|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Kenmore and District Community Council Meeting****Acharn Comrades Hut****30 January 2025****Minutes** |
|  |  |

1. **Present**

KCC Members - Peter Ely, Carol May, Lou Oppenheim Alex Low, Jon Iddon, Shirley Shearer, and Colin Morton

Mairi McAdam (DLC)

Members of the local community – Sheona (Kenmore Primary Head teacher) plus two pupils, Bill Oppenheim, Chris Walsh, Ian (Shepherd), Ann Hunter and Robert Cochran.

1. **Presentation from Kenmore PS re proposed Capercaillie trail**

Sheona and the pupils from Kenmore Primary School introduced their idea for the Capercaillie trail around Kenmore. They got the idea from a visit to Newtonmore where they saw a lot of 3D wild cat models in the area. Capercaillie will be used as the symbol in Kenmore because they are found locally, are endangered and are the emblem of Kenmore PS.

3D Capercaillie models will mark points of interest in Kenmore with details being available via a QR code. Will be useful for both visitors and locals. Many sites were suggested - hills, trails, businesses, shops, cafes, Crannog, Gallops, Arboretum. Kenmore Kirk, Falls of Acharn, local houses, gardens, Marina, Sports Pavilion etc.

It was suggested that children from the school could be taken to try and spot Capercaillie in the wild. James Duncan Millar would be able to suggest possible locations. Ian suggested that Black grouse are also interesting birds to spot.

Lou raised the possibility of children from the school taking part in a first aid course. The session would be run at the school and would teach basic first aid and live saving skills. The pupils thought this would be both fun and useful.

It is also planned to hold a KCC meeting at the school to give pupils an insight into how local people work together for the community.

1. **Apologies**

Bill Howie

1. **Declarations of interest**

None

1. **Previous Minutes**

Previous minutes approved unanimously.

1. **Matter Arising**

**Planning**

* 1. House at Inchadney **24/00695/FLL Paul Strachan** – ‘Rejected’ after subsequent appeal.
	2. House boats at the Marina – PKC have asked for a planning application to be submitted.
	3. **24/01293/FLL** Erection of five holiday accommodation units, installation of five air source heat pumps and associated works at land 30 Metres North East Of the Byre Bistro – pending decision0
	4. Unpermitted dock behind paper boat – with PKC enforcement team.
	5. Taymouth Marina – sewage works have been approved by PKC with conditions. PKC awaiting documentation to confirm conditions have been complied with.
	6. Development at Morenish/Highland Lodges was discussed. Concerns regarding sewage have been raised by Loch Tay/Glen Lyon CC. These objections were dismissed.

Micro Grants

1. The Crannog’s micro grant application to cover joint projects with Kenmore primary school has been approved.
2. North Logiealmond Wind Farm – next public engagements due in May. A public consultation is planned.

Sand martins will be discussed at the next liaison meeting with Taymouth Castle.

1. **Finance**

Last update from Peter Ely as he will be handing over to Jon Iddon as treasurer. Balance in account as of end Dec is £18,063.

The attached accounts were presented:



The following points were highlighted:

* £2,180 proceeds from Christmas in Kenmore available to fund local community initiatives. Some will be used to cover the cost of using Breadalbane Reading Rooms by local groups. 11 Music Night sessions have been held so far (cost of approx. £330 covered by KCC/CiK). Will also cover room hire fee for new Book Club that will start meeting soon.
* £291 Admin fees refunded from PKC.
* £803 available to spend on BRR office. Suggest projector/screen to reduce the need to hard copy print outs.
* £8388 Resilience grant (see later update from Community Resilience Group

Peter has worked with RBS to add Shirley, Jon, and Alex as signatories on the KCC account. This will also cover digital access. There had been confusion at RBS re who the official signatories were. This has now all been clarified. Now just awaiting card/card reader.

Please note Ref figures in the ‘Bank’ column of the accounts were paid from BRR a/c as digital banking was available on this account.

1. **Planning**

Peter Ely shared the attached list of current planning applications:



The following topics were discussed:

**PLANNING APPLICATION 24/01857/FLL -ERECTION OF A DWELLING HOUSE AND ASSOCIATED WORKS - LAND 40 METRES EAST OF ANEMONE, BALNASKEAG**

KCC objected to this application in response to concerns raised by local residents. The primary objection was based on road safety.

