

KILMARONOCK COMMUNITY COUNCIL DRAFT MINUTES OF REGULAR
MEETING ON 8 JAN 2018

Gavin MacLellan (Chair)

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8RX

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1) PRESENT: Gavin MacLellan (GM) Neil MacGregor (NM) Jim Morrison (JM) Ivan Mavor (IM) Sarah Guy (SG) David Scott-Park (DSP) Councillor Sally Page

2) APOLOGIES: Andy Sinnot (AS)

Some 9 members of the community were also in attendance and 2 representatives of RSPB

3) INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS AND REPORT ON 6 NOV MEETING

GM welcomed all to the meeting and gave a special welcome to the newly elected Community Councillors, Jim Morrison, Ivan Mavor, Sarah Guy and David Scott-Park. GM advised that the November meeting had not been a regular meeting owing to there not being a quorum to hold such a meeting. A meeting was held at which minutes of the previous regular meeting had been approved and that Craig Stewart from WDC had given a talk on Community Councils, especially CC elections and the roles and responsibilities of CCs.

4) DECLARATION OF INTEREST

GM asked the assembled company if anyone wished to make a declaration of interest in any of the matters on the agenda but no declarations were made.

5) MATTERS ARISING AND ASSOCIATED ISSUES

Despite an email having been sent from Polscot advising that local Community Police Officer PC Andrea Campbell would attend tonight's meeting, PC Campbell was not in attendance and no communication had been received from Polscot about her inability to attend. NM would pursue this matter with Polscot and WDC. Unfortunately, local MSP Jackie Baillie was also not in attendance.

6) TREASURERS REPORT

AS was not in attendance as he is presently offshore but GM advised that there had been no outlays other than that for KMH room fees.

7) PLANNING MATTERS

NM read out the following applications/decisions:

Gallangad Farm - Application for demolition of bothy and erection of dwelling house - Approved
Gartenbantrick Farm - Application for replacement dwelling and associated drainage/services - Approved
Balquhain Farm - Demolition of existing cottage and erection of replacement dwelling - Approved
Erection of holiday units at Ballagan Farm - previously approved - Approved
Building warrant for Hollybush Cottage - retrospective application from 2010 - Approved

GM then introduced the RSPB application for the installation of an interpretation building, viewing platform and extension of an existing track at the pond west of High Wards Farm, the significance being the proximity to the SSSI and RAMSAR Designated area.

Considerable discussion was held over this application as one of the main issues was the fact that the application, like others, was to be decided by a Delegated Decision and not by Committee given its environmental sensitivity and possible impact.

Questions were asked about the RSPB plan for the future and these were answered by Fraser Lamont from the RSPB who deputised, along with a colleague, for Paula Baker. FL stated that there was no "big project" for the future at the Wards but did admit, when questioned by JM, that there was a 5 year plan. He also stated that there had been engagement with the community and this would continue for the rest of the year.

GM advised that he had been in contact with SNH who knew nothing about the application and also that no professional body had submitted a risk assessment of the impact on the environment as opposed to impact of the construction of the building.

Various comments were made about the application from the floor most of which were favourable towards the application though some voiced concern over the fact that many applicants had had to comply with various planning requirements prior to permission being granted and, in this instance, by there being a Delegated Decision, no lengthy scrutiny of the application and its consequences would be carried out.

Whilst it was appreciated that the RSPB is a charity and can only act when funds become available, there was concern over the future.

GM noted that there was to be a meeting between RSPB and SNH but this was on 31 January after the Delegated Decision was to be made.

Concerns were also raised over the possibility of the public drifting from the paths towards the SSSI and RAMSAR area.

Under the circumstances, it was decided that the matter be put to a vote from the floor and then from KCC. GM explained the difference between Delegated and Committee decisions.

Thereafter a vote was held by show of hands. From the floor: 6 for Delegated 3 for Committee. From KCC 3 do 2 do with 1 abstention. As a result of the vote, KCC will not object to the application.

8) KILMARONOCK COMMUNITY TRUST

Mary Sweetland provided a report on KCT matters. The recent KCT meeting had been cancelled owing to the death of Celia Burn. Bob Shand has taken over as interim chair until the KCT AGM on 21 February 2018 at 7.30pm at which Dr David Beaumont of RSPB will give a talk.

In relation to the football field, matters are ongoing with WDC and Greenspace and the work specification is to go to tender. The football club has been in discussion with landowners Brian Gibson and the Connor family.

There are no further reports available for the purchase of the field behind KMH. Superfast Broadband may be provided to Gartocharn customers between July and December 2018 though this has been promised before and has failed to materialise. This is for the VILLAGE residents as those out with the village will have to wait for further cabinets to be installed for receipt of the stronger signal.

GM paid tribute to Celia for all her help and support for KCC.

9) NP & CP REPORT

There has been no report on CP matters and NM advised that no correspondence either by email or snail mail had been received from CP.

GM advised that LLTNP this year would be commencing work on the 5 yearly Plan and the Core Paths Plan but, as yet, there has been no information about consultation.

10) WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

WDC are holding forums for various parties about the WDC budget and NM and SG will attend at the Concord Centre, Dumbarton on 18 January on behalf of KCC.

11) CORRESPONDENCE

NM intimated that he had received correspondence from WDC Roads advising that they had carried an inspection of the path between the A811 and Ross Loan and, having found it satisfactory, would formally adopt it for maintenance. GM queried whether KCC would still require to provide insurance cover for the path. NM advised he would discuss this with Raymond Walsh at WDC Roads.

12) AOB

NM reminded attendees to use the maps to indicate road defects so that these could be passed on to WDC Roads for remedial action.

Paul Lindsay advised that the surface of the A811 near his property was particularly poor despite recent attempts to effect repairs. NM recalled that he had previously been advised by WDC Roads, that a stretch of road from Blairennich Cottage to the Old Manse had been identified for re-surfacing some time ago but, no doubt, was on the back burner due to financial cuts. NM undertook to contact WDC to see whether they would be prepared to bring forward the re-surfacing work at this location.

There being no further matters, the meeting was closed with GM thanking all for attending.

13) NEXT MEETING

5 March 2018

Future meetings: 21 May(also AGM)