

Kiltarlity Community Council Meeting Minutes from 8th February 2023

1. Welcome & Apologies

Present: Norman Grant (Chairperson), Linda Bell (Treasurer), Lorna Mason (Secretary), members, Susan Ogston, Iain McIlleachair, Bill Fraser, Councillors Emma Knox and David Fraser and 6 further members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Hlen Crawford and Mairi Davidson

The chairman welcomed everyone to the first community council meeting of the year.

2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

- The Glebe - No more updates at this time.

3. Treasurers Report

Copy of report attached to minutes.

Balance to hand: £4585.91

4. Police Report

Still not receiving a report from the Police. Cllrs have been chasing this up and Emma and David will raise it again at the next briefing meeting.

Cllr David Fraser advised us that the police started a newsletter instead but it doesnt cover any local issues. Complaints have been raised.

The bus shelter has still not been repaired and there has been futher damage around the village including to the Garden of Hope sign and the Shinty sign at start of village.

5. Correspondence

Norman has sent all relevant emails to the CC members

Ability Net have been in touch - Linda has spoken to them about the Shinty memories, we will perhaps try to arrange for them to attend a CC meeting.

Kessock Bridge - Emma had sent over an email for members only which outlined some ideas for the issues this causes when the bridge needs to close. Better solutions are needed for mental health support in the area too.

6. Bus Service

Councillor David Fraser gave an update assisted by Councillor Emma Knox.

Firstly he made an apology for what happened after Christmas with the service being withdrawn so suddenly.

Basically Highland Council subsidise the day service contract which was up for renewal and Stagecoach massively increased this rate which Highland Council did not accept. A new day rate was negotiated with D&E Coaches. It had been hoped that Stagecoach would continue their early and night time service but they sadly withdrew this after the news that they were not going to have the day time contract.

HC looked at restoring the service that stagecoach provided but this would have cost an extra £48000 per year which HC were not prepared to cover.

Some ward funding was available and our local councillors managed to get this diverted to Kiltarlity to cover the additional bus service costs. This is only for the next 12 months and it is hoped that this will start from March.

A lot of research will be required in order to find a better long term permanent solution for local residents going forward as there still will not be any service provided on a Sunday. And there is no longer a Dingwall bus.

Possibility of HC trialling their own bus service.

The local councillors will continue to push this issue and encourage local engagement to work out the best solutions.

7. SSE

Bill Fraser attended yet another meeting last night which was both in person and online and included SSE representatives from Perth.

A lot is planned to happen by 2030 with huge amounts of power to be generated to send down south (35 gigawatts by 2030) 5x what is being produced currently. Most of this will come from the Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland and will go down via the Beaulieu-Denny Line and also via Peterhead. This is going to happen no matter what as it is the UK government in Westminster making it happen.

The current liaison group which includes Bill and members of Kilmorack and Beaulieu CC's will continue to try to be as involved as possible in order to steer things in a way that suits the local area.

A huge new substation is being proposed for the local area with several locations on the table. SEN are holding a public open day at Kilmorack Hall on 2nd of March between 2.30pm and 7pm. All residents are encouraged to attend.

8. Belladrum

The new community liaison for Belladrum (Naomi) has been in touch with Susan. She is keen to liaise with local groups and recognise local support. She will be trying to get the festival and school more involved with each other and also hopes to attend a Kiltarlity Community Council meeting at some point in order to meet locals and answer any questions.

Lessons have also been learnt from last years camping at the Shinty pitch and better communication will be in place this year to keep local residents informed.

9. Tomnacross Primary School

School crossing updates? Nothing at present.

School rep - a pupil from the school to attend at the beginning on KCC meetings and provide updates and pupil opinions - This is still planned however is delayed still due to school staffing issues.

10. Christmas Lights and Over 60's Lunch

These remain up all year round in order to save money. HC don't charge a connection fee, however a couple no longer work so Susan will look into having these replaced.

The latest christmas light switch on raised over £3000 for the school which will go towards upgrading the smart boards required in the classrooms for teaching.

The over 60's christmas lunch was once again well attended.

11. AOB

- School/village crossing - Councillor Emma Knox will continue to push for this to be upgraded. The new 20mph restriction should help. Speed bumps similar to Beaully may be a good idea?
- Lovat Shinty Club and community will apply for community help towards funding for an all weather pitch and the relocation and upgrading of the playpark. The Playpark will only be moved slightly over from its current location to allow for room for the all weather facility to be built.
- Anne Maclean of K2000 would like to thank Kiltarlity Community Council for a donation towards materials to fix the fence at the Garden of Hope and to thank Eion Gibbs for giving up his time to carry out the repairs.
- Winter Resilience Scheme - Susan advised that this had been pulled by HC this year and wondered why? Cllrs Emma Knox and David Fraser were unaware of this until tonight and will investigate why.

- Garden Waste - a member of the public asked if there were any plans to extend the collection of garden waste to Kiltarlity. David and Emma will look into this.
- Belladrum Planning Application - a member of the public raised concerns over a recent planning application by the owners of Belladrum estate to create a wedding and events venue all year round. KCC don't normally get involved in individual planning applications unless they attract a large number of complaints or are detrimental to the local area.
- Foxhole road sign - a member of the public advised that this road sign had been missing for quite some time - Emma Knox will look into having this reinstated.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next Kiltarlity Community Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th of April at 7.30pm in Kiltarlity Village Hall upstairs meeting room. This will also include the AGM.