There was some confusion as to ownership of the land and an ownership certificate was requested by PKC. The owner was unhappy with KCC objection and threatened legal action against KCC members if the objection was not withdrawn/amended. KCC checked the content of objection with PKC. Councillor John Duff spoke to planning and legal teams at PKC and confirmed our objection was valid and objection and acceptable. KCC did not withdraw or amend the objection. A significant number of objections from neighbours were also lodged.

It was confirmed that an enforcement order has just been served on adjoining land under the same ownership to remove fencing, building materials, storage building (including concrete base) and to cease using open land as a garden. This is a long-running dispute, and the outcome will be welcomed by neighbours.

The issue raised concerns relating to the liability of KCC and its members. Peter confirmed that substantial all-risk insurance is provided through PKC.

**Taymouth Castle planning applications**

These applications are highlighted in blue on the attached list. These are all updates to existing approved plans. They do not relate to new buildings/plans.

These are accepted as variations to the master plan.

**25/00020/FLL Extension to dwelling house at Bovain, Acharn**

House is set back from the road. No objections raised.

**24/01791/FLL Erection of Jetty (in retrospect) at land 20m North East of Pier House, Pier Road, Aberfeldy**

Temporary application for 3 years while owner reviews whether it will work effectively as a pier for private and public use.

No mention in application of any access/parking plans. Unclear who owns the solum of the Loch. Previous attempts to confirm have not been successful.

KCC to object based on lack of detail in the application relating to a) ownership of land and b) access/parking requirements.

24/01948/FLL Siting of office/storage building, changing room, sauna and jacuzzi at land 30m NE of Portbane, Kenmore

Daran at Taymouth Marina spoke to Peter previously about this. Plan to add a new facility to make it easier for locals to access the ‘hot box’ type facilities. The business/local benefit is understood but there are still concerns regarding road safety at the Marina that have not been addressed by PKC. The new development will bring even more traffic to the C451.

KCC will object on road safety grounds (as is consistent with other planning applications along the C451).

It was discussed that only PKC can progress with road safety improvements. Shirley suggested that someone from PKC planning dept actually visit the proposed site to review the road problems in person. Please see RSG update for planned visit by PKC Roads dept to view C451.

1. **SURF**

Colin provided the following update:

KCC clearly went into this hoping to gain some benefits for the community. Although we did not win first place we are starting to see some positive outcomes.

A big benefit from doing so well is that it helps open doors for grants and other funding. SURF has provided us with an extensive list of funding and training opportunities.

One of the outcomes not covered already is that the lead judge for the award has offered advice and assistance for any projects we may have - a big plus.

The judges also gave us some ideas for the future and the council will look at these.

We have been keenly encouraged to re-apply this year.

1. **Taymouth Estate Liaison Group**

The latest Taymouth Castle Liaison meeting was held on 9th January. Full details can be found on the KCC Website and Colin Morton highlighted the following points:

* TCE will install twelve new bins at the beach/car park and toilet areas once temperatures rise. Works to install an AED (defibrillator) at the public toilets, replace broken parking bollards at the beach car park and install a ramp for ease of access onto the beach from the car park path are imminent.
* A reinstatement plan for the borrow pit will be submitted to PKC by end January. Although sand trucking has ceased there will still be some limited and infrequent movement of already-mined gravel and top for roads within the estate. Some sand is being sourced from Alloa at the rate of around 1-2 truckloads per week.
* Earth moving at the golf course has ceased and major work on the course should be completed by the end of this month when golf works contractors will remove the yard storage and equipment.
* The estate is working on plans to remove some of the fencing along the core paths where this can be done safely. In some areas the tall Heras fences may be replaced with less obtrusive low-level fencing or hedging.
* Once finished, the telephone box will be replaced in its original plot. Following limited feedback on purpose the Community Council has asked that the box be fitted out as both a book swap library and an information kiosk. A map of the area and its facilities and amenities is being prepared for mounting on a board beside the telephone box. Mairi indicated that the phone box is expected to be completed by 14 Feb.
* David informed the Council that it was unlikely there would be any movement on reopening Taymouth Trading as a village pub in 2025. This was due to competing priorities within their development programme. The Council expressed its deep disappointment at the news and underlined that this remained a priority for villagers following the closing of the hotel.

