

**Unofficial Minutes
East Kintyre Community Council
(Zoom) Meeting
1900 hours 15 October 2020**

Welcome

The Convenor Welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present

Convenor Ian Brodie [IB], Vice Convenor Robert Strang [RS], Secretary Trish Collins [TC], Treasurer Audrey Willan [AW], Shelagh Cameron [SC], Jen Conley [JC], Alasdair Bennet [AB], Dougie Hunter, Ben Hatfield MOWI.

Apologies

Councillor Alasdair Redman, Councillor Ann Horn, Councillor Robin Currie

IB welcomed **MOWI** representatives **Dougie Hunter**, Technical Director and Ben Hatfield, Environmental Scientist and Chief Operating Officer, Farming Scotland and Ireland. **Ben Hatfield** started by thanking the EKCC and the community for their support during the Storm Ellen incident.

He then went on to give a presentation. This presentation will be made available on the Eastkintyre.org.

TC informed them that several questions had been asked of the community

1. Has an Environmental impact study been carried since the incident and is it available for public view?
2. Are you aware of the amount of debris which has been washed ashore since the incident?
3. There are continual complaints and concerns regarding the mess on the harbour and also the fact that the harbour is becoming like a car park for MOWI staff with little room left for visitors?
4. Can pictures be made available for public view of the seabed where the original cages were placed?
5. Why was there such a high mortality rate in the fish in an incident unrelated to Storm Ellen?

Ben Hatfield stated that it was important that **MOWI** continued to have community engagement and remain transparent throughout. He answered the following:

1. There is an environmental impact study every cycle. This information is in the public domain; however, he will send a copy in due course.
2. He stated that he was not aware of the amount of debris on the shoreline and will instruct a clear up.
3. He stated that he understood that this was an issue. **MOWI** are continuing to attempt to source land near to the harbour that will allow them to move their storage site. They are investigating the possibility of purchasing Forestry land at the North of Shore Road that would alleviate the storage and parking issues. **SC** suggested that until this could be done could they screen the current storage area and perhaps add information boards that would allow the public

to have more information on the work and methods MOWI use on their Fish Farms. **BH** agreed this was an excellent idea and he would progress this.

4. Pictures of the Seabed will be made available.
5. The mortality rate was due to Algae Bloom and Gill Disease. This is due to Global Warming. It causes a thickening which blocks the fish gills and either causes damage to them or causes them to drown. This can be treated by putting them through fresh water. The majority of the fish were harvested, unfortunately, the rest had too much damage and the treatment would have had little or no effect.

Dougie Hunter then informed the EKCC that they were continuing with the expansion and the application was currently with Argyll and Bute Council. If the application was successful it would bring a further 10 jobs local and that would create further employment regionally and nationally.

Ben Hatfield continued that MOWI are committed to invest around £250,00 in the harbour and will work in partnership with the community with donations to a Community Benefit Scheme.

IB thanked them for their attendance and continued engagement with the Community.

Village Shop

The CCT are progressing the possibility of purchasing Semple's Shop/post office. The Sottish Land Fund and National Lottery had agreed to transfer the application from Paterson's Bakery. This is moving forward and there will be a further update when available.

EKREG

Alasdair Bennett, Chair of EKREG, updated the meeting on progress being made to secure Community Benefit Funds and Community Shared Ownership in consented windfarm developments impacting on East Kintyre. The first of these will be the SPR's Beinn an Tuirc 3 Windfarm, which is due to go live in the first quarter of 2021. The community funds generated will be routed via a Community Benefit Society, established for this development, and split equally between the 3 impacted community council areas in order to fund the priority projects identified in each area's Local Development Plan.

EKREG has developed a template constitution and associated documents to establish a single tier Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) that will disburse funds locally. For the EKCC area this will be known as the East Kintyre Community Fund. There will be 6 charity trustees and, in order to ensure a wide diversity of community views and improve SCIO resilience, the maximum number of trustees who are elected representatives of the community will be 3. It is proposed that 2 of the trustees will be members of EKREG and the 6th trustee an independent member of the community. The significant responsibility that trustees will have in taking on this role was emphasised.

After a short discussion, it was agreed that the Convenor (Ian Brodie), Secretary (Trish Collins) and Shelagh Cameron will become the founding trustees from EKCC. It was also agreed that the trustee roles should be filled by the holders of the Convenor and Secretary offices. If the holder of either of these offices resigns the new office holder will take on the trustee role when appropriate.

A.O.C.B

TC reported that she had completed the application for the Asset transfer for the Public Toilets at Carradale Harbour. Argyll and Bute Council have intimated that the Public Toilets would be closing due to financial restraints.

Date of Next Meeting

TBA