



COMHAIRLE COIMHEARSNACHD CILL MHÀLAIDH KILMALLIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at 7.15pm on Wed 19th October 2011, at Kilmallie Hall

Present

Kilmallie Community Council

Mandy Ketchin
Russell Leaper (Secretary)
Maggie Mackenzie (Treasurer)
Jan MacLugash
Kshama Wilmington

Highland Councillors

Bill Clark

Apologies

Jillian Clark (Chair)
Christine Hutchison
Dawn Rigby

1. Approval of previous minutes

The minutes from the meeting on 21/09/2011 were proposed by JM and seconded by KW. The meeting agreed the minutes and thanked MK for preparing them. In the absence of the chair, Jan MacLugash volunteered to chair the meeting.

ACTION

2. Treasurer's report (see attached)

3. Results of KCC elections

Elections were held for all Community Councils within the Highland Council area in October and the new councils will form on the 16/11/2011. Eight councillors were nominated for KCC and as this is the maximum number allowed there was no election. All current councillors were nominated and elected with the exception of Dawn Rigby who stood down. It was noted that Highland Council may offer training to members of community councils (particularly office bearers) and some members indicated that they would find this helpful.

4. Data protection act

The Data Protection Act 1998 governs the use of 'personal data'. In this context 'personal data' means any information by which it is possible to identify a living individual. The guidance note for Community Councils indicates that it is likely that community councils must comply with the Act. KCC does hold electronic records of some names and addresses and it was thus agreed to nominate the secretary as the person responsible for data protection. RL will request details of all personal data held by members and compile these into a notification to the Information Commissioner. This will cost £35 a year but should ensure that KCC complies with this legislation.

RL

5. Community Fund

It was noted that it would be very useful for KCC to establish a community fund to support small local projects. There was some discussion about raising money for such a fund given that local businesses are already being approached for donations towards the newsletter. Fund raising can be very time consuming, but it was agreed to continue to look for funding opportunities.

5.1 Request from Lochaber Environmental Group for contribution towards purchase of a thermal imaging camera

At a recent workshop attended by RL and CH, Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) had requested whether KCC might consider a contribution towards a third thermal imaging camera for helping people reduce the loss of heat from their homes. KCC does not currently have funds that could be accessed for this at present. In addition it was felt it would be best to see how effective the work by LEG was over the coming winter before considering supporting additional equipment. Nevertheless KCC welcomed the LEG initiative as a valuable way to help reduce energy costs and CO₂ emissions.

6. Issues arising since last meeting

6.1 Dumping of waste at Mount Alexander

Residents along the canal had drawn attention to the dumping of waste on open ground near Mount Alexander, Camaghael. The waste is unsightly and can be seen from the Great

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Secretary - Russell Leaper, Canal House, Banavie, Fort William, PH33 7LY
Treasurer - Margaret Mackenzie, 42 Hillview Drive, Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7LS

caring, engaging, listening, representing, making a difference locally

Glen Way and also may be causing toxins in the run-off leading to the River Lochy. SEPA have been approached but had not been prepared to investigate. Councillor Clark offered to take this up with Environmental Health for further follow up by KCC.

6.2 Creative Place Awards

KCC was only made aware of this scheme, which can provide substantial funding, very close to the deadline and there was no time to investigate further.

6.3 Broadband provision in more remote areas

Much of the KCC area is sufficiently far away from population centres that provisions for broadband internet are very slow. This puts residents in these areas at a substantial disadvantage. A resident from Fassfern had drawn our attention to the Tegola project to bring broadband internet to remote areas. It was agreed that this could be of value to many homes in the KCC area. RL will investigate further with the intention of asking for a presentation at a forthcoming meeting.

