

EAST KINTYRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES 9 APRIL 2021

In Attendance

Ian Brodie, Convenor (IB), Robert Strang (RS), Shelagh Cameron (SC), Jen Conley (JC), Audrey Willan (AW), Tommy MacPherson (TMcP), Rhona Elder (RE), Alasdair Bennet (AB), Alastair Redman, Councillor (AR), Anne Horn, Councillor (AH)

Welcome

(IB) Welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies

Trish Collins, Ronnie Brownee

Minutes from previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by (RS) and seconded by (JC). No further matters arising.

Treasurers Report

(AW) advised this is still in the transition period for changing over due to COVID. (IB) advised that we will take this forward and hopefully by the end of the month the transition could hopefully be successfully processed.

Staycations

(IB) advised there has been four new wardens appointed to Argyll and Bute for helping Kintyre with staycations, dog wardens and everything else they can be involved with. He advised at a recent MAKI meeting he asked for clarification on what the Wardens roles will be and if the Wardens will be helping out in the East Kintyre area. He is hoping he will be able to report back at the next meeting once he has had a response.

Coastal Erosion

(IB) advised he brought this up at the recent MAKI meeting which they seemed very interested in. (IB) advised there is someone within the Council monitoring coastal erosion and they will feedback to him about this and how it is affecting East Kintyre, covering right up to Skipness and down to Campbeltown and Southend.

Wellpark

(SC) advised herself and Trish Collins are leading this project and have currently got a grant application in which looks hopeful and would give a bit of money to start the project. (SC) advised they have also submitted other grant applications in to various other funders. (SC) advised there is a lot of work in kind going on at the moment and not much else to report. (SC) reported they are working along with a few members from CCT to hopefully get the path starting at the back of Woodside/broomfield joined up the current path which leads to the playpark. (AH) asked (SC) if she has been in contact with Joylene Gritten with regards to the paths. (SC) advised she has been trying to contact him for months but has had no response back from him until recently and the response she has had from him has been minimal. (AH) asked (SC) to send her an email with basic details and she would get in touch with him to follow up. (AB) asked for clarification regarding the plan for the paths that will be joined up. (SC) confirmed the only paths getting joined up would be from the back of Woodside/Broomfield to the current path which leads to the playpark, over the wee stone bridge.

Harbour Toilets

(IB) advised Trish Collins has been progressing this and is waiting to hear back.

Hemlock

(SC) advised there is a lot of hemlock in the ditches from the well at Port Righ along the ditch all the way to the village hall, which is one of the most poisonous plants in the UK. She advised to get rid of it would be quite a big operation and protective clothing the eyewear would need to be worn. (SC) advised she feels as a community we should be trying to eradicate it in some way. (IB) asked (AR) if he could ask the Council what their position is on removal of Hemlock. (AR) agreed he would contact Council regarding this.

Lest we forget lamppost sign

(TMcP) asked if we could consider a silhouette soldier at the memorial garden. He detailed the different prices, all are 115cm in height.

Full size figure - £175

Silhouette figure - £116.99

Lamppost figure - £225

Billboard sign - £195

There was a general discussion regarding where the best place would be for the figure to be situated within the memorial garden. (SC) advised she feels this is something which we would need to ask the community and get their views. It was suggested putting a post on Facebook with some pictures so people could visualise it and ask for comments. (AB) stated he feels this need to be a wide community consultation and feels Facebook would not reach everyone and as it is such a sensitive subject it would need to be an unambiguous view. It was suggested a post would go on Facebook and posters put up in the Community Notice Boards/Post Office to get a feel if the Community wanted this. This will be carried forward to next meeting. (AH) advised if this is something the Community wanted, we would need to get permission from the Council.

CCT Update

(AB) reported the main project at the moment is the Community Shop and Post Office which is going really well and it is a really exciting time for the Community. (AB) advised It will be a great facility for the Community and it will hopefully be ready for mid-May. (AB) reported the other project is the Network Tearoom where a local couple are going to take on the lease. (AB) advised the couple are very enthusiastic about it and CCT are currently trying to get it up to standard for the lease, again hopefully it will be open and ready for mid-May.