Re the last point Robert Cochran expressed disappointment that TCE were not sticking to the originally promised timeline for both Taymouth Trading and the Kenmore Hotel. It is accepted that while this is very disappointing for the local community, the projects are delayed rather than cancelled and TCE is still committed to delivering these. It is understood that other projects are currently taking priority. This is very unfortunate but is completely normal for any business enterprise. TCE continues to be very supportive of community initiatives.

Lou Oppenheim highlighted that there are many trees down on the lower path on the gallops side of the river. Mairi will raise this with the TCE team.

1. **Road Safety subgroup**

Jon Iddon provided the following update on those items that have progressed since the last meeting.

The Road Safety Group held a site visit on Monday 20th January with a representative of PKC, the purpose of which was to examine the possibility of both upgrading and providing additional passing places between Comrie bridge and the entrance to the borrow pit at Inchadney.

* In all thirteen sites looked at, five were noted to be well surfaced and required no further action.
* Signage issues were identified at 4 sites - either requiring them to be repaired, moved or in need of installation.
* Of the sites considered, five required tidying, widening, or cleaning: a further four needed resurfacing.
* The very poor state of the carriageway in front of Rustic Lodge, just to the west of Karelia House, was noted and requires to be resurfaced.
* While it remains our aim to see a reduced speed limit throughout the length of the U177, it was suggested PKC might be willing to consider a temp. reduced speed limit during the works at Bolfracks.
* We enquired as to the time scale for the work to be done on the U177 and have been informed this will be done in the next financial year but before commencement of the Bolfracks work.
* We discussed our desire to see the newly configured passing places west of Inchadney remain as permanent features, as these have greatly improved road safety while trucks have been passing between the borrow pit and the golf course.
* As we have significant outstanding issues in relation to road safety on the C451 - South Loch Road, we have asked PKC if they would consider a further site visit to look at these issues.
1. **Resilience Subgroup**

Jon Iddon provided the following update:

We have continued to build our stock of resilience equipment, the list of which is attached. To date we have spent in the order of £3,250.

A leaflet, giving advice and information to assist members of the community in the event of emergencies and severe weather events, has been printed, the cost of which has been borne by PKC for which we are grateful. Apart from a few minor tweaks, the Kenmore Emergency Plan is complete. We will look to distribute the leaflet on social media platforms and on the CC’s website, updating information already available there.

When the weather improves, we will embark on a door-to-door initiative. It is our intention to draw up a list of questions for this exercise to help us better understand the needs of members of our community in dealing with some of the events listed above. We will encourage, where possible, folk to download Met. Office and SEPA Apps. It might also encourage folk to become volunteers.

A great deal of work has gone into the preparation of these documents, and I want to thank all members of the CRG for their contributions but particularly Karon for the many hours of rewriting and editing.

We are looking for ongoing training and skills updates and would like to bring in an outside trainer who would do a half-day first aid/defibrillator session. The cost would be 350/400 for 10/12 folk and look to micro grant funding to cover costs. It would be delighted if other members of the CC would join in this venture? Lou took the names of those present at the meeting that would be interested in attending the training. Lou will follow up on potential dates. Likely to be in April (after the Winter Warmers sessions are finished). Training will be 11 am to 3pm.

We will continue developing contacts with other agencies, e.g., Ambulance Service, local mountain rescue service, the Kirk and other community resilience groups and CCs.

We are not members of the emergency services, nor are we first responders; the point of contact in the event of flooding, fallen trees etc., is PKC, their contact details can be found in the leaflet and Plan. Our role is to assist when requested.

Ian suggested a register of machinery such as generators that could be utilized in an emergency.

