

Ordinary Meeting of KCC

Monday 16th January 2023 at 7.30pm

in Kilmaronock Millennium Hall

1) Sederunt

KCC : Gavin MacLellan (GM), Andrew Sinnott (AS), Anita Anderson (AA) and David Scott-Park (DSP).

Plus 6 other members of the public

Notices in memoriam

Fiona Wyllie of Church Street. Fiona was a prominent member of the community and served on the community council and the Millennium Hall committee. She did so much more than participate in meetings being hands on in events organised for the community, the most recent being the 2022 celebration for the anniversary of the Millennium Hall and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. In 2017, Fiona was nominated for and awarded the Scottish Civic Trust My Place Award.

Irene Thomas of Boturich Estate. Irene was the wife of the late David Thomas and lived and worked on the Findlay family estate for the best part of 50 years.

Nan Leitch formerly of Aber Cottage. Nan was the wife of the late Hugh Leitch, a very active member of the community often helping with sports events at the school where she was the PE teacher.

KCC send our condolences to the families and friends.

2) Apologies

WDC Cllr. Martin Rooney and Community Teams member Geraldine Macdonald.

3) Declaration of interest for tonight's agenda

None.

4) Minutes of meeting on 7th November 2022

Proposed as accurate by DSP, seconded by AA.

5) Matters Arising and Associated issues

Recruitment : No response regarding the electoral roll from Geraldine at WDC – further follow up required.

Lomond Banks : Reference previous minutes - KCC submitted a formal objection until parking provision is resolved satisfactorily.

https://eplanning.lochlomond-trossachs.org/OnlinePlanning/files/219915F2B6D6502971056F95A7B8B258/pdf/2022_0157_PPP-Objects-100410081.pdf

Wind Farm : GM still seeking clarity on how any community payback scheme would work in practice. The Planning consultants who visited KCC are no longer involved.

Letter sent to Roads dept : No response, yet again despite a reminder being sent ahead of tonight's meeting. Cllr. Rooney & Sorrell were both in copy. A further follow up is required.

6) Treasurers Report

a. Outgoings : Kilmaronock Hall hire.

b. Current account balance : **£824.35**

c. Benevolent fund balance : **£424.01**

The missing monthly web hosting invoices have now been received and paid.

7) Planning Matters

Erection of replacement conservatory

Stable Cottage, Ashfield House, Stirling Road Gartocharn West Dunbartonshire G83 8NB

Ref. No: 2022/0336/LBC | Received: Wed 16 Nov 2022 | Validated: Wed 16 Nov 2022 | Status: Current

KCC has no comment.

Erection of replacement dwelling - partial demolition of existing dwelling and conversion to use as domestic outbuilding

Aber Cottage Gartocharn Alexandria G83 8NQ

Ref. No: 2022/0315/DET | Received: Mon 31 Oct 2022 | Validated: Fri 18 Nov 2022 | Status: Current

KCC has no comment.

Some community discussion on difference between replacing a house and creating a new one, the Planning Policy being to allow the former but not the latter.

Refurbishment with possible extension of existing farmhouse, conversion of 4 other structures to artisan/tourist accommodation with residential capability

Old Kirk Farm Gartocharn Alexandria G83 8LY

Ref. No: 2022/0309/PPP | Received: Mon 24 Oct 2022 | Validated: Thu 17 Nov 2022 | Status: Current

KCC has no comment.

8) Community Matters/Local Place Plan

LPP

There have been 3 meetings of the steering group. A questionnaire has been designed and will be both mailed out in hardcopy to each household and posted online in mid-February. Please look out for the specially marked envelope and respond accordingly. The feedback from the questionnaire will be used to inform a public consultation event to be held in the Hall in late March.

Septic Tanks in Aber Area

This has been raised in multiple correspondence with Aber residents and SEPA in relation to the management of any adverse consequences due to beaver activity. Site visits have been made by Paula Baker (RSPB) and Peter Kelly (NatureScot). RSPB are planning to install water level monitors with alarms. Owners of Sewage Treatment Plants or Septic Tanks are responsible for ensuring that their own systems are functioning correctly. They need to know what action to take if they are adversely affected by flooding due to beaver activity. Residents would also like more information on what actions RSPB will take in the event of a high water level alarm.

