

Meeting of the Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council

Minute of Online Meeting, 7:30pm; 23rd June 2020

Community Councillors Present:

Yvonne Brown, Fred Geddes, Cameron Kemp, Alisdair MacNeil, Lindsey Stout, Karen Young.

In attendance:

Councillor Margaret Davidson, George Hogg, Erik Lundberg.

1. Apologies	<u>Actions</u>
Due to technical issues, Community Councillor Judith Rumbold was unable to join the meeting. Apologies from Councillor Emma Knox.	
2. Minutes of Meeting of 5th May 2020 The minutes of the last meeting were circulated online, with acceptance proposed by Ally MacNeil and seconded by Yvonne Brown. A small change in wording was made in the comment made by Councillor Emma Knox in Item 6., A.O.B., Covid 19 Community Response, for clarification of meaning.	
3. Matters Arising of Meeting of 5th May 2020: There were no matters arising.	
4. Police Report The Community Council did not receive a police report. Karen Young commented that recently there has been an increase in motorcycle traffic speeding through the villages on the A862. https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/covid-19-bulletins	
5. Planning Newtonhill Planning Ref.: 20/0220/FUL The latest application has been withdrawn. The Community Council raised a query on the adjacent property. Fred Geddes asked if the Chair, Cameron Kemp, could ask for a response.	C.K.



6. Millennium Garden

Previous history

Previous minutes discussing and agreeing maintenance of the Millennium Garden would have been distributed at the time in print in the community newsletter, The Crannog. Due to the difficulty in accessing these old minutes because the Community Council website has been discontinued and the Community Council's Facebook page is more recent, the previous minutes are now most easily found at Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Trust's website, <http://kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk/community-council-2/>

The most relevant minutes are 21.03.2017, 02.05.2017, 08.09.2017 and 28.11.2017. The Millennium Garden is briefly mentioned in other minutes.

Current situation

On the 12th June 2020 volunteer gardener Dawn Stevens discovered Japanese Knotweed in the Millennium Garden and immediately advised the Community Council through the Facebook page message facility (the page is managed by Lindsey Stout). Lindsey advised the other Community Councillors by email shortly afterwards.

On 13th June 2020 Community Councillor Yvonne Brown and her partner, Dr Eric Donnelly visited the Millennium Garden, compiled and submitted a report on the Japanese Knotweed to the members of Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Council on 14th June 2020 (appended to these minutes). Yvonne Brown and Dr Eric Donnelly are environmental consultants.

Lindsey Stout suggested including Kirkhill Community Centre Trustees and members of Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Trust in any discussions about maintenance, with reference to previous Community Council meetings discussing the history, ownership and maintenance of the Millennium Garden. Erik Lundberg of Kirkhill Community Centre and George Hogg of Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Trust were invited to attend the meeting by the Chairperson.

Erik Lundberg suggested asking Mr. David Hendry, Gardener for Kirkhill Community Centre, to quote for the work and any return visits required. Members discussed the cost of employing a private contractor and agreed to seek alternative quotes if any local firms could be found.

Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Council agreed to contribute towards the costs. Fred Geddes, Treasurer, reported that there is £1750.00 in the account, some of which could be used towards the proposed works in the Millennium Garden. Cameron Kemp, Chair, said that the Community Council would have to agree at a future date on the proportion of funds available for ongoing maintenance. As Councillor Margaret Davidson said, Japanese Knotweed can take some time and more than growing season to eradicate. The members of the Community Council



agreed that the Japanese Knotweed in the Millennium Garden should be controlled and as soon as is practically possible.

Councillor Margaret Davidson asked how large the area was (not large at present but liable to spread by root system). The location of the Japanese Knotweed and methods of controlling its spread are detailed in Yvonne Brown and Dr Eric Donnelly's report (attached).

How the plant arrived in the Millennium Garden is unknown, although it can be spread by fly tipping garden waste, especially if the person dumping it is unaware of what the plant is (instead of using approved methods to dispose of the waste).

All the available methods of control were discussed (refer the appended report by Yvonne Brown and Dr Eric Donnelly). Various ways of protecting the safety of animals and children and protecting the environment were discussed. Yvonne Brown suggested that the plant should be cordoned off during gardening operations. Cordoning off the site would protect children from accessing the area as well as prevent transportation of parts of the plant to other areas. In principle, the cut and burn on location method was agreed to be the plan to move forward with.

Erik Lundberg said that Mr Hendry would need some time to undertake training and write a specific risk assessment with Erik Lundberg (Kirkhill Community Centre) and George Hogg (Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Trust). Yvonne Brown and Dr Eric Donnelly's report contains advice for forming a plan of action and a risk assessment.

Yvonne Brown and Councillor Margaret Davidson concurred that Japanese Knotweed is present in several locations in the Highlands. Alisdair MacNeil and Councillor Margaret Davidson commented that most people wouldn't know what it was if it popped up in their gardens, it's quite an attractive plant and this is why it is spreading.

Karen Young said that the wider community should be made aware, so that if they saw any on their property they would know what it is. Informing the public by form of notices on temporary fencing and Facebook posts was discussed. George Hogg will write a Facebook post and share the post with Lindsey Stout and prepare notices and share them with Erik Lundberg to attach to temporary fencing, which will be provided by Kirkhill Community Centre.

The need to contact the home owner of the house next door immediately, where the knotweed is leaning over the drive, was discussed by all present. Lindsey Stout volunteered to contact her and also to advise her to support the knotweed so that it does not lean over the drive, so won't be spread by breaking the stems or running the plant over with car tyres and transporting parts of the plant to other locations, a known cause of transmission. She is also to be advised not to cut the knotweed because safe disposal of the garden waste is important, to prevent transportation of live parts of the plant to a new site.

G.H.
E.L.
L.S.

LS



<p>Lindsey Stout said that Dawn Stevens had asked if she could continue to garden in the Millennium Garden in the future and all present agreed that she could resume volunteering there and in the future, as long as it was not within the cordoned-off area. The members of the Community Council would like to express their thanks for the voluntary gardening work done to date.</p>	
<p>6. A.O.B.</p> <p>Cycle Paths</p> <p>Alice Scriven is developing proposals and drawings and will consult with the landowners first, before going to the public. This path proposal is hoped to provide an enhancement to the east end of Inchmore which will be welcomed.</p> <p>http://kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk/paths-and-transport-group/</p> <p>Refer Minute of Meeting, 7:30pm; 10th December 2019. Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council on Facebook http://kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk/community-council-2/</p>	
<p>5. Dates of Meetings:</p> <p>6th October, 24th November 2020.</p> <p>Meetings will be online until further notice. Anyone wishing to air a concern should contact Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Council by email or by private message on our Facebook page. If the item requires discussion they will be invited to join the next meeting. It's inevitable that some Community Councillors and members of the public will find it difficult to join meetings online because of broadband connectivity issues.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>kandbcommunitycouncil@gmail.com</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council on Facebook</p> <p style="text-align: center;">https://www.highland.gov.uk/</p> <p style="text-align: center;">http://kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk/community-council-2/</p>	

**The next meeting is on Tuesday
25th August 2020 at 7:30pm online**

