

Meeting of the Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council

Minute of Meeting, 7:30pm, Tuesday 22nd August 2023

Community Councillors present:

Fred Geddes, Cameron Kemp, Dr Eleanor Kennedy.

Community Councillors present on Zoom:

Lindsey Stout.

In attendance:

The meeting was held in person at Kirkhill Community Centre and online on Zoom (a blended meeting). The meeting was held a week later than planned due to Gala Week.

1. Apologies	Actions
<p>Apologies were received from Councillors Chris Ballance, David Fraser and Emma Knox and Community Councillors Judith Rumbold, Ally MacNeil and Karen Young.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of Last Meeting; Minute of Meeting of 30th May 2023</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were circulated online. There was one correction. The minutes were read, checked for accuracy and were proposed for acceptance by Cameron Kemp and seconded by Fred Geddes. The minutes of the Public Meeting of 26th June were circulated online and also accepted.</p>	
<p>3. Matters Arising</p> <p>Minutes of Meeting of 30th May 2023</p> <p>Community Noticeboard:</p> <p>Lindsey Stout has not yet received a reply from Parish Noticeboards. She has found two local joiners to quote for a noticeboard. Lindsey Stout to action.</p> <p>Donation to Kirkhill Primary School</p> <p>Lindsey Stout and Fred Geddes have arranged for a cheque for £300 to be sent to Kirkhill Primary School to pay for a Marty the Robot to educate about computer coding. Proof of expenditure will be requested.</p> <p>Inchmore Playing Field</p> <p>Community Garden</p> <p>Lindsey Stout researched the lease and passed on the information to George Hogg, Chair of Aird Community Trust (ACT). There are restrictions on the lease, such as maintenance of the fences. If another Community group were to use the land, Cameron Kemp said that the liability for maintenance of the fences should pass to the users. Cameron Kemp agreed with Lindsey Stout that members of the proposed group and the Chair of A.C.T. should be invited to our next meeting in September to discuss plans going forward and how to work together on this community project.</p>	<p>L.S.</p> <p>F.G.</p> <p>L.S.</p>

SSEN Community Liaison Group meetings:

Two representatives from each Community Council area continue to attend each Community Liaison Group with SSEN. Lindsey Stout is to upload the minutes once they are finalised. Minutes of SSEN meetings will be available on our Facebook page and the Aird Community Trust website in PDF form.

L.S.

The Community Liaison Group (CLG) meetings organised by SSEN were held on 11th April and 13th June, minuted by SSEN and attended by Cameron Kemp (Chair) and Karen Young on behalf of Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council (K&BCC).

The minutes of K&BCC's Public Meeting on 26th June, chaired by Cameron Kemp, were minuted by Dr Eleanor Kennedy and were accepted as correct by those Community Councillors who were present at the meeting. These minutes will also be available on the Facebook page and the ACT website in PDF form.

A meeting with Kate Forbes, M.S.P. was held on 2nd August, attended by Cameron Kemp, Chair of K&BCC and Mr Doug Courts. Five SSEN representatives attended. A note of meeting was taken by Kate Forbes' personal assistant.

The next CLG meeting will be held on 29th August. Cameron Kemp and Karen Young will attend on behalf of K&BCC.

23/00998/FUL for 6 holiday cabins, service building & access NE of Braeside Cottage Kirkhill

Dr Eleanor Kennedy wrote a robust letter of complaint to Highland Council's Planning Department and raised the issue about the approved planning application for the erection of eco pods in the field directly behind her house. She reiterated that, from the current plan of the construction site, that has been approved despite six objections with no view to being presented at a full planning committee meeting, planting will take place well within 20m of her property and that of her neighbour's, yet neither household was informed of the planning application by the Highland Council. She stressed her concerns that, if Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council do not appear to have any concerns about the handling of this application, it is very likely that neighbouring fields will be purchased for similar construction, leading to a glut of holiday properties in the village that will have severe knock-on effects on the village infrastructure. The community living to the north and south of these fields are very disappointed in this perceived lack of action and ask Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council to reconsider its position. Cameron Kemp reiterated that Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council were supportive of their concerns about the planning process.

Other concerns raised were that the planting is shown on the planning application to be outside the red line but it is inside the red line. Councillor Knox said in the minutes of 30th May that she would speak to the Area Planning Manager and ask for a map to be provided clarifying the proposals. To be followed up.

Cllr
Knox

Badgers travel through the field. Dr Kennedy phoned Nature Scot but there had been no ecological impact report done. The correct procedure has not been observed. Cameron Kemp said that Councillors should be invited to support Dr Kennedy and her neighbours in confirming the correct procedure regarding an ecological impact report.

