

Meeting of the Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council

Minute of Meeting, 7:30pm, Tuesday 26th April 2022

Community Councillors Present:

Fred Geddes, Judith Rumbold, Alison Mackintosh, Alistair MacNeil, Lindsey Stout, Karen Young.

In attendance:

Councillor Emma Knox, Kenny Macdonald, candidate for Council elections, Aaron Duncan-Macleod.

The meeting was held online, on Zoom.

1. Apologies	<u>Actions</u>
<p>Apologies from the Chair, Cameron Kemp. Lindsey Stout to chair the meeting, acting as Vice Chair and also to act as Secretary. Apologies were also received from Councillor Margaret Davidson and Councillor David Fraser.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of Last Meeting; Minute of Meeting of 1st March 2022</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were circulated online. There were no corrections. The minutes were read, checked for accuracy and accepted by all present.</p>	
<p>3. Matters Arising Minutes of Meeting of 1st March 2022</p> <p>5. A complaint regarding speeding traffic in Bunchrew</p> <p>Councillor Emma Knox said that she has been in touch with Mr Fraser Mackintosh of Bunchrew and a patrol car is going through Bunchrew every now and then. A speed monitoring exercise is in hand. If speeding is detected traffic calming similar to Inchmore would be the next step.</p> <p>9. Role of Vice Chair</p> <p>Lindsey Stout had not remembered to check if she could perform the roles of both Vice Chair and Secretary and will try and find out before the next meeting.</p>	<p>L.S.</p>
<p>4. Police Report</p> <p>A report from Police Scotland was received and excerpts are included below:</p> <p>“The Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Council area is covered by Police Officers at Beauly (Muir of Ord Office) and Fort Augustus. There are 3 Police Officers based at each of these Stations providing both response and community policing on a shift based system.</p> <p>The Local Policing plan includes the priorities...”</p> <p>“Road Safety</p>	

There were two reported incidents one car off the road and one of sheep on the road. The two were not related. As we come out of the scary slidy season through the scary wet season and into the scary tourist season people are reminded to drive with caution and leave room for people who may slow or stop suddenly. Please also be aware of the changes to the highway code which gives more powers to cyclists and pedestrians which may catch people out particularly at junctions.

Public Protection

There were no public protection issues identified.

Drugs / Alcohol Misuse

There were no reported incidents of drug or alcohol misuse.

Crimes of Dishonesty

There was one fraud incident in relation to PCR tests which resulted in a financial loss. Any payment online should only be made to a trusted source and if in doubt searches can be carried out online to see if others have been affected. There are also many online resources which will assist with information should you be concerned about fraud.”

Lindsey Stout mentioned having been contacted by two separate people about two men watching gardens with dogs in central Kirkhill at certain times of day. She said that although watching people, dogs or houses is not a crime and cannot be reported to the police, if residents are concerned that behaviour is suspicious regarding property or pets they should take notice of their intuition and act accordingly in increasing their attention to security. She subsequently shared a post about preventing dog theft on the Community Council’s Facebook page.

<https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us>

5. Accounts 2020-2021, finalised accounts

Fred Geddes submitted the accounts to Highland Council and circulated the finished accounts to the Chair and Secretary by email and they are appended to these minutes. On 31/03/2021 there was £2151.19 unspent at the end of the financial year and £2740.80 in the account at the date of this meeting. There was minimal expenditure, mostly room hire and the cost of reimbursing George Hogg for equipment to tackle the Japanese Knotweed in the Millennium Garden. Lindsey Stout is to circulate the completed accounts to the other Community Councillors.

L.S.

