

EKCC – 3rd October 2024

Welcome

Ian Brodie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present

Ian Brodie, Robert Strang, Jose MacKinnon, Trish Collins & Councillor Dougie McFadzean (Zoom), Shelagh Cameron (Zoom).

Apologies

Audrey Willan & Councillor Alastair Redman.

Bank Balance / Treasurers Report

£1045.80

Correspondence – School Warning Lights

Mark Calder from A&B Council has confirmed that the contractor now has the parts in stock, and work is expected to be completed in time for the new term following the school holidays.

Planning

Nothing to discuss.

Harbour

Steven McIntyre from MOWI gave an update on Carradale Harbour Development Projects. Planning permission is expected imminently for the interim shorebase development and the building warrant has already been issued. A portacabin will be delivered to the pier in the next 4-6 weeks. A planning architect has been commissioned to develop the design of the shorebase building. Plans will be shared with the community when available. Detailed surveying of the harbour has completed. Planning application submitted and decision is pending. The shop is now painted and the house painting will commence shortly. MOWI open to further discussions on how the Harbour Community Building / Gateway building can progress. North Kilbrannan fish farm commenced operations June 2024. MOWI is progressing plans to upgrade the fish pens at both sites, replacing the existing 20 120m circumference pens with 12 x 160m circumference pens. Small move into deeper water but pens largely remain within existing licensed area. No change in fish production levels.

Local Development Plan

Trish Collins - the Local Development plan ends Feb 2025. Work is now in progress on the 2025 – 2030 plan. A visit was made to Gigha who – other than not being connected to the mainland – have a lot of similarities with East Kintyre, and have had a lot of success with their local development plans. There will be an open day probably in February 2025 but if there are things people want on the plan come to an EKCC meeting. What are the next big projects that should be taken on?

Wellpark

Trish Collins – Playpark work completes beginning of November but signage needed. Trish is trying to sort signs and will check with CCT whether a sign is wanted for Seneval as well.

CCT

Russell Kay (CCT Treasurer) presented to the community. CCT annual accounts done and on the EKCC site shortly. They want to get AM's done in May and will work to get future accounts done sooner.

CCT is looking to 3 open meetings per year rather than 1 to promote more engagement. CCT is currently working on the Heritage Centre. Repointing is almost completed. Stirling University own 40% of the site and discussions are underway to acquire that ownership for a nominal fee. An architect is looking at options for use of the site (there will be consultation with the community). Community Vehicle idea is on the backburner for now – not enough volunteers to make it effective. Reminder that CCT governance structure makes it a good vehicle for community projects, and CCT would like to be engaged more for this.

East Kintyre Windfarm Trust

Tranche finishes 16/10. Next meeting is an awards meeting.

East Kintyre Renewable Energy Group

Belltown Power UK Limited has asked EKREG if there is an interest in community ownership of the Cnoc Buidhe Wind Energy Hub along with West Kintyre Community Council and Campbeltown Community Council. Interest was expressed and EKREG is developing this.

East Kintyre Maintenance

Carradale Garden Services are progressing through cuts and winterising everything.

Any Other Business – Vegetation

A complaint was raised about vegetation at Greenhill. However, the area in question is a private home. Ian Brodie has referred to A&B Council. The issue was also raised re vegetation at the old church grounds by the manse. Ian Brodie will speak to Anne Harden to see if she can ask the owner for it to get looked at. In general for paths / vegetation to be looked at / added to the maintenance program EKCC need the path name, whose land it is on, permission to cut / manage it and the length and condition of the path. Photos are helpful.

Any Other Business – Feral Cats

The issue of feral cats in the village was raised. The point was made that the cats breed very fast, and this is a community problem that the community needs to get to grips with. A discussion was held on what happened last time this came up (Sandra Galbraith & Louise McConnachie raised funds in the school / funds from cats protection and Elaine Batchelor facilitated neutering). However at £70 a time it is very expensive and fund raising and running the cats to the vets is very time consuming.

Trish Collins raised that an umbrella was needed for fundraising. Using cats protection again was raised but deemed unviable. Russell Kay from CCT pointed out that fund raising for this sort of thing is the sort of thing CCT can help with, and will take it forward, however a group of people will likely be needed to help with the work once funded.

Any Other Business – Next Meeting

The next meeting is 7 November at 19:00 and will include a Windfarm awards meeting.

Meeting closed.

Action items:

- Trish Collins to check with CCT re signage for Seneval & sort signage for the playpark.

- Ian Brodie to speak to Anne Harden re vegetation at the old church & manse.