

Ordinary Meeting of KCC

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7.30pm

Zoom Video Conference

1) Sederunt

CC : Gavin MacLellan (GM/Chair), Andrew Sinnott (AS/Trs), Sarah Guy, Ivan Mavor (IM), Jim Morrison (JM) and David Scott-Park (DSP)

Cllr Sally Page (SP), Jackie Baillie MSP (JB)

Plus 19 other members of the public

GM opened the meeting with reference to COVID and expressed thanks to all members of our community who have kept us going during this time. In particular, NHS staff, Community police team, care workers and volunteers.

2) Apologies

Police Scotland are unable to attend Zoom meetings. A crime report was received and included below.

3) Declaration of interest

None declared.

4) Minutes of meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020

(No meeting in May other than AGM)

Proposed as accurate by DSP, seconded by JM.

5) Matters Arising and Associated issues

None other than already on the agenda.

6) Treasurers Report

a. Outgoings : Monthly subscriptions to Zoom, monthly web hosting, annual website domain registration fee and website upgrade.

b. Grant application submitted 17th June and paid on 26th June - **£663.29**

c. Current account balance : **£1014.67**

d. Benevolent fund balance : **£620.81**

7) Planning Matters

Updates on historic applications

### **Core Path along School Road**

With the reporter still. No site meeting due to COVID. The Reporter acknowledged the communications from near neighbours passed on by KCC but the NP had asked for these to be dismissed on a technicality. No date for decision.

### **The Wards**

The reporter upheld the planning authority decision to refuse.

### **RSPB footpath**

Planning permission granted. A resident noted that mitigations for the construction phase were set as conditions by SNH and will need to be monitored by NP but queried whether they have the resources to do that. GM noted that any concerns if the mitigations are not implemented should be taken up directly with SNH.

SP will be having a personal meeting with RSPB management to discuss the visitor management on the new footpath in light of recent visitor behaviour on the existing path during lockdown and the installation of proposed new path furniture.

SP advised that around 1500 tonnes of hardcore will be trucked to the site from the local quarry as part of the construction.

### **THF at Ross Priory**

Special meeting was held May 25<sup>th</sup>. Community poll taken the following week.

KCC submitted a letter of objection to the planning authority detailing concerns of ours and the community at large.

Near neighbours have sent a letter to the Scottish minister asking for the application to be called in. They asked KCC to do the same. After discussion with clarifications on the process of calling in by JB, the chairman gained Community Councillor's approval to express support for the existing letter sent by residents and send a similar letter from KCC to request a call in.

### **Arisaig Farm**

The content and nature of the new application documents make it very difficult for KCC to understand what exactly is being applied for in respect of the previous successful and unsuccessful applications. Due to this, a meeting on site with the applicant has been arranged for Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July and the applicant was present in this meeting to discuss where they are with the implementation of the previously approved conditions versus requested variations and additions.

Questions on the planning process will be taken up with the planning authority separately.

### New & recent notifications

No comment on the following :

*Erection of rear extension and re-routing of driveway - Blairlusk Lodge Gartocharn -Ref. No: 2020/0123/HAE*

*Installation of 2 No additional antennas onto the existing lattice mast and ancillary development - Mast On Knockour Hill Boturich - Ref. No: 2020/0120/DET*

*Alterations to dwellinghouse for the formation of annexed accommodation (flatted dwelling) - Rosedale Gartocharn - Ref. No: 2020/0076/DET*

*Erection of building for events venue - Boturich Castle Boturich - Ref. No: 2020/0015/DET*

## 8) Community Matters

### **Fish'n'chip van**

After discussion it was agreed to find out more on potential schedule/frequency of visits and seek views of the KMH directors as to whether they would allow use of their car park for such a purpose.

Prime concern of all is litter management.

### **KCC(AS) to follow up with vendor and KMH**

### **Public Toilet Facility**

Since the closure and sale of the existing facility, alternative options have been investigated in the past and provision of modern replacement has been demonstrated to be unviable.

SP - KMH were not keen on keeping the hall facilities open to the public through the summer months, the standalone self-cleaning units are ~£100K, NP will be asked if they would look into providing temporary portaloos in key locations for peak visitor periods.

### **RSPB access and (ab)use of shore path during lockdown**

The RSPB gate was locked to the public for a while which may have increased the visitor pressure down around Aber mentioned elsewhere. KCC drew this to the attention of the Public Access officer and a remedy was implemented. Other closures in the area e.g. Balloch Park may also have contributed to increased numbers heading to the shore in this area.

At times, the lone unfurloughed RSPB warden was left to deal with anti-social behaviour and did his best. It was felt that the NP could have done more to assist with some of their resources.

### **Litter**

Despite COVID affecting Smartocharn, litter was still collected. Thanks to Peter Page for his efforts to coordinate this.

### **Broadband**

Regarding the R100 scheme. Information sent by Digital Scotland indicates completion by 2021 and contracts have been placed for delivery. GM has asked JB for further info to confirm actual completion dates.

<https://www.scotlandsuperfast.com/>

#### 9) Kilmarnock Community Trust

AS presented a note from the chair of KCT who was on hand to discuss points raised.

- Community Broadband Initiatives. There is still no final quote from Openreach. Since the last KCC meeting we have had a message from the office of Martin Docherty-Hughes (SNP MP) to confirm that the Scottish Government's R100 scheme team are aware of our situation as a large community cluster and they are working to determine the optimal solution for us, but without commitment to a specific timescale.
- Micro-local Hydro-electric power community survey. We have been asked by a MSc student at the University of Strathclyde to take part in a study about community views on Renewable Energy, specifically Micro-hydro schemes in the local area. Apart from assisting in the academic research we will benefit from guidance on this technology and how the community might develop such a scheme if it is a viable option. A link to the survey will be posted on the Community Facebook page and if anyone else wants to take part please contact Bob Shand.
- Conversion to SCIO. Having agreed at our AGM that KCT would go ahead and convert to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, we have submitted the paperwork to the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator and are awaiting confirmation of our new status.

