

EKCC – 2nd May 2024

Welcome

Ian Brodie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present

Ian Brodie, Jose MacKinnon, Audrey Willan, Shelagh Cameron and members of the community plus Councillors Dougie McFadzean, Alastair Redman and Robin Currie by phone.

Apologies

Councillor Jennifer Kelly, Councillor John Armour, Community Councillor Robert Strang.

Bank Balance

£1,072.10

Woodside Car Park

Work started 18 March 2024 and was scheduled for 55 working days. It appears to be on schedule.

Power Supply 4 Airds (Hairdressers)

A new power supply is being installed so there will be digging on the street in this area. Works expected to commence 27 May 2024 scheduled for 6 working days.

MOWI Harbour Visit

Shelagh updated following a visit by herself and Robert Strang. The meeting was good, everyone was able to express their opinions. Douglas McIntosh gave his forthright & honest opinion about the plans MOWI seemed to take opinions on board.

- There are 2 permanent moorings for those losing crown estate moorings due to the pontoon.
- MOWI was asked to extend dredging area, meaning more leeway going in to the slip, and would allow inside of the pontoon closest to the shore to be used by smaller boats.
- MOWI will work in partnership with community over some kind of gatehouse that will give shelter and could be used by anyone.
- Request to paint the house and shop to tidy them up. Hopefully the iconic pier house will remain. An email has been sent with a formal request for this. Ben Hadfield MOWI Scotland, gave verbal approval at the public meeting so this is not expected to be an issue.
- MOWI agreed to help CHEL to realign the slip if not already done by CHEL by the time MOWI is working there.
- Funding for realignment of slip is coming from CHEL. Planning permission has not yet been applied for.

Overall, a productive meeting. The most recent plans are available in the village shop.

Substation

Letter read from Darren Leonard, who is the SSE Islands Support Engineer.

Cable installation will be happening in the field to the left of the substation. Works will be contained to the field but vehicles will be entering and exiting. Appropriate signs have been requested. Works anticipated to run 13 May – 21 June 2024.

Playpark

Playpark committee hoping to get the park up and running again. Biggest issue at the moment is the running cost of the pavilion. A bill of £492.38 has been received from the electric company covering October 2023 – end of April 2024, due by 6th May 2024. At the moment there are issues getting control of the account with SSE as it is not possible to clear security with SSE when speaking to them on the phone. SSE agreed to put a stop on the account until access can be sorted. Appears the account might be in Trish Collins' name, and the bill was addressed to the Playpark committee.

There was a consensus that Robert Strang had previously been up and turned the electric off. The football and cricket clubs used to pay the bills, but no-one is using it any more. EKCC doesn't have funds for this. Playpark has paid for the insurance for the building previously but this needs sorting in future. Agreed that Audrey will get a reading and attempts to get access to the account will be continued. It was suggested that perhaps the electricity should be shut off in order that standing charges don't accrue, but there was no final decision on this.

Rainforest Alliance

Kintyre Rainforest Alliance gave a presentation led by Jenn Lee. The alliance was started to protect the rainforest located in Kintyre – which is particularly important rainforest. The alliance is working to map the rainforest in the area so we know what we have and what to protect. Working alongside others in other areas, and part of Action West Loch. Data from the alliance is feeding into reports which impact government policy in this area. There is rainforest in East Kintyre, and the alliance is currently working on the area from Waterfoot to Saddell. This will be extended out in time.

Carradale North has some rainforest. There is also some in West Kintyre. Landowners generally on board with the conservation effort. The alliance is mostly funded by the Scottish Government - as the Scottish Governments top ecological target is rainforest - but some local funding may be needed in future. The current work is creating buffer zones free of rhododendron (which chokes off the rainforest). The woodland trust is involved in a feasibility study in this area, which is a 5-15 year project. The alliance requested that when the next local development plan is put together they are considered, and potentially involved. Rainforest walks have previously been conducted successfully at Torrisdale and may be put on again in future if there is interest. If interested please contact.

Any Other Business

EKCC and East Kintyre Windarm Trust both have AGMs in June.

Elaine Batchelor letter. Elaine sent an email to the EKCC detailing a number of issues regarding footpaths and the war memorial.

- With respect to the request to replace the tarmac at the memorial with pavers, Councillor Dougie McFadzean will look to work with Councillor Tommy Macpherson who is the council champion for war memorials, and they will look at improvements.
- With respect to the slabs in the seating area councillor Robin Currie will look into this issue and get in touch as soon as he hears something.
- With respect to the garden – Ian and Brenda continue to do a great job at the Broomfield garden. They are happy to potter but can't do it all. Shelagh said she will speak to the windfarm trustees and see if we can add some help to the maintenance budget.
- With respect to footpath from golf course to harbour – Scottish Water have put a new pipe down. This has taken away a lot of the water that was running down the stairs. One of the residents of lochpark is going to work on the steps. The step path is in the maintenance program funded by the EKWFT.

- With respect to the broomfield path – this land is owned by Forestry & Land Scotland. EKCC pay to keep it, so people can walk down it. Ian Brodie meeting with Forestry & Land Scotland on Tuesday 7 May, so will bring it up again and see if they can dump rock down there.

Alan Walker raised that the noticeboard outside H'Airds needs repair. Ian responded that this is in the process of getting sorted.

Audrey raised that MOWI transport lorries are causing issues. One almost stuck at Grogport, trucks seem to be almost empty both coming and going and don't seem to be paying to go down the forestry road. The company should tell its drivers that they cant go down the backroad. This will be raised with MOWI.

Introduction of Jordan Becker who has taken on the EKCC secretary role on a trial basis. I live up on Toshs Park - I have lived in the village for 3.5 years, but as I work from home I think more people know my partner Janet, who was a carer for Carr Gomm - now with the council serving clients in the village. I am looking forward to getting more involved in village life and meeting more people.

Meeting concluded.