

Ordinary Meeting of KCC

21st May 2018

Kilmarnock Millenium Hall

1) Sederunt

Attendees:

7 community council members.

2 guests from Police Scotland, Gordon Watson, CEO of Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, Maurice Corry, MSP West of Scotland, Councillor Sally Page, WDC plus 13 members of the local community

2) Apologies

Jackie Baillie MSP is away in London

3) Declaration of interest

None

4) Minutes of regular meeting on 5 March 2018

Proposed as accurate by Neil MacGregor seconded by Gavin MacLellan

5) Matters Arising and Associated issues

At the previous meeting, KCC were asked to write to NP on behalf of the residents neighbouring the proposed development of holiday cottages at Claddochside Cottage since only 2 “neighbours” had received notification. The chairman (GM) highlighted the reply from LLTNP which he had also circulated to those concerned. A discussion ensued around the effectiveness of the current neighbour notification system with CEO of LLTNP taking part.

In conclusion the correct protocol was followed by the NP so no further action can be taken at this stage. The next stage of detailed planning application will present a new opportunity for neighbours to comment. A discussion on the efficacy of the present neighbour notification procedure was held over to later in the meeting.

The secretary (NM) also commented that he had written to and response from NP regarding the condition of sections of the Aber Path. Members from the floor confirmed that temporary repair works had been put in place.

6) Treasurers Report

Following on from the more detailed report at the preceding AGM the accounts show :

KCC Main Account balance : £871.28

KCC Benevolent Fund balance : £768.21

The coming term of office shall allow KCC to review the protocol for granting funds from the Benevolent Fund to worthy causes as presently the rules are somewhat out-dated.

There are opportunities arising from 100th anniversary of the end of The Great War as well as local needs e.g. Community Garden.

Gordon Watson mentioned a fund of £80,000 for youth projects in the park

Maurice Corry highlighted funds available from MOD (£1m)

The treasurer (AS) noted that this info may also be of value to KCT with whom we will be meeting on Wed 23rd May.

7) Police Scotland

Police Scotland (PS) officers PC Cambell and Liddell updated the members with the recent crime statistics for the parish.

Since the previous meeting on 5th March there were 4 criminal offences reported:

3 x Road Traffic Offences (1 x drink driving, 1 x uninsured vehicle/driver and 1 other)

The fourth was a theft from Robin House on the parish boundary with Balloch.

David Scott-Park asked about the report he had made regarding suspicious activity of the occupants of a white van entering his premises and asking questions about the access roads and who lives there.

PS were asked about what number to call in such circumstances and we were advised that 101 should be used except if emergency in which case 999 would be more appropriate.

PS Scotland advised the penalties for litter, £80 for litter and £250 for fly tipping.

PS were asked about fly tipping but that is not something they deal with as a front line. Gordon Watson advised that items dumped on private land are the responsibility of the landowner. GM noted that this was useful to know as land owner Scottish Water continue to ignore the problem of litter on their property.

8) Planning Matters

NM read out the list of planning notices for Kilmaronock with no concerns raised.

Ardenmhor – demolition of dwelling house and buildings, replacement

E Cambusmoon – construction of new garage and accommodation above

GM re-iterated that whenever KCC has raised no objection in the past or raise none in the future that is to be taken as read that it is conditional on all work being carried out in accordance with the current Plan document e.g. in use of correct materials and methods.

KCC would expect the planning department to highlight agreed deviations from specifications.

Gordon Watson indicated that this would be difficult to implement.

Members advised Mr. Watson that although the notification procedure is dictated by the government there is scope for a review of effectiveness in rural areas with specific issues. (AS later showed Gordon an example from the local newspaper's website to highlight the difficulty in finding information with the present layout/format.)

8) Kilmaronock Community Trust

There is a joint meeting of KCC, KCT and KMH members on Wed 23rd May to advance the Community Action Plan. A report will be presented at the next KCC meeting.