From following discussions :

Some run of the river micro-hydro schemes are operational within many local estates and it may be possible to arrange a visit to find out more about them should we want to.

Absolute renewables assisted with research at Strathclyde Uni and are willing to share info if desired.

The Community Partnership performed some type of local survey about 4 years ago and made a report which they may be able to provide.

Next board meeting scheduled for August - TBC.

#### 10) National Park and Community Partnership Issues

##### Re-opening of the NP after lockdown

Memos have been received and circulated about the re-opening of NP facilities. Online meetings were held, during which plenty of concern registered about the NP management during the lockdown and even more concern about the potential flood of visitors post lockdown. Portaloo's are likely to be deployed to cope with public demand as existing facilities are inadequate or in state of disrepair. Sites for campervans will be reopened but without facility to correctly dispose of waste water and sewage. SP will lobby for this to be provided.

General discussions followed regarding park wide lack of toilet facilities and the lack of provision for black water waste from both campervans and boats.

### Aber Path

Cllr. Page has been in correspondence with Kenny Auld regarding the repair to Aber Bridge which is in dangerous state resulting in two injuries in recent months. No response as yet but if funds are the source of inaction then SP will write to KCT to see if they can assist with that. GM noted that Kenny Auld has confirmed responsibility for repairs but at the time of meeting KCC have received no response as to when it will be done.

### Community Empowerment Act

Dialogue continues with the NP. KCC have suggested two practical approaches, the first being engagement of relevant section heads by asking them to come along to KCC meetings to give a short presentation on their activities and remit and take questions or listen to community points of view. This is being looked into and we hope will be taken up post-COVID times. The second approach, is a request to engage, say annually, with executive level which is proving less positive so far.

During discussion, it still seems to surprise the general public that the person they elect is not a representative of the electors but that is how the legislation applies. There is an expectation of local representation because as well as being for the benefit of the nation the NP should be of benefit to the communities that live within it. The meeting supported the Chair's pursuit of formal engagement for our CC (and others) with the NP.

Assuming the next KCC meeting can be held in KMH, we will invite Ms Nik Turner whose brief is litter prevention/management or Mr. Stuart Mearns who is director of planning and rural development.

## 11) West Dunbartonshire Council

### Resumption of services

Dalmoak recycling facility is now open as normal.

### General / Cllr Sally Page

SP expressed pride in and paid tribute to CEO Joyce White and her colleagues for their work throughout the crisis. **(GM - KCC echo this tribute to WDC staff.)**

Through the Place and Design scheme (Sustrans funded) SP has applied for a crossing on the A811 between Tullichewen Estate and McDonalds, a 20 mph limit on Old Luss Rd both of which are in Balloch. Nb. A crossing at Reid & Robertson's store for NCN 7 was not considered to be 'in a town'.

SP outlined staffing figures to highlighting WDC staff un satisfactory levels of absenteeism and the intentions of WDC to address this.

GM reminded all of earlier advice from WDC Roads department that all that the new signage for A811 is still in WDC storage awaiting placement which is in turn awaiting completion of the Lomond Bridge works now delayed due to COVID.

## 12) Correspondence

## **Police Report**

With reference to the period : Mar 1st to June 30th there were 6 crime reports raised for area covering Gartocharn (Beat LA13). These comprised of;

- Vandalism - Damage to deer fence near to Portnellan Farm.
- Vandalism - Damage to gate near to Claddoch.
- Vandalism - Damage to fence near to RSPB reserve.
- Fraud - Online credit card fraud.
- Breach of LLNP bylaws - "APPROACH VESSEL AT SPEED, 'SWAMPING' SAME, CAUSING IT TO ALMOST CAPSIZE"
- Sec 3 RTA 1988 - Careless and Reckless driving on A811

During the period of lockdown we were anticipating with local refuse sites being closed there would be an increase in 'fly tipping', However thankfully this was not the case.

We initially saw a reduction in calls being made to the police and criminal complaints being made. However, as time progressed, we received an increase in calls from members of the public wanting to ensure others were adhering to COVID19 guidance.

From a community policing perspective, our default patrols have been 'Open Space' patrols, ensuring COVID19 guidance is being adhered to, Thankfully the majority of people did adhere, which has allowed us to progress to phase 2.

## **AED fault**

Trossachs SAR found a fault during the annual inspection of the defib unit installed at KMH. The unit was still under warranty so was replaced by manufacturer. For reference, the warranty will expire 23/02/2022.

## **Aber Mill - Blocking of passing places**

Questions had been raised regarding the passing places at Aber Mill. DSP investigated with SP and the main issue is resolved. Improved signage to prevent parking/blocking is being followed up with WDC roads by SP.

A wider discussion on parking throughout the back roads ensued. Although closing of public car parks during lockdown has temporarily made this worse, the issue is slowly getting worse in normal times too. There is a general consensus around lack of holistic strategic planning within the NP which aims for more tourism without providing more facilities to cope.

## **13) Next Meeting**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 19:30

Please send in any agenda items in good time to [secretary@kilmaronockcc.org](mailto:secretary@kilmaronockcc.org)

## **14) AOB**

None.

Meeting closed at 22:30