

Meeting of the Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council

Minute of Meeting, Tuesday 16th September 2025

Community Councillors present:

Éamon Doorley, Cameron Kemp, Inglis Lyon, Lindsey Stout.

In attendance:

Councillor Emma Knox, Elizabeth Robertson from Aird Community Trust.

The meeting was held in person at Kirkhill Community Centre.

1. Apologies	ACTIONS
Apologies were received from Community Councillors Judith Rumbold and Jayne Macmillan.	
2. Minutes of the Meeting of 19 th August 2025	
The minutes of the meeting were circulated online. There were several corrections. The minutes were proposed for acceptance by Éamon Doorley and seconded by Inglis Lyon.	
3. Matters Arising from the last meeting:	
Road Safety Councillor Emma Knox communicated by email to the Community Council with progress as follows. Salient points are included: “Officers had suggested that our priority requests for 40mph extensions in this ward would be more likely to succeed now, in light of the recent 20mph roll out. In particular, the reduction in speed limits has come with demonstrable reductions in the number of serious injury and deaths on the affected roads. As you know, I have been lobbying for the 40mph speed limit to be extended coming out of Inchmore, and I have asked for the whole of the B9164 back road past the Lovat Farm Bothy to be reduced from a national speed limit to 40mph speed limit. Inchmore The Road Safety Manager contacted me yesterday to advise that the team has carried out a comprehensive review of incidents and collisions on the stretch of road...over the last 5 years and she reports that there have been no recorded injury collisions in the entire period. They have decided, that in the absence of evidence of need, the position regarding the 40 mph through Inchmore has not changed (there has been lengthy correspondence about this spanning many years - some of which the CC has been party to) ...Council Officers can only act on recorded tangible evidence. This is an operational matter for Council Officers, and while I can continue to advocate for the change and share the CC	

and residents' concerns, it is not something that I can instruct in my capacity as an elected member.

B9164

...The Road Safety Officer is more receptive to this proposal. We have discussed the impact of the Lovat Farm Bothy and safety implications of cars coming onto the B9154 from there. The Road Safety Manager is in discussions with the Roads Manager for his area and they are instructing a speed monitoring exercise and an assessment of the road accounting for usage, visibility and other relevant factors.

Speed Indication Devices

The Lighting and Communications Officer is aware and the team are checking all the SIDs in the area for defects. They are looking into the request for additional SIDs at Inchmore. (I have also asked for speed monitoring through Kirkhill as requested at the last CC meeting)."

Inglis Lyon asked for the results of the speed survey in Kirkhill. Councillor Knox to look into this.

Cllr Knox

Traffic calming for Kirkhill, including chicanes, was discussed to reduce speeding. Lindsey Stout said that this was successful in Conon Bridge but produces queuing and Kirkhill traffic seems busier. Can be an issue for residents who wish to park on the street.

Councillor Knox said that the Scottish Government will be conducting a review of the national speed limit. A report will be out in March. There will be a Highland-wide review regarding reducing the 60mph limit to 40mph in certain areas. This may be helpful in relation to the extension of the 40mph speed limit in Inchmore (at each end of Inchmore, as previously discussed) and the B9164 in Kirkhill, running past the Lovat Bothy.

Inglis Lyon asked if there was any chance of getting the cats' eyes and road markings in place on the new pieces of road on the A862 before the darker nights in November. Councillor Knox said that there were arguments (from the Roads Department) that it was safer (to leave the road unmarked). Inglis Lyon said that the Community Council really needs to request the evidence behind the reasoning. Roads surely have to be a certain width and the A862 is narrower. Councillor Knox to action.

Cllr Knox

- **Community Noticeboard**

The Acorn Signs renewed quote for a new community noticeboard was £1980 including V.A.T., with the price held from the quote received in January 2024.

Inglis Lyon suggested that a couple more quotes should be found. Lindsey Stout suggested contacting Erik Lundberg to see if Billy Horne, Joiner, would quote.

Inglis Lyon suggested that a saving on the noticeboard legs and ground works could be made by attaching a noticeboard to the Community Centre outside wall and that this option should also be explored.

	Éamon Doorley said that any noticeboard should have lighting so that the notices can be read during the long Winter or be situated near or under a lamp post for visibility. Lindsey Stout to contact Erik Lundberg of A.C.T. • Community Shop Elizabeth Robertson of Aird Community Trust read out an email from George Hogg. He suggested holding a public event. The Community Development Manager should be involved. Inglis Lyon said that instead of holding an event in October or November, a commercial proposition should be prepared so that any interest in running a community shop could be developed. Our own recent surveys at Gala Day and previous surveys by community groups have shown that a shop is strongly supported. Elizabeth Robertson said that every survey showed that 80% of residents wanted a shop. Inglis Lyon said that there were clear tasks: 1. Identify a site which is available, supported by local residents (not in Newton Park) and in view, to catch passing trade. 2. Prepare a business plan which will attract local businesses. 3. Cameron Kemp suggested preparing a sub group first with Aird Community Trust and then to arrange a public meeting. Lindsey Stout said that she would be happy to be the Community Council representative. Councillor Knox to source population figures. Inglis Lyon commented that a shop would draw more businesses and families to move to the area. Elizabeth Robertson said that many families moved to Kirkhill originally because it had a shop. She also said that the Village Market has grown as the community has grown. Kirkhill café has fifty covers and that's only on Friday, during the day. Cameron Kemp suggested contacting the Kirk, to run the idea of a shop in the building past them.	Secretary Cllr Knox
4. S.S.E.N./Community Interaction	Inglis Lyon suggested that it would be worthwhile reaching out to Beauly Community Council, which has re-formed. Cameron Kemp to action. Cameron Kemp reported that S.S.E.N. will be submitting a Section 37 planning application to the Energy Consents Unit of the Scottish Government on the third of October. Cameron said that the Community Council will seek help to get a submission prepared for that. The Community Council needs to hold a Public Meeting to garner public opinion.	Chair

The Community Council will be seeking a decent extension of time in order to have time to read all the documents in the application. Inglis Lyon said that the Community Council should set up a crowd fundraiser in order to be able to seek professional advice from a consultant. Éamon Doorley said that he will look into arranging it. He also said that as a Community Council we need to be clear and transparent and set parameters for what the money is for and share the fundraiser on social media.	E. Doorley
5. Finance Inglis Lyon said that the bank balance stands at approx. £3500; an invoice for £15 for hall rent was received to cover an extra meeting held on third September between four Community Councils (Kirkhill & Bunchrew, Kiltarlity, Kilmorack and Strathglass.	
6. Police/Rural Watch Report Councillor Knox said that the police are now patrolling Bunchrew, Inchmore and Kirkhill regularly.	
7. Road Safety Included in Matters Arising above.	
8. Planning Issues No issues were raised with the Community Council.	
9. Any Other Business At Newtonhill, at the Lentrán Station turnoff where the drain goes under the road, the drain is flooding and requires to be cleared. Councillor Knox to action. Lindsey Stout mentioned that on the B9164 from Kirkhill to Inchmore, there are several drains choked with weeds. Councillor Knox to action.	Cllr Knox Cllr Knox
Future 2025 meetings Tuesdays at 7.30pm to 9pm, The Williamson Room, Kirkhill Community Centre: 9th December If you would like to attend a meeting by telephone if you cannot attend in person, please contact us on kandbcommunitycouncil@gmail.com	