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|  | **Kenmore and District Community Council Meeting**  **Acharn Comrades Hut**  **26 September 2024**  **Minutes** |
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1. **Present**

KCC Members – Peter Ely, Colin Morton, Shirley Shearer, Alex Low, Jon Iddon, Lou Oppenheim

David O Donoghue (General Manager DLC)

Stacey Ives (Taymouth Marina)

Members of the local community:

Robert Cochran

Ann Hunter

Fiona Smith

1. **Apologies**

Olive Munro, Bill Howie, Carol May

1. **Declarations of interest**

Peter Ely (Crannog Centre)

1. **Previous Minutes**

Minutes approved – proposed by Jon Iddon and seconded by Shirley Shearer

1. **Matters arising.**

* Lou Oppenheim joins KCC as a new representative for Acharn. Lou was proposed by Carol and seconded by Alex. New appointment approved. Jon Iddon has been co-opted to KCC for Kenmore area. New appointment approved. Bill Howie confirmed as associate member.
* Finance – covered in main agenda.
* Planning
  + House at Inchadney **24/00695/FLL Paul Strachan** as reported previously planning permission for a new house was refused. The owner appealed but the appeal did not address the concerns raised by KCC. KCC’s original objections are still recorded against the application
  + Caravan site near Marina – PKC still shows as pending. Peter has been trying to speak to John Williamson to confirm status, but has been referred to Periphone Beer in the planning dept. Peter awaiting an update.
  + House boats at the Marina – trying to establish current status. Application has not yet been referred to the Enforcement team within the planning dept. Awaiting confirmation.
* Community Action Plan
  + Peter, Jon and Alex (as the CAP working group) met with Douglas Westwater from Community Enterprise on 11 September together with representative from Glen Lyon and Loch Tay CC. Douglas has circulated the initial draft of the questionnaire that will be used to get feedback from the local community on the pressing issues for the area/residents. The questionnaire will be reviewed by KCC working group before next meeting with Douglas Westwater and GLLTCC.
  + The CAP will form the basis of the Local Development/Place Plan.

1. **Finance**

Accounts for period to end Aug 2024 (financial year end) were circulated. Balance in account is currently £21,632. This includes £7.5k for micro grants and £8k resilience payment.



KCC wants to encourage groups/individuals to apply for micro grant for projects/groups that benefit the local community eg. LTA could use for project to locate blue/green algae. Wooden dividers to mark out parking at Acharn Falls are possible projects. Lou asked how to go about applying and Peter will send Lou an application form. Max amount for micro grant is £750.

Application for micro grant by Crannog was discussed. Concerns were raised as to whether this appropriate as the Crannog Centre is a commercial enterprise that has received a lot of government funding already, Peter will respond to indicate that micro grants could be approved for any community outreach projects that the Crannog is planning to run.

Aberfeldy Festive Committee has also approached KCC re micro grants. Details will be requested regarding the total cost of the event and how much Aberfeldy Festive Committee is contributing. The topic of local community councils being able to approach other CC’s to apply to for micro grants without disclosing where applications have been made was discussed. It was not considered to be an appropriate practice.

1. **Planning**

The Borrow Pit on U177 will be discussed under Taymouth Castle update.

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| **24/01293/FLL Erection of 5 holiday accommodation units, installation of 5 air source heat pumps and associated works at  Land 30 Metres North East Of The Byre Bistro** |

Deadline for objections 12 Oct. General feedback from community is that the area in question is in need of tidying up anyway. Developing the area is one way to achieve this. Members of the local community should submit objections before 12 Oct.

KCC will raise objections regarding lack of infrastructure and over use of local facilities by holiday makers which makes it difficult for local residents to book tables at the restaurant etc. This topic should also be covered as part of the CAP.

1. **Reading Room**

Jon Iddon provided the following update:

AGM followed by general meeting on 19th August. Chair reported on very successful year and thanked volunteers for their many hours of hard work. Karon Carson elected as secretary.

A community garden has been established with a new fence to side to replace rotten one. Thanks to Taymouth Castle for this.

We have a week at the thrift shop 20th October. Still looking for volunteers. It was suggested that Jon apply for the Thrift Shop for next year. Application should be made fairly shortly to try and guarantee a slot.