6. Inchmore Path Project

Karen Young is one of the landowners involved and is also a Community Councillor. Karen said that she was commenting here as a landowner and could not make any comment as a Community Councillor. Karen said that the path project has been ongoing for three years. She said that Karen Young and family remain in support of the path project but have been very clear about the conditions under which this could be supported on their land. Her family has farmed that land for over thirty years and have put extensive drainage into the fields west of Lentrane House drive. There have been numerous accidents and near misses in the area where the multi-use path would be, with cars ending up in the field or hitting the ash tree and also drivers leaving the field before the accident can be reported to the police, taking the fence out in places and allowing animals to escape. Last year two cars collided at the bend and one car ended up going through the fence into the field. Karen said that at present cars can legally come around the corner at 60mph. The main traffic calming to slow traffic down is only visible once cars come around the bend. Karen said that she and her family are concerned about the safety of people using the multi-

use path, particularly the safety of children using what would be billed as a Safer Route to School.

Karen Young said that she has repeatedly asked for an onsite meeting with the Highland Council's Roads Department, but this has never happened. In three years she has only recently spoken once, briefly, to the Roads Department. She agrees that Safer Routes to School is a good idea but cannot understand why it's so difficult to extend the speed limit to the other side of Lentrane House Drive, i.e. before the accident blackspot corner, coming into Inchmore from Inverness. Karen Young asked Councillor Emma Knox, how come we have never had the opportunity to meet the (*Highland Council*) Roads team out there and see the traffic coming around the bend? She said that four traffic monitoring schemes do not change thirty years of experience. She also said that the Paths Group (*ACT*) say that it is not their remit (*the extension of traffic calming further south, around the bend*) but that Karen and her family were not included in Paths Group meetings and this does not lead to confidence in the plans, especially when the plans includes access over and possible damage to drainage on their land.

Councillor Emma Knox replied that she has spoken to Karen Young twice about this on the phone. The facts and evidence from four speed monitoring exercises do not give sufficient evidence of excessive speed to justify the extension of the 40mph speed limit to around the corner. Karen Young was unaware that four speed monitoring exercises had been done or of the outcomes, as she had never been informed. She is interested to know where they were actually done and if the bend speeds were monitored. She said that thirty years' experience of numerous accidents at the bend was her major concern. Councillor Knox commented that proceeding with the path is unrelated to the traffic calming. She also said that drainage and access had been discussed. Karen Young replied that their concerns about drainage and land access have only been partially addressed; the consultant, Ian MacGillivray, had assured them that new accesses could be obtained but now Karen Young is informed that the landowners would have to apply to Highland Council to gain permission for new accesses. Councillor Emma Knox replied that for the Council to take that measure, they would need to have the evidence. Sustrans cannot grant these conditions. This was news to Karen Young as, if the existing access was to be removed and the ash tree removed, new accesses would be imperative for access to their land.

Kenny Macdonald, another landowner of the land proposed to be used for the path, agreed with Karen Young that he has been walking that path for thirty years and it is not a safe path and it is a dangerous corner. Vehicles are going up to 60mph before the corner and a lot of vehicles have left the road over those thirty years. He agreed with Karen that there is the risk that one day a vehicle will leave the road here and hit a pedestrian or cyclist. He asked Councillor Knox how many cars have left the road over twenty years. Councillor Knox said that she does not disagree or dispute that. Mr Macdonald said that Aird Community Trust do not have it in their remit (*to put traffic calming in place*) but if, as a community, everyone was involved at the start, there would be more confidence in and support for the plans from the community. He said that is not the landowners' fault that the path has not been able to proceed but that he blames the Trust for this because of poor communication with the landowners. Mr Macdonald also said that in his opinion it's offensive to be referred to in communication as Seaford Motors – this refers not just to him but to four individuals in the community (*Inchmore*).

Fred Geddes suggested approaching the Chief Executive on this and asking what the correct route is to approach this matter. Councillor Knox said that it needs a legislative change and there needs to be the evidence for it and that a public meeting would be the next route. Karen Young said that she and Calum Young would like to meet with the Highland Council's Roads Department.

