

## EKCC – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024

### Welcome

Ian Brodie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### Present

Ian Brodie, Robert Strang, Audrey Willan, Shelagh Cameron, Jose MacKinnon and members of the community plus Councillor Alastair Redman by phone. Jordan Becker as Secretarial Advisor.

### Apologies

None

### Kintyre Way Presentation

Bob Chicken from Kintyre Way gave a presentation on the change in the future vision for the Kintyre Way:

- Opened 2006 and designed to bring people to Kintyre.
- By 10<sup>th</sup> year 3k visitors per year attracted to the area by it.
- Original company hit financial issues and the firm dissolved. In 2019 it was decided there was a desire to keep it going and a new charity was formed to manage it.
- Covid was expected to be the end of it but it was found to be used a lot by local people during the lockdowns. This matches a trend seen on other long walks in Scotland.
- Consideration has been given to a new approach. The Cour Windfarm Trust funded a consultant. Workshops across Kintyre & Gigha found enthusiasm for it to continue, but with a more community based approach.
- Kintyre Way will adopt a more community based model, considering itself a place for local communities to tell their stories and including more local information along the way.
- Kintyre Way costs approximately £20k per year to keep running (including marketing, insurance etc). There is a 5 year plan in place and these costs are met.
- There are some capital costs involved in making the desired changes. The specific amount is unknown at this time – a plan will be coming in time.
- Also supported by Friends of Kintyre Way which is a group of volunteers who maintain it. Involvement in Friends of Kintyre Way is as much or little as volunteers want. Volunteers clear drains, beaches, paint posts, report things that need repair and overgrowth. They also liaise with Forestry & Land Scotland on bigger issues. Friends of Kintyre Way has a new website and facebook page.

Difficulty of the route from Torrisdale to Ifferdale was raised. This had been overgrown and is now cleared back.

A question was asked about adding new routes to the way. Bob agreed there were improvements that could be made (eg areas that would be good to take off the road). Communities can advocate for their walks and hopefully this is a possibility in future.

The meeting then closed due to the AGM. All community council members in elected positions were asked to stand down.

## AGM

Jordan Becker asked if any one would like to stand as convener, vice convener and treasurer. Ian Brodie was proposed as convener by Robert Strang, seconded by Audrey Willan. Robert Strang was proposed as vice convener by Audrey Willan, seconded by Ian Brodie. Audrey Willan was proposed as treasurer by Shelagh Cameron, seconded by Josie Mackinnon.

## Bank Balance

£1,072.10

## Whitestone Bridge & Woodside Car Park

Both are now finished. A final decision on whether white lines will be painted at Woodside Car Park has not yet been made.

## MOWI

Shelagh reported that fish are now going in and things are getting set up at the North site. Shelagh has spoken twice to the manager of the Northern site about the painting of the shop. MOWI had a quote of £5k which they were not keen on for a temporary fix. Employees will paint the shop once the fish are in.

## Playpark

Trish Collins reported that funding was almost complete. East Kintyre Windfarm Trust may top-up the last bit – this is awaiting confirmation. Hoping works can start in July. All equipment requested has been granted.

## July Meeting

Due to the General Election on 4<sup>th</sup> July the EKCC meeting will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. There is no meeting in August.

## Trish Collins

Shelagh Cameron proposed the EKCC co-opt Trish Collins for the next meeting. There was unanimous agreement.

## Bench at Port Na Cuil

The existing bench has fallen to bits. Shelagh Cameron asked if we can do a new bench and put Bill's plaque on it (assuming the family agrees). Agreed funds will be sought at the next meeting of East Kintyre Windfarm Trust. Nil maintenance composite 2 seater bench is quoted at £300, with a 3 seater coming in at 500-600. Composite material required due to proximity to sea.

## Paths

The lack of clearing / cutting of pathways was brought up. Ian said he had heard from the Gull family who apologised and said they are in the process of catching up following a bereavement in the family. The problematic steps at lochpark were discussed again. It was asked if it was possible to build raised steps over the water if the water cannot be sorted. The deterioration of the steps at Port Righ was also raised. Trish Collins suggested doing a windfarm application for funds to sort all the paths in the area out.

It was also raised that a lot of the paths in the area are overgrown and some are signposted. It was determined that blocked paths either need fixing or the signs removed. Audrey asked about the

possibility of investigating whether people on community service could be used to help with clearance – it was agreed that she could make further enquiries on this point.

#### School Solar Panel Warning Lights

This has been reported. Councillor Alister Redman will chase up. Agreed Ian Brodie will send him information to chase up.

#### Substation

Work anticipated to continue until mid or end of June.

#### Verges

It was raised that the verges in the village are wildly overgrown. Some parts of the village quite hazardous. Councillor Alister Redman said that he often runs into the argument that the verges are left for the bees. He disagrees with this given the extent of wildlife in the area and will push for them to be cut.

#### Shore Road Sewerage

Effluent and material coming back up onto the beach. Particularly problematic at low tide. It appears that the outflows may be too short. Councillor Alister Redman declared a conflict as his wife is a council environmental health officer. However, he will pursue the council to see if they are non-standard length, and who pays for remediation. It was suggested that water samples should be taken too.

#### Passing Place Signage

Audrey Willan asked if there was any update on blue signage for passing places? Robin Currie had previously been looking into this. Councillor Alister Redman agreed to look into this.

#### Wellpark Insurance

NFU have sent a bill of £715.11 for renewal for 2024. It was raised that the facility is not currently used as a sporting facility so rates may be cheaper if we shop around. Shelagh Cameron will look into it.

#### Wellpark Pavillion Use

A request had been made by a community member to use the pavilion for a wellness event, and how much it would be. It was agreed it could be used, cost to be a donation determined by the user.

#### Port Na Storm bin.

This has gone. Forestry & Land Scotland have confirmed its not their bin and they've not moved it. There is no bin at all there now. It is assumed it is a council bin as it does get emptied. Josie MacKinnon will report it missing to the council.

Ian Brodie closed the meeting with a reminder there is no meeting in August and the September meeting will be in Peninver Village Hall.