KCC (GM) will request advice from NatureScot via letter

In the meantime, it is recommended that the owners check for general advice and make sure their systems are registered with SEPA.

Some useful links are here:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/scotland/consumer/water/water-and-sewerage-s/septic-tanks-s/>

Registration

<https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/water/septic-tanks-and-private-sewage-treatment-systems/>

Application Form

<https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/authorisations-and-permits/application-forms/private-sewage-treatment-system>

In respect of other beaver related issues, residents with trees they don't want chewed were recommended, by NatureScot's Peter Kelly, to plant Willow as that appears to be more appealing to beavers and they would leave the other ones alone. NatureScot will pay for preventative measures but not compensate for any damages.

KCC will seek further information on this in the letter to NatureScot as we seek to find out how to access mitigation assistance or funding.

9) Kilmaronock Community Trust

Current focus is on the LPP consultation.

AGM will be held in the Hall on 15th February and the Annual Report and Accounts to 31 August 2022 can be viewed via the Community Trust section of the Community website <https://www.gartocharn.org/community-trust/kct-annual-report-and-accounts>

As mentioned last time, the board would like more trustees to join up so perhaps those with good ideas will be the ones to help get them implemented. Contact KCT@gartocharn.org if interested.

10) National Park Issues

GM described his attempts to get the official LLTNPA email address of community elected board members. Currently there is only a generic firewall address for all board members so it is not clear if mails are passed on. Emails using private addresses may not have corporate substance or security. When the board member steps down any mail that was sent to their personal email will be retained by them and lost to the LLTNPA.

AS noted that Cairngorm NP board members all have their official email addresses posted on their website. Our locally elected board member has been asked directly for this info in order for us to communicate directly with him in an official capacity but has not responded so far.

GM asked AS to follow up with LLTNP further.

KCC (AS) to write to LLTNP with cc to MSP's

11) West Dunbartonshire Council

CC Forum

In December, post elections and new CC Scheme of Establishment, the CCF was reformed.

The forum will meet at least 4 times a year and aims to

- promote liaison between CC's and WDC officers
- provide training and development for CC's
- support CC's in their workings

The make up of the forum will be two members from each active CC.

Roads

Still no response from Gail Macfarlane.

KCC (AS) to follow up with a letter to councillors.

Recruitment

KCC are seeking new additional members, we can co-opt one more but if we want and can get more than one, then we will arrange for a mini-election with WDC assistance.

GM proposed a recruitment event with a social aspect to it. Either in the hall or a pub. First though we have to send out a letter inviting participation. Geraldine Macdonald was approached to find all the relevant Kilmaronock household names and address from the electoral roll. GM suggested including a flyer in the LPP survey mail out.

AS to follow up on how best to get a recruitment mail out – via Royal Mail or WDC or KCC.

12) Correspondence

No police report.

AS to follow up and request one for the minutes.

There was Press interest, from The Herald & Scottish Farmer, in the community response to the release of beavers. DSP responded on behalf of KCC.

Croftamie Bridge update supplied by Sally

Official Update from Stirling Council

Catterburn Bridge Update January 2023:

Piling works continue to progress on site. Single lane opening is now expected to take place in mid-April 2023, with overall works on site continuing until May 2023.

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Structural complexity, poor weather and extremely low temperatures experienced during December have been contributing factors to the delay to works. Additional propping to spandrel walls and wingwalls was installed to further safeguard the structure during piling works. Despite additional propping mechanisms being installed, structural instability was identified during piling. Extensive structural surveys and coring took place pre construction phase as well as during construction phase, despite this, pile clashes with the existing structure were still experienced during the course of the piling works. This resulted in refusal of piles upstream and snapping of a piling augur downstream. To offset the construction risk piling activity on site was delayed and redesign of pile positions and sizings was commissioned, a smaller piling rig was also sourced. 30 piles have now been installed, with a further 8 to be installed. As planned, weekend working will again be adopted (6 day per week working) once piling has been completed. Excavation to formation, and installation and pouring of ground beams will also then take place.

We would like to thank the Community for their ongoing support and patience during this challenging time.

13) AOB

None.

14) Next Meeting

Monday 6th March 2023 at 19:30 in KMH

Please send in any agenda items in good time to secretary@kilmarnockcc.org

GM thanked everyone and closed the meeting 21:00h