Kenny Macdonald said that traffic calming, the speed limit and the path should be related because the safety of the proposed path is linked to the speed limit. He would be interested in the Community Council's response. Fred Geddes and Judith Rumbold said that they were in support of Kenny Macdonald's views on the safety of the proposed path. Karen Young and Lindsey Stout were unable to

<p>comment as Community Councillors due to a conflict of interest.</p> <p>Karen Young said that she would like to see everyone work together to reach a solution. Ally MacNeil said that the solution should have been found before the project was started. Karen Young commented that she was humiliated that her name was on a public document which implied that she had prevented a plan for Safer Routes to school but said that, for her and her family, safety comes first. She also said that if the proposed path was on a straight piece of road it would not be a problem but that surely the bend (which someone at a recent Community Council meeting described as a chicane) warrants special and careful consideration. Kenny Macdonald agreed and said that it is not to say that we cannot start again but also that he would not be in support of starting the cycle path without getting the 40mph speed limit extension discussed and a solution found for this issue of public safety.</p> <p>Fred Geddes said, are we proposing to get a senior official on site to discuss this? Yes, said Ally MacNeil, Karen Young and Judith Rumbold – for a daytime meeting. Lindsey Stout commented that this might be best to be arranged for after the Council elections.</p> <p><i>*in italics – for clarification of meaning, not what was said.</i></p>	<p>T.B.A.</p>
<p>7. Planning Issues</p> <p>a) Ladystone – refer Dan Coulson’s email. Response to Applicant’s Change, 11th March 2022</p> <p>Karen Young said that the Community Councillors and the Councillors have all heard the arguments and that she is heart sorry for Dan after he has put all this effort in. What can we do as a Community Council to support them? Judith Rumbold said that we have objected from the start. Councillor Emma Knox replied that this planning application was refused on appeal and that the Community Council has been listened to so far.</p> <p>Fred Geddes said that the least we can do is to write to him as a Community Council and say that we continue to be supportive of his views and will continue to support him any way we can. He said that he is impressed at Dan’s thoroughness and his attention to detail. Lindsey Stout is to put an email together.</p> <p>b) 16 proposed houses at Inchmore, 22/01289/PIP</p> <p>Alistair MacNeil and Alison Mackintosh were approached about this planning application. There are concerns about the number of houses involved changing the character of the village and also that the wildlife survey has not shown the badger setts in the bank and the barn owls. The planning application excludes the mature trees and the bank but would have a detrimental effect on the wildlife living close by. Four individuals have commented on the planning application regarding red kites, badgers, wild birds, foxes, pine martens and deer. Fred Geddes said that that it is worth writing in as a community council to noting that we’ve been approached by the public and Fred will look at the documents and put something together. Fred Geddes said that we cannot represent any view that has not been expressed to us. Karen Young asked if anyone had approached the Community Council direct.</p>	<p>L.S.</p> <p>F.G.</p>
<p>9. Any Other Business</p> <p>a) Role of Vice Chair</p> <p>No one wished to take on the role of Vice Chair at the present time.</p> <p>b) Millennium Garden</p> <p>Lindsey Stout commented that work has not started to tidy the Millennium Garden yet. Fred Geddes said</p>	

<p>that we should contact Erik Lundberg. Lindsey Stout to action.</p> <p>Lindsey Stout mentioned the archaeological discoveries made at the Tullochs building site in Kirkhill, a Neolithic cup-marked stone and a possible Bronze Age roundhouse, marked by post-holes. The cup-marked stone will be preserved and be on display as part of the development. The roundhouse has been built on after being recorded.</p> <p>Karen Young mentioned the Beauty to Blackhillock mega pylons. Councillor Knox said that this will go ahead and that the Community Council and Aird Community Trust should come up with a joint approach.</p>	<p>L.S.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The next meeting is on Tuesday 21st June at 7:30pm, online</p> <p>Meetings, 2022:</p> <p>16th August 27th September 15th November</p> <p>Please contact us on kandbcommunitycouncil@gmail.com if you would like to attend a meeting.</p>	