Log burner. A lot of effort. Finally got consent from PKC to install. We’ve had 2 site visits from installers. Last this week. Await feasibility report and costings.

Internal work not yet complete. Floor to be sanded and varnished. Panels to be stained. Site visit from PKC and contractor 2 weeks ago. Told us would be imminent. Not heard as yet.

McMillan Day this Saturday ‘Koffee in Kenmore’. All day event organised by Bridget and Neil Black. Jon hoped this would be well supported.

Warm Welcome sessions - told earlier in year there would be no funding and to apply for Community Investment Funding (CIF). This involved a long, complicated application form which took several hours to complete. Application was submitted only to be told later it would be withdrawn as funding for Warm Welcome sessions would be announced shortly. Volunteers keen to support WW sessions, should funding be made available.

Open Day for Taymouth Castle announced for 12th October. Interpretive boards for RR re history, etc. Leaflet with history of BRR, School and Post Office/KVS. Mark Bridgman written this, also booklet with more detailed history of the RR.

1. **Taymouth Castle Estate Liaison Group**

Colin Morton gave the following update:

Had our regular liaison meeting on 25 September. Notes of that meeting will be available on our website early next week.

**Access**

Have had conversations with the estate, PKC and walking organisations about the rumours of loss of core paths. None of us know where the evidence for this is. Some folk may have been confused by the Zone 3 access plan - which only related to zone 3.

There are no proposals to curtail the core paths and we have firm assurances from the estate that they are committed to protecting, improving and even extending the path network. We have seen some visuals recently which illustrate the new interpretive and route signage which support this intent. Work to make safe trees, improve surfaces, install water stations and build bridges is underway.

We have discussed the issue of housing curtilage with PKC and the estate and are confident that they will resolve this.

**Open Day**

Local residents should receive the Autumn castle Newsletter which includes details of registering for the open day on 12 October. residents can register from 1 October on the Welcome to Taymouth website. Knowing how much local interest there is about the castle renovations, and that many local people have never before seen the inside of the castle, this is something we have been very keen on for some time. So, we are delighted that the estate has embraced this initiative. The tour will last around 90 minutes and provide opportunities to talk with the artisans involved. It is hoped that 450 people can be accommodated.

Those of us lucky enough to have already seen the interior would agree that the results are stunning, and would thoroughly recommend the tour.

**Borrow pit**

You might have seen media coverage of this. The estate has put its hands up and said that the contractors may have dug deeper than the planning permission allowed. They put this down to lack of supervision and have said that they will take whatever consequences PKC consider appropriate. The good news is that the requirement for sand for the golf course is almost finished and a reinstatement plan is being prepared for PKC. Given that, the application for an extension was withdrawn.

*David O’Donough acknowledged the infringement. The overall impact of using sand locally to cap the golf course has reduced the volume of lorry traffic that would have been required if sand had to be transported from elsewhere. Backfilling the borrow pit requires material to be transported from the Errochty power station area.*

*David confirmed that the original planning permission for the borrow pit permitted mining for 3 years with 1 year to reinstate. Mining is near complete and no extension is required. Mining will be declared as complete in the near future and then the 12 month period to reinstate will start. This process has taken less time that originally planned.*

**Golf course maintenance facility**

The estate has shown us outline plans for the revised proposals for the facility. This will now be split into two facilities, one much smaller single story facility at the original site and another larger one nearer the castle. The one near Taymouth Drive will not require constant access. We consider that all the comments and feedback from residents have been addressed and are grateful for the attention given to local concerns.

The plans include outline proposals for the H42 social housing area and the estate re-affirmed its commitment to this project, and its willingness to work with the Comm council and housing associations to help see this to fruition.

**Zone 3 Housing application**

We are aware that many objections have been lodged, mostly regarding flooding issues. we have discussed the flooding issue many times with the developers and know they are liaising closely with PKC over the details. It is worth noting that SEPA’s objections are about policy on building houses on land prone to flood, and not about downstream impacts. We decided that we have no expertise in this area and are happy to leave it to the experts.

On this note, we have seen PKC come under much undue criticism from protest groups recently, similar to that we had to endure not so long ago. The CC has regular conversations and a very good working relationship with PKC over the castle development, and we have greatly appreciated their assistance and advice. Contrary to the very unfair and irresponsible accusations put about, we consider that the council has been rigorous, fair and responsible in their approach*. It was requested that this point be officially minuted*.

