

**Meeting of the Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council**

**Minute of Meeting, 7:30pm, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Community Councillors present:**

Cameron Kemp, Dr. Eleanor Kennedy, Inglis Lyon, Jayne MacMillan, Judith Rumbold, Lindsey Stout.

**In attendance:**

Claudette Bruce, Community Liaison Officer and Ben Donaldson, Engineer, from Highland Broadband.

George Hogg, from Aird Community Trust.

The meeting was held in person at Kirkhill Community Centre.

<p><b>1. Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Highland Councillors Chris Balance, Emma Knox and David Fraser.</p>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of Last Meeting; Minute of Meeting of the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2024</b></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were circulated online. There were no corrections. The minutes were proposed for acceptance by Inglis Lyon and seconded by Jayne Macmillan.</p>	
<p><b>3. Matters Arising</b></p> <p><b>Minutes of Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2024:</b></p> <p><b>G.D.P.R./Email Addresses</b></p> <p>Some research was done by Inglis Lyon and Lindsey Stout on email addresses. The Ward Manager replied that it is customary to have a separate Community Council email address for the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer but not for the other Community Councillors. Kiltarlity Community Councillors each have their own email addresses under the umbrella of the generic Community Council email address.</p> <p>It was a consensus that we should each set up our own email address for Community Council business to improve adhesion to GDPR and so that we don't lose important emails amongst our own personal emails. Each Community Councillor is responsible for setting up their own email address: First <a href="mailto:name.surname.KBCC@gmail.com">name.surname.KBCC@gmail.com</a></p> <p>The G.D.P.R. Statement was accepted by the Community Councillors present. Lindsey Stout to put online.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>L.S.</p>

<p><b>Ward Discretionary Fund</b></p> <p>Councillor Knox is to be in touch about how this will look in the future and how to apply. Current applications for a joint K&amp;BCC and ACT event and the noticeboard have been hampered by lack of access to accounts and the lack of an up to date Constitution (to be signed at this meeting).</p>	<p>Cllr Knox</p>
<p><b>Noticeboard</b></p> <p>Highland Council gave permission for a noticeboard within the bus shelter. Lindsey Stout has been exploring with two local companies whether this is feasible and also whether it would reduce costs. Inglis Lyon suggested that, if it is possible, Stagecoach and D&amp;E Buses should be approached and given an opportunity to make a contribution to the cost. The other option, Lindsey Stout said, is to get a grant and look into the grassed strip by the Pelican crossing. The old noticeboard has been removed.</p>	<p>L.S.</p>
<p><b>Planning Complaint</b></p> <p>A complaint had been received by email about our support of an objection to a planning application. Both applicants and objectors are welcome to attend our meetings. Cameron Kemp has carried over the reply to action from the last meeting.</p>	<p>C.K.</p>
<p><b>Millennium Garden Maintenance</b></p> <p>The suggestion of a ballpark figure of £500 to be paid to Aird Community Trust annually to be ringfenced for maintenance of the Millennium Garden and also regular gardening for the planter from the old Doctor’s Surgery, once it is moved, was discussed. George Hogg suggested that the decision was either to streamline our own process (to speed up decision making and release of payment) or to alternatively provide an annual sum. Any money left over would be ringfenced and roll over into the next financial year. A quote was received for the strainer post and boardwalk repairs and was agreed and replied to.</p> <p>There was a general consensus that we are happy with the arrangement for £500 per annum but there would be a delay implementing this at first. It also depends on annual income. Cameron Kemp, as spokesperson, said that we would be happy to delegate maintenance of the Millennium Garden with a view to reviewing the arrangement at a later date.</p> <p>We were asked by Erik Lundberg for help in moving the planter in front of the old Doctor’s Surgery, as requested by the resident who owns the Doctor’s Surgery site and so far have not had any progress with the contacts we have (it’s a very heavy planter and will require a sling and plant or a tractor to move it). Lindsey Stout to put out a plea on Facebook for help, after the daffodils have finished flowering and the heavy planter can be emptied and to ask Erik Lundberg where the planter is best to be moved to. (These village planters were provided by a local group called Green Fingers, now disbanded.)</p> <p>We were also asked by Erik Lundberg for help in removing the buckled paving around the tree flowerbed in the grassy area around the bus stop. A local resident had approached A.C.T. for help but as it is</p>	<p>L.S.</p> <p>L.S.</p>

Highland Council land, this falls to the Community Council. It's a small job which could be done by a Community Councillor and Lindsey Stout volunteered to do this, also providing compost and grass seed. The pavers will be offered to the local community for reuse and recycling.