(AB) advised the CCT are also going through a degree of reform at the moment in relation to the constitution to ensure they have all the appropriate documentation and structures in place to employ people and make sure the governance is sound.

EKREG

(AB) shared a map of all the current windfarms at the moment. (AB) advised there are seven live (two of which are under construction), seven consented, two awaiting a decision and five others at scooping. (AB) advised EKREG have been in touch with all of the developers in relation to the Kintyre Community and have a MoU with all Community Councils in Kintyre, Gigha and South Knapdale. (AB) advised EKREG will act on their behalf if the windfarms are consented by the Scottish Government. (AB) informed that if they are consented then they would start negotiations regarding community shared ownership on behalf of the communities and following this, the community would then decide whether they want to accept or decline the offer. (AR) voiced his personal opinion in relation to this and feels local democracies are not seen as important and believes planning permission will go straight to the Scottish Government which causes him great concern. (AB) advised Scottish Southern Energy Networks recently did presentations in relation to the upgrading of sub-stations throughout Argyll with a link across to Isle of Arran and it is very clear that UK Government have high

targets to reach in relation to carbon neutrality and Kintyre is up there considering all the recent upgrading and infrastructure that is being put in place.

Carradale Bay Bins

(IB) advised a Facebook post was put on the EKCC page asking for help with regards to taking the rubbish bins at the bay up to the bay gate on the days the bin lorry was due. (IB) advised there was very little response and currently (RS) takes the bins up roughly every six weeks. (JC) advised she would be happy to help out but could only do this during school holidays. (SC) advised she feels we might have a very busy season and has concerns about how often the bins will need emptied and suggested it might be a better idea to leave the bins at the top where the bay gate is and have a poster asking people to take their litter up to the bins to dump. (TMcP) and (AW) agreed with this suggestion but (RS) had concerns about holiday home owners using the bins at the top of the road as this has previously been a problem. It was agreed that a solution for this problem will need to be sought and if anyone has any suggestions forward to (IB)

A.O.C.B.

Benches at the harbour

(IB) advised (TMcP) had sent an email with regards to the broken benches at the harbour. (JC) advised one of the benches is in memory of a late resident and is not sure about the other one. (TMcP) advised there is also a big commercial skip in front of the picnic bench which isn't very nice and the other bench where the fishermen's compound is has a lot of equipment lying around it. (IB) advised he will visit site and take photos and will contact the Harbour Master/MOWI and ask if the area could get tidied up. (JC) asked about the wooden flower pots and if they could get new flowers planted for the summer. It was agreed (JC) would make enquires regarding the wooden flower pots.

Grogport Bridge

(TMcP) reported the bridge has now been repaired.

Bus Stops

(TMcP) reported he has had no response regarding the bus stop at Saddell or the enquiry about the bus stops at the Carradale Surgery or Peninver. (TMcP) doesn't believe the bus stop at Saddell is a finished job. (IB) asked (AH) if she could take this forward with the Council, (TMcP) will send a photo to (AH) to show what has been done so far at Saddell bus stop.

SSE

(IB) advised he has received an invitation from Helen Batey, Community Liaison Manager to join a liaison group regarding the new power lines coming to Crossaig from Inverary. He has accepted this invitation to see how the works will affect the back road B842 up to Kennacraig.

Forest at Torrisdale

(SC) asked if anyone knew who owned the forest land at Torrisdale where all the trees have been getting cut down. (RS) advised he believes Robin Dickson own the land. (SC) advised she feels we should make contact and enquire to see if anything will be getting re-planted. There was a general discussion about this and it was agreed (SC) would make contact and ask what their intention was in relation to what might be getting re-planted on this piece of land.

Date of next meeting

EKCC - Thursday 6th May @ 7pm

East Kintyre Windfarm Pre-meeting – Thursday 29th April @7pm.