Dr Kennedy said that, in future, Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Council need to be more vigilant and

<p>to ensure that local residents are made aware of which planning applications are proposed in their local area, especially regarding the short time frame for applications to be contested and mindful of the fact that, although a lot of work is done via our Facebook page, not everyone has access to social media. She also said that Community Councillors need to be more visible in their local community. Fred Geddes and Cameron Kemp replied that we have a Community Councillor who regularly checks applications. We have to ask to be a Statutory Consultee. The Community Council didn't have a view at the time the application was submitted as no residents had approached them regarding this. Subsequently Eleanor Kennedy brought the matter up and the Community Council are fully supportive of Dr Kennedy in her concerns about the way Highland Council has handled the application.</p> <p>Kirkhill Gala Stall</p> <p>Community Councillors Dr Eleanor Kennedy and Judith Rumbold volunteered at a stall to raise money for Gala. The information board to advertise the Community Council fell through due to illness, although it may be revived at next year's Gala if there is more support from other members. Cameron Kemp said that the Gala event went very well and was extremely well organised, with excellent weather for it.</p> <p>Matters Arising Minutes of Meeting of 17th January 2023</p> <p>Road Speeds in Kirkhill</p> <p>Dr Eleanor Kennedy asked about progress on the Mansefield Park Residents' Association survey and subsequent appeal to the Highland Council, during the current 20mph rollout, to extend the speed limit out towards Dunballoch and Wester Lovat. She said that it would be useful to have the speed limit extended just past the Wester Lovat turnoff. Councillor Knox to be asked for the results of the appeal.</p>	<p>Cllr Knox</p>
<p>4. Police Report</p> <p>No police report was received. Lindsey Stout is to find out why they are so sporadic. There were no concerns raised by members of the public.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us</p>	<p>L.S.</p>
<p>5. Planning Issues</p> <p>Proposal of Application Notice, Beauly Battery Storage</p> <p>We were approached by promoters of the proposal of application notice to Highland Council for a battery storage system installation in Balbair Quarry near Beauly. The proposal is for a 49.9 MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) which will accept excess renewable electricity during periods of low demand and will export electricity to the National Grid. The design is still within its early stages and has not been finalised. It is understood that the Proposed Development will comprise of a series of modular battery storage units with a height of between 2-3 m, transformers, cooling units, and a control unit. The structures would be located within an area of lower elevation from previous quarry works and the visual impact would be further mitigated by the pre-existing topography and surrounding forestry, according to the promoters, naturalpower.com.</p> <p>We were asked for our opinion but this is not in our Community Council area (it is located close to the junction of the Aigas road, the A831, with the Beauly road, the A862, near the Lovat Bridge). Chairperson</p>	

<p>Cameron Kemp forwarded the email to Steve Byford, Chair of Kilmorack Community Council, for their attention.</p> <p>Dr Eleanor Kennedy asked if people had raised concerns in this community and Cameron Kemp said no but that local residents may be aware of the proposal.</p>	
<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Community Council elections</p> <p>The Community Council election process will begin on 4th September and self-nominations can be made through the Highland Council website. Lindsey Stout is to advertise the elections through Facebook. All Community Councils in the Inverness area will dissolve and reconvene by October or November 2023.</p> <p>The representative from ACT is no longer attending K&BCC meetings – we will ask, if we are re-elected, if anyone wishes to attend.</p> <p>Kirking of the Council, 7th September</p> <p>Cameron Kemp, our Chairperson, hoped to attend the Kirking of the Council.</p> <p>Local Place Plans</p> <p>We received an email dated 16th July inviting us to be involved in the preparation of Local Place Plans. Dr Eleanor Kennedy will look at it, with a view to responding on behalf of K&BCC.</p> <p>Hedgehog signs</p> <p>A hedgehog was killed at the Pelican Crossing in June, one of several over two years. A member of the public asked on Facebook in June about sourcing hedgehog signs. Lindsey Stout and Judith Rumbold were in favour of the signs. Lindsey Stout is to ask the Council if we can attach a sign to an existing pole.</p> <p>Speed Indication Device</p> <p>It was noted that the electric SID near the Pelican Crossing still read 30mph rather than 20mph, in line with the 20mph rollout. If this continues, Lindsey Stout to get in touch with Highland Council.</p> <p>The Crannog</p> <p>The Community Council used to pay the printing costs of The Crannog newsletter. Content was invited from the Community and it was designed, published, printed and posted through letterboxes by volunteers. Dr Eleanor Kennedy asked if the Crannog could be revived in digital format and whether some paper copies could also be made available in the community, especially for residents not able to follow social media. Cameron Kemp suggested some paper copies at the Community Centre. Lindsey Stout said that she thought she remembered that this had been discussed at an Aird Community Trust meeting, although not a current project, and would put Eleanor in touch with George Hogg, Chair of ACT.</p>	<p>L.S.</p> <p>Dr E.K.</p> <p>L.S.</p> <p>L.S.</p> <p>Dr E.K. L.S.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The next meeting is on Tuesday 26th September</p> <p>Meetings, 2023:</p> <p>Tuesday 26th September, 7.30pm to 9.00pm, Williamson Room, Kirkhill Community Centre</p>	



Blended meeting, online and in person (please contact us on kandbcommunitycouncil@gmail.com for a Zoom code).

FURTHER DATES OF MEETINGS, 2023 WILL BE DEPENDENT UPON THE RESULTS OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS:

Tuesday 7th November

Tuesday 5th December

Please feel free to contact us: kandbcommunitycouncil@gmail.com