1. **Reading Room Update**

Jon Iddon gave the following update:

* The kitchen walls and ceiling repaired late last year have now been painted. We await further attention to the wood panels, where the insets require to be sanded and stained in a lighter colour.
* The new fire guard with inset panel depicting a capercaillie was delivered shortly before Christmas. Our thanks go to David and Heather from Keltneyburn Smithy for this superb piece of work.
* Warm Welcome sessions began on Wednesday 15th January, the first being very well attended, with more than twenty members of the local community attending.
* This first session was also attended by the team from Warm Connections Aberfeldy, who gave visitors advice on energy saving measures.
* Last Wednesday, pupils came from Kenmore Primary School to work on their reading skills with folk attending the session. Further groups of pupils will attend on a weekly basis.
* Wednesday music evenings gain in popularity. Last Wednesday, thirty-nine folks, both musicians and audience attended.
* The newly formed Breadalbane Book Club will shortly be holding its first meeting in the Reading Room.
* Our first Quiz Night will be held on the 21st of February and was sold out in a matter of hours; a further three being planned over the next few months.
1. **Christmas in Kenmore**

It was agreed that the event was successful. This was reflected by the fact that more support and donations were received than in the previous year.

1. **Kenmore Brand**

Shirley Shearer gave the following update. It has been decided to rename the initiative as ‘Explore Kenmore’ as it more accurately describes the purpose.

A meeting will be arranged for all local businesses in the Kenmore area to discuss the initiative. It is hoped that businesses will co-operate with each other in support of this.

It is planned to organise a litter pick including the Kenmore Primary school children under the banner of ‘Keep Kenmore Tidy.’ Will use social media to promote the idea that if you visit/live in Kenmore please take your litter home with you.

1. **Community Action Plan**

Steering Committee for CAP is made up of Peter Ely, Jon Iddon, Alex Low and John Duff plus members of Loch Tay and Glen Lyon CC. There has been limited progress since the last meeting as Katie, who is leading the project for Community Enterprise, has been off sick.

An initial draft has been published and feedback given to Community Enterprise. Initial feedback is that additional work is needed in the following areas.

* Limited engagement with local businesses, estates, and local organisations e.g., LTA and Masons.
* Population areas overlooked including Acharn, Balloch Park, Ardtalnaig & Balnaskeag.
* Stats with no comparisons
* Community Assets list incomplete
* Population trends inaccurate
* Consideration of the impact of recent changes e.g., supermarket deliveries, on-line shopping.
1. **Priorities for 2025**

Peter Ely presented the attached list as potential priorities under consideration for 2025.



The following were highlighted during the meeting:

* Completion of Community Action Plan with a view to creating a local place plan
* Sub Committees – creation of these groups has been successful. Plan to recruit more members to each group and create more sub-committees. An environmental sub-committee was discussed. Bill Oppenheim from LTA indicated that LTA would be happy to work with KCC on environmental issues.
* Events – Music Nights, Winter Warmers, Quiz Nights all extremely popular.
* Bill Oppenheim suggested adding internet access to Loch Tay communities should be a priority.
1. **AOCB**

Kenmore Church – attendance stats are misleading as the services are held at different churches each Sunday.

Capercaillie Trail – covered at start of meeting.

Acharn Falls Parking – agreed that a group would be set up primarily with Acharn residents. Ian lives across from the current ‘parking’ area and brought a letter from his wife, Sharon, with feedback on the parking issues. Keith and Sheila Mitchell will be involved. The group will submit a funding application once it is agreed amongst the local community what is required.

Thrift Shop – confirmed that BRR have been allocated a Thrift Shop slot for w/c 16 November

Meeting date – agreed to look at moving meeting date from last Thurs in month to another Thurs. This will allow Bill Howie to attend.

Easter in Kenmore – event planned in conjunction with the Crannog for 20 April. Initial meeting held with Mairi and team from the Crannog. Follow up meeting due 28 February. Jon proposed a meeting on 20 Feb for the ‘Kenmore’ team to talk. The team is currently thought to be Mairi, Peter, Jon, and Alex.

What3Words – plan to use this feature/app as part of the resilience plan to accurately locate people/assets. Colin agreed to provide a brief summary of the features of What3Words.

1. **Date of next meeting**

The next KCC meeting will be held 20th March 2025. 7pm Breadalbane Reading Room.