**Better Transparency and Communication, Events**

Lindsey Stout, Secretary, has arranged with Erik Lundberg to set up a polypocket with the latest approved minutes on the Community Centre noticeboard and some of these have been taken. They will be changed every time we have a meeting in the Community Centre. A copy of the minutes and meeting dates was also put down to the Old North Inn. We have also put up a notice about the meeting dates for the year on the board and have advertised our meetings and one space for a co-opted Community Councillor through Facebook and the Aird Community Trust website.

There has been one enquiry for joining a meeting by Zoom and we will see how demand goes, perhaps developing joining meetings remotely in the future. This promotes inclusivity. George Hogg offered some suggestions regarding a digital projector and screen which could be borrowed from A.C.T. – refer to Erik Lundberg if going ahead.

Lindsey Stout to ask the Ward Manager if we need Public Liability Insurance if setting up any events. Eleanor Kennedy and George Hogg have discussed a joint event under ACT and the Community Council to raise awareness. Jayne suggested attending the Kirkhill monthly markets under the Community Council banner. Jayne and Eleanor to action. Jayne said that we could co-ordinate a community litter pick in the village through the school. Inglis Lyon will also ask the Scouts about a litter pick out on the Wester Lovat/Dunballoch/Long Wood road, which continues to be badly littered. Lindsey Stout was concerned for the safety of an organised litter pick on this road, with the speed of traffic and deep ditches – the police should be approached and high vis vests borrowed from ACT.

L.S.  
J.M.  
E.K.  
J.M.  
I.L.

**Hall Rent**

A system for paying three invoices in advance at the Community Centre was set up successfully.

**CLG/SSEN**

Cameron Kemp and Inglis Lyon attended the Community Liaison Group meeting with SSEN on 12<sup>th</sup> March. SSEN have been failing to consult properly about the Fanellan substation site and other topics. Representatives of Beauly, Kirkhill & Bunchrew, Kiltarlity and Strathglass Community Councils walked out of the meeting after the Chairman, David Fraser, read out a statement. There will be another meeting soon to discuss the way forward. The Community Council representatives are working together on this and will invite local Councillors and the M.P. to future meetings.

**Belladrum**

Jayne Macmillan will attend the Belladrum meeting in April to represent the local community.

J.M.

<p><b>Inchmore Playing Field</b></p> <p>George Hogg said that there is some interest within Inchmore in taking the community garden idea forward. The group needs to develop their ideas, formulate a business model and go back out to the community. ACT would support a community asset transfer of the land from Highland Council that is currently leased to Kirkhill &amp; Bunchrew Community Council. ACT is happy to support the proposal in principle as long as the area is maintained in future. George Hogg acknowledged that the Community Council are supportive of the cessation of the lease in support of a community asset transfer.</p> <p><b>The Crannog Newsletter</b></p> <p>ACT and the Community Council are supportive of the proposal for a small editorial team to run a new online newsletter, with a small print run to be distributed in the Community Centre. The newsletter would be more frequent than the quarterly issue of the past and more up to date, distributed by email rather than social media. George Hogg said that this was raised at ACT's AGM. The next step is to convene a meeting.</p>	
<p><b>4. Police Report</b></p> <p>No issues were raised by the public. A police report is received every quarter, so there was not a new report to discuss.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us">https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us</a></p>	
<p><b>5. Planning Issues</b></p> <p><b>24/01009/FUL – Kirkhill Smiddy, Kirkhill</b> Dr Eleanor Kennedy mentioned the old Smiddy planning application for a house and will look into requesting that we are considered a Statutory Consultee.</p> <p><b>Planning Application 21/03060/FUL Former Fish Hatchery Moniack Burn</b> Cameron Kemp said that we had received an email regarding a planning hearing at the old fish hatchery site at Moniack. The Scottish Government Reporter is coming to the site. Local residents have asked the Community Council if they could send a representative because we had supported their concerns. Local residents do not wish to attend. Cameron Kemp is to attend.</p>	<p>E.K.</p> <p>C.K.</p>
<p><b>6. Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Treasurer's role; Inglis Lyon volunteered to act as Treasurer until someone else can be found to take on the role. Cameron Kemp and Inglis Lyon to look into changing signatories at the bank and redirecting mail.</p> <p>George Hogg attended to represent Aird Community Trust. He brought the new Community Councillors up to speed on the history of Kirkhill Community Centre, Kirkhill and District Amenities Association, Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Trust and the current Aird Community Trust. The charity exists for environmental and social purposes, supporting volunteers in the community. Governance and a structure are provided. Each volunteer group within ACT does not need to carry insurance – it takes a lot of bureaucracy out of the process. What we do depends on the community. ACT can apply for grants but most of what the charity does depends on volunteer effort. George explained that A.C.T. is not here to</p>	<p>C.K.</p> <p>I.L.</p>