9) National Park & Community Partnership Issues

The chair invited Gordon Watson (GW) to address the room and take some questions which he agreed to do.

GW then presented the latest version of the Park's Partnership Plan and provided handouts of a pocket version of the plan for those interested.

The Chair invited CC members to discuss any matters with GW.

GM questioned the Park's stated priorities and the conflict between Conservation and the expansion of Tourism as evidenced by the expenditure on the latter outweighing the former by 4 to 1.

GW responded that the management of visitors actually had a conservation benefit to it and that the next version of the Plan will carry that forward to switch focus to conservation and land management while still managing visitors.

Jim Morrison asked how it was that different applicants with similar applications have different treatments or conditions.

GW proposed that small variations could still exist in similar planning applications and that each application is therefore considered based on this.

AS followed up on the earlier discussion regarding litter, asking who is responsible for litter – placement, monitoring & emptying of bins? Are peak times and popular locations considered in advance e.g. bank holiday, events or good weather in order to allocate more resources?

GW replied that NP are not responsible for litter overall through the park but do take care of specific Park managed areas e.g. campsites, some popular car parks and they do take account of peak periods. Unfortunately, visitor behaviour requires improvement e.g. coaches turning up in car parks and emptying a coach full of litter in the car park bins thus filling them instantly.

GW was asked what actions can be taken against such as McDonalds whose products are sold in containers and packaging that subsequently form part of the general problem. The NP have no intent to control vendors of litter products. GW also mentioned that ‘smart’ bins are being investigated which will alert the authorities when bins are full so they can be targeted for emptying.

Questions from the floor :

Why doesn't the Park Authority liaise more with farmers? GW entered into discussions with the floor on this which led on to other land management matters – particularly deer and fox management.

GW stated that there is a recently formed East Loch Lomond Group and a West Loch Lomond Group but neither cover this area south of Loch Lomond. Members from the floor discussed problems with deer and fox numbers on the increase and the reticence of RSPB and Woodlands Trust to cull on their land. GW was asked to put pressure on these groups as local concerns are ignored.

GW was asked about the village envelope and whether it was fluid or fixed. There is scope for variation each time the Local Development Plan is reviewed.

GW was asked about the composition of the board and how many members reside without the Park boundary which he went on describe as best he knew. This prompted him to remind everyone that a new election is due and candidates are being requested to put themselves forward.

10) West Dunbartonshire Council

Councillor Sally Page updated the meeting on various activities relevant to Kilmaronock. The Roads Dept will be increasing maintenance due to an increase in budget allowance. Main roads such as the A811 have mostly been repaired but the B roads are to be done.

Congratulations to the recent Royal newlyweds who are appointed the Earl and Countess of Dumbarton.

No further news on the trunk road application for the A811

Concerns raised from the floor regarding flooding at Duncryne Terrace and the drop in the road edging at Ashfield Farm corner – NM will follow up both with WDC Roads.

11) Correspondence

Notice has been received and circulated from the Woodland Trust regarding the maintenance work at Whinney Hill.

Roxburgh Insurance were in contact regarding renewal of the walkway insurance but have been informed that it is no longer needed.

12) AOCB

KCC have been given approval by WDC to create and operate a website for operational and record purposes in accordance with best practice for CCs. Options have been considered and the CC have appointed a third party to design and maintain the website. The site will be the focal point for regulatory notices, planning notices, past meetings and constitutional documents.

A domain name has been obtained (kilmaronockcc.org) and in due time the website will be rolled out to the public.

KCC has successfully and safely organised Sunday morning litter picks. It is hoped that these will continue if volunteers come forward. Other litter picking teams have been out and we hope to complete the job and make Gartocharn a plastic litter free village.

It is difficult to include children as some areas are close to the roadside but it is desirable to get them involved so if fields or parks need doing it might be suitable.

13) Next Meeting: 9th July 7:30 pm