RL

6.4 British Waterways consultation on Caledonian Canal master planning

KCC had contacted British Waterways with several comments and questions regarding a planned consultation event on the 28/29th September. The event was held at the Moorings Hotel and had a fair turnout of residents of Kilmallie from Muirshearlich, Banavie and Corpach. Based on a head count, British Waterways Scotland (BWS) representatives reported that over 100 people turned up to the event but people's names and the nature of their interest, e.g. local resident, organization representative, local business, visitor were not recorded. KCC had requested a report of the event to help us ascertain issues that were important to local people. BWS did not provide a report, but allowed KCC members to view and take snapshots of the post-its stickers containing notes which showed some distinctly popular opinions and numerous ideas and comments. JM and MK are in the process of logging and collating these. It was not possible to view the BWS forms inviting specific comment, as these were posted into a box. The overall assessment was of a rather poorly organized event with minimal publicity by BWS. The majority of people attending had probably heard about the event through the efforts of KCC and Friends of the Caledonian Canal Lochaber (FOCAL). Nevertheless, we await a further event organised by BWS in spring 2012. The record of the post-its will hopefully be helpful in gauging whether local views have been given due consideration.

6.5 Update from joint campus special education provisions

Councillor Clark and JM attended a meeting on 06/10/11 at Caol Primary school. KCC became involved at the time of the statutory consultation about the proposed closure of Banavie special unit following a parent of a child with special needs expressing her fears to KCC about future schooling provisions for her child. We had expressed these fears to the consultation on special education provision at the joint campus and have continued to highlight this cause at each stakeholders' meeting. Councillor Clark had arranged a meeting for the concerned parents and members from the special education team, and the parents had felt very reassured after this meeting about the efforts and the intentions of the team about making a reasonable and satisfactory provision for the small number of children who have severe and complex needs. JM offered to continue to represent KCC at further meetings.

JM

6.6 Repairs to canal towpath

The Waterways Trust have approached KCC to become a joint partner in a funding application to raise funds to repair the section of tow path from Corpach to the Banavie swing bridges. KCC could access seed funds through the Highland Core Path Initiative that could release further funding from the Landfill Levy. If funding were successful, BWS would oversee the works.

It was noted that the section of tow path being proposed was outwith the KCC area. In addition, concerns were raised that repair work done by BWS had used large stones which is unsuitable for wheelchairs, push chairs and people who have difficulty walking. Addressing these issues on the tow path alongside Neptune's Staircase and Banavie basin had been identified as a major need in the canal consultation. Thus KCC would very much like to support appropriate repair work on the tow path.

It was agreed that RL should raise these concerns with the Waterway's Trust and try to extend the repair work into the KCC area and ensure that appropriate materials are used. If satisfactory arrangements can be made then KCC will be pleased to apply for funding to become a partner in the project.

RL

7. Website update

Work on the web site has gone to plan such that it should still be possible to launch the site in mid November. KCC thanked MK for all her work on the design which had allowed Hotscot to concentrate on the technical aspects and complete a greater number of pages than had originally been quoted for.

It was noted that the Kilmallie Image Library web site contains a unique and valuable set of images. The owner of the web site has apparently indicated he would like KCC to take over maintaining the site. It was agreed that KCC should discuss further with him, and then review with Hotscot how best to integrate it with KCC's main site.

MK

8. KCC newsletter

Issue 35 of the newsletter was 12 pages long and had been distributed to every home in the KCC area. The cost of this issue was £119.29 (£46.61 on stationery, plus £72.68 franking for posted copies not delivered by hand) but had involved KCC members in considerable effort in delivering copies by hand.

A small number of people have indicated that they would like to receive future editions by email.

The newsletter team is currently working on issue 36 which is likely to be 16 pages. The deadline for articles is 15th November and all ideas are welcomed.

It was planned that only the first edition should be delivered by hand. However, concerns were raised that if newsletters were only available by email or to be picked up at the Co-op in Corpach this would exclude a large number of people. Funds remain which could be used to post future issues if needed.

9. Date for next meeting

Following the election the council will need to officially re-form. This may affect the date of the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 22:00

Distribution

By email to all KCC members
 Cllr Bill Clark
 Prov Allan Henderson
 Cllr Eddie Hunter
 Elizabeth Toal (HC)
 Lochaber Archive Centre
 Maureen McColl (ALCC)

Paper copy to Corpach notice board