represent the community, as the Community Council does, but to act on behalf of the community in line with its charitable purposes. ACT supports active travel infrastructure. ACT will advocate positively but will not take a view on behalf of the community as to whether something is good or bad for the community. There are 152 members within the community. Membership increased by a third within the last year. Membership is free and there is no obligation to volunteer. There is a Board of ten Trustees and George said that the Board is likely to co-opt one or two more. Groups within ACT can be 1-2 pax or 20-30 pax.

Current groups are:

Active Travel group  
Community Café group  
Gritting group  
Heritage group  
Kirkhill Community Centre: Market, Gala Day, Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch  
Kirkhill Toddlers  
Light Up Kirkhill  
Paths and Access group  
Woodland Group (Upper Beechwood, Reelig Glen)

Newtonhill have just put together a fundraising group for a defibrillator and put in a £500 bid for the Ward Discretionary Fund.

### **Highland Broadband works in the Aird area**

Claudette Bruce, Community Liaison Officer and Ben Donaldson, Engineer, from Highland Broadband attended to talk about Highland Broadband works in the area. Claudette Bruce gave an overview. Highland Broadband is part of Lothian Broadband Networks. Their broadband is full fibre and gigabit capable. The purpose of the work is to build a broadband fibre network. The Civils work involves putting a cable into the ground, running a fibre through it, and providing a connection for every premise in the village.

Cameron Kemp asked, "How does that fit in with the work that B.T. have just done?" Ben Donaldson, Engineer, said that B.T. will pick certain areas to cable but there are none in the Kirkhill village area itself. The Highland Broadband work is funded by investors and a loan from the Scottish Investment Bank. Highland Broadband is working with the U.K. Government, R100 and the Scottish Vouchers Scheme. B.T. has done a lot of duct work using R100 voucher scheme but it can be quite sporadic. Highland Broadband broadband will run at 200MB per second. The top speeds currently offered in the village are 600-800MB. Highland Broadband can use the physical infrastructure already present from previous work (the rules were changed in 2007). Claudette Bruce explained that it is mostly still a copper connection to every premises and that Highland Broadband would upgrade to a fibre connection. Jayne Macmillan said that copper connections were installed in Inchmore prior to Lockdown. Claudette Bruce said that if there is a normal phone socket for your broadband, the connection to the house is copper, which provides a slower broadband connection. It is called fibre but there is a copper connection from the fibre cable to the house, which slows broadband speed. Claudette also said that there is Gigabit-capable fixed wireless in Brora. Highland Broadband will start in the residential areas, and then move works gradually out into the countryside so that all households in future will have broadband capability.

Claudette Bruce said that Highland Broadband held a drop-in session in the village last week and there was good participation. Welcome packs have been delivered to each house. Online drop-in sessions have been held as well. If HB feels another drop-in session is needed, they will hold it. Village halls will receive

<p>a free connection of 900MB speed.</p> <p>Work has already started in Beaully and is planned to start in Kirkhill within the next month as part of the Beaully build. Highland Broadband hopes to be in and out of any particular area within six to eight weeks, with work in any particular street done within two days. It is hoped that work in this area will be finished by September.</p> <p>Inglis Lyon wondered why Highland Broadband had contacted the Community Council. Claudette said that communication is important. Works can be disruptive, so people who have complaints can be forwarded to a specific email address and can also ask the Engineers on the street if they have any questions.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The next meeting is on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b></p> <p><b>2024 meetings: Tuesdays at 7.30pm to 9pm, The Williamson Room:</b></p> <p>16th April  14th May (Annual General Meeting)  18th June  20th August  24th September  12th November  17th December</p> <p style="text-align: center;">If you would like to attend a meeting on Zoom, please contact us on  <u><a href="mailto:kandbcommunitycouncil@gmail.com">kandbcommunitycouncil@gmail.com</a></u></p>	