building.

16/02095/FUL Extension to House, 18 Hillpark Brae, Munloch.

16/02168/FUL Extension to House 4 Meadowbank, North Kessock.

Large extension in a small plot.

There were no concerns regarding any of the above applications.

Temporary footpath diversion at Lettoch Farm development

It would be a courtesy to inform the community of footpath diversions.

Action: JLS to email Tullochs to ask for an update. There is a community notice board at the development next to Bannatynes (Robertson Homes) and it wouldn't be unreasonable for Tullochs to do something like this.

JLS

8. ROAD REPORTS

The last response that RS received from Community Services was that potholes have to be dry before action can be taken. If the edges of potholes are sealed patching lasts longer but often Highland Council don't seal the edges because it makes the patching slippery.

A Jet patcher is being hired in Ross and Cromarty for 32 days in June, prior to the purchase of one in October and a £2.2m investment into improving local roads. Recently rural and unclassified roads have suffered from neglect due to

limited funding as the focus has been on main roads.

There was a suggestion at the recent Ferintosh Community Council meeting to establish a community fund to pay for local roads. This will be taken to the next Black Isle Community Council (BICC) meeting.

9. PROJECTS

9.1 MILLBANK – NK SCHOOL CROSSING

No further information has been received.

9.2 DEFIBRILLATORS

KCC have been approached by the Free Church in North Kessock. They are getting a Defibrillator on 27th June 2016 for the outside of the church via the charity Lucky To Be Here. They are expected to pay / fundraise between £1,200 and £2,000 for the cost of the unit and training.

A number of suggestions were made: firstly, to make a contribution towards the cost of the defibrillator and secondly to look at getting one in Munloch. It was decided that JLS would speak to the Free Church to see how much they have raised so far, with a view to giving them up to £400. The same amount would then be given to Munloch as a 'start up'. Scotmid in Munloch may have a community fund and could be interested in supporting the cost of a defibrillator, as may other businesses.

9.3 COMMUNITY COUNCIL WEBSITE

The cost of setting up a website and receiving one day's training is approximately £250. There would also be the cost of travel expenses and buying a domain name. Spanglefish offer a Community Council 'umbrella' service for £29.95pa.

HB and SL have volunteered to be website administrators.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from local resident in NK re the area of wildflowers. AM has spoken to the Highland Council contractors about avoiding the area.

Others in the village are doing small amounts of gardening and may come to KCC for a donation for plants etc.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A letter of sympathy will be sent to Mr Val MacDonald, on behalf of the KCC. **BA**
BA to action.

Footpath Trust notice board in Munloch (Gary Johnson). **Action: JLS** to look **JLS**
at it.

Lack of footpath on Station Brae in Munloch. Unfortunately there is little that can be done.

12. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS: (3rd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm)

19th July 2016, North Kessock
16th August 2016, Munloch
20th September 2016, North Kessock
18th October 2016, Munloch
15th November 2016, North Kessock
December - no meeting

AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING 21st JUNE 2016, MUNLOCHY at 7.30pm

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies
2. Minutes
3. Matters Arising (not covered in the agenda)
4. Finance
5. Outstanding actions and current responsibilities
6. Planning
7. Road Reports
9. Projects
10. Correspondence
11. AOB
12. Future Meeting Dates

The meeting finished at 9:20 PM