Newhall Facility

We expect to see in a few weeks the planning proposals for the back-of-house facilities at Newhall. We believe that significant changes have been made following the pre-application public consultation.

1. **Road Safety Group**

Jon Iddon gave the following update:

Last K&DCC RSG meeting was 18/6/24.

Subsequently we have had updates from Willie Mahoney from PKC as outlined below:

U177:

Need for 30mph limit throughout. Passed to Traffic and Road Safety Group. Request they hold a site meeting with ourselves.

Improved passing places east of Inchadney. Added to list of future works.

Addressed runoffs from Drummond Hill. Discussed with local officer and we will carry out survey work here.

*Robert Cochran raised the impact of the sand being transported by DLC on the local drainage problems. Robert shared photos (taken in Aug and Sept 24) showing the drains being totally covered by sand which then prevents the water from draining away and makes it impossible to find the drains to clear. Suggested that DLC should wash down the lorries to remove sand and grit from the wheels prior to each journey and that the sand in the lorries should be covered to prevent sand from being blown in to the road and blocking the drains. David O’Donoghue agreed to contact Kevin Cross at Cross Civils to discuss following these suggestions.*

*Shirley indicated that the Forestry Commission and local road men used to clear the Drummond Hill road in the past to keep them clear, but this practice has long fallen into abeyance. These changes all contribute to the problems seen now.*

C451:

Crossing at the Marina/Ferrymans. Passed to Traffic and Road Safety.

Several bad potholes on this stretch of road. Added to contractors list.

Damage to parapets at Acharn burn. Passed to structures team. (Seeking update).

A827:

Speed mitigation by WW2 pill box. Subject for Traffic and Road safety.

Widening road east of Balnaskeag junction. Willie to prepare business case for this.

Consider ‘no overnight parking’ at Kenmore beach. Subject for Traffic and Road safety.

1. **Resillience**

Jon Iddon gave the following update:

The resilience subgroup met earlier this week.

Work is going well on the Kenmore Community Emergency Plan. The draft for a leaflet for community distribution is with PKC Comms. We have our next meeting with PKC on 18th October, so hopefully, will get an update.

We have a list of requirements for the resilience centre. Purchases will be recorded for audit purposes, with dates ordered/received and checked.

We are discussing purchase, planning requirements and installation of a container with the Sports Association. Sports Association want to purchase another container. They would apply for planning permission for all containers, as is their own land. We would purchase our own from resilience grant. PKC have told us they would cover our planning costs. We would secure tenure for 10 years with annual review and for usage/access, pay a peppercorn.

Cost of planning will be covered by PKC.

We have met with a representative of Scottish Fire and Rescue

We have a press statement on CC website, The Courier and The Quair. Thanks to Colin for input here.

We’re very conscious of the need for training and the updating of skills, eg CPR and defibrillator training etc.

Need more volunteers - folk who can support the group and be called upon should a critical event occur.

1. **AOCB**
2. **Kenmore “Brand” Update**

Jon was invited by Mairi to present prizes to the children at Kenmore Primary that won the art competition in the Reading Rooms. Following a trip to Newton Moore the head teacher said the children had an idea to have a Capercaillie walk around the sites of Kenmore would be a structured way to walk around the village.

Further updates will be provided on Kenmore ‘Brand’ at next meeting.

1. **PKC Visitor Management**

Arek Nowrotek provided an email update as he was unable to attend the meeting. There was no real mention of Acharn/Kenmore which is presumably because so far there have been few issues this year.

The ranger rota is provided to Peter Ely with contact numbers. This is circulated to KCC members only for use if an issue arises. If there are no rangers on duty the Visitor Management email should be used or a central contact number. The email address is monitored at the weekend.

1. **AOCB**

**Christmas at Kenmore - n**ext meeting 24/10 at 6pm. All welcome.

**Kenmore Brand** – Shirley will look to start work on this again now that the summer busy season is drawing to a close.

**North Logiealmond Wind Farm** – representative may come to next KCC meeting in Oct. The wind farm borders on our area and as a result we may be eligible for some financial support.

**AGM** – last Thurs in Oct (31 Oct)

1. **Next Meeting**

Next KCC Meeting will take place on 31 Oct.