

## **Minutes (draft) of Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council (TKCC) Meeting held by Zoom on Wednesday, 12 May 2021 at 7pm**

**Present:** Caroline Hamilton (Chair), Steve Schnabel, Alpin Stewart, Sally Cook, Mat Webster, Chris Davies (Secretary), Councillor Alex MacInnes, Paul McGreal, Celtman

4 members of the public

### **1. Apologies**

Tom Forrest (Treasurer), & Firefighter Emily John

### **2. Minutes of meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

Approval

### **3. Celtman Extreme Triathlon – Paul McGreal, Race Director**

PM presented to the meeting to outline and seek feedback on the proposed changes to the format for this year's race which is due to take place on 12 June. PM recognised that there may be some nervousness within the community, so PM outlined the measures to be taken by the Celtman organisation team to help safe-guard participants, crew and our community in relation to COVID19. The changes are in accordance with the guidance for participation in outdoor sports events produced by Sport Scotland, Scottish Government and Triathlon Scotland/British Triathlon.

- 2021 will be a smaller event. Entry numbers have been reduced to 175 (normally – c. 225) and they anticipate that this will reduce further to 150 participants. Entrant details are retained for Track & Trace.
- Almost all non-UK athletes have elected to defer to 2022.
- Registration, Celtman Shop, and the Start will be managed in compliance with the guidance around bubbles (anticipated this will be 100 people by race weekend, but can manage bubbles of 50 if necessary). Registration Kit Check will take place outside.
- Race Briefing will go online, either live (then available post-broadcast as a recorded video), or as a pre-recorded online broadcast so this will remove the requirement for competitors to attend the Community Centre on the Friday before the race.
- Additional space will be created in Transition 1 to allow more physical spacing. Spectators will be discouraged from T1 (via the briefing). Marshals will be briefed to remind those in attendance at T1 to maintain safe social distancing.
- T2 will take place at the Kinlochewe Hall & Cromasaig, and support crews must then drive to Torridon. They will not be permitted to stop at T2A. The Coire Dubh car park will be used for support runner/driver vehicles only.
- A finish line announcer has been employed – part of their role will be messaging at the finish line for athletes and their supporters to maintain safe social distancing, and to disperse quickly.
- Arrangements for post-race food are currently being discussed with the TDCA but it is anticipated that they will either (a) limit/manage numbers inside as permitted by capacity limits. The use of the hall will be time-limited – participants will need to eat and leave, or (b) they will operate on the basis of a 'take-away'.

- Arrangements for the Sunday morning prize-giving are being considered. The options are (a) do this outside and require safe social distancing, or (b) cancel this element of the event, but enable an outside and/or bubble based T-Shirt collection process.
- The Sunday post-race party has been cancelled.

MW will provide PM with the contact details for HLH to enable him to contact them about the possible use of the Torridon Campsite for competitors.

**Action: MW**

It was agreed that a general update on the plans for the event should be circulated to the wider community. PM will draft something in consultation with the TDCA once final plans have been agreed.

**Action: SS/PM**

#### **4. Matters arising from minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> April**

##### *Previous Community Development Plan*

CH advised the TF had been unable to locate any further information about a previous development plan.

##### *Community Housing Trust*

AS confirmed he had been in touch with the CHT in relation to the proposed community development plan timescale and was awaiting to hear back from them about the possibility of combining both consultations.

**Action: AS**

##### *Seamus MacNally Collection*

The community response to the collection for Seamus had been overwhelming and the purchase of gifts in the form of garden furniture, vouchers and a bottle of the good stuff was now in hand.

NTS have published advertisements for a replacement Head Ranger and for two housekeepers.

##### *Torridon School*

Ian Jackson from HC has confirmed that the HC own both the school and the school house, but has omitted to advise re ownership of the play park. CH has responded to ask for clarification re the play park.

**Action: CH**

##### *Bealach Mhor Cycle race*

Alex MacInnes confirmed that the Head of Corporate Governance at the HC is looking into TF's case.

##### *Torridon toilets*

TKCC thanked all the community members who have volunteered to help clean the toilets, and if there is anyone else able to take on a shift please get in touch.

AM apologised for not contacting MW but advised that he had been experiencing email problems, and that it was possible that the HC security wall could be stripping out emails. He said he would sort this out.

**Action: AM**

*Book of condolence for HRH Duke of Edinburgh*

CH advised that TF had signed the book of condolence on behalf of TKCC.

**5. Emergency services report**

No report.

**6. Community Development Plan update**

CH advised that the Community Action Planning Group had had further meetings with SCDC to develop the community survey. Anyone from the community is welcome to join the meetings, and fliers have been popped through residents' doors informing them about the development plan and providing details of how people can get involved. Feedback from the flier has been positive.

Meetings of the Action Group are held every fortnight via zoom, with the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, where the first draft of the survey will be reviewed with SCDC.

Future meetings are scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**7. Treasurer's report**

Current funds: TKCC - £1,061.05, HIE Covid/Communities Recovery - £247.35.

**8. Roads update**

Thanks to Mack Sutherland the cattle grids have been filled and tarred in Glen Torridon. However, more potholes are developing even though the road crew have been out filling in regularly. TF has been advised that there are plans to resurface the road from Kinlochewe to Cromasaig bridge sometime soon.

CH advised that a recent accident in Diabaig had highlighted the exceptionally poor state of the road. An ambulance was called to the village to take a resident to hospital after a fall, and the patient had to be given extra morphine to deal with the additional pain caused by the poor condition of the road surface. TKCC all agreed that this situation is totally unacceptable. AM advised he would contact Mack Sutherland with a request that the road should be set as a priority.

**Action: AM**

There have also been issues for cyclists in Torridon having to swerve into the centre of the road to avoid potholes. It will only be a matter of time before there is a serious incident if the road is not improved.

AM advised that the purchase of a dedicated hot box for Wester Ross had been included in HC's budget, and was awaiting approval. This would allow hot tar rather than cold tar to be

used to repair potholes, which should result in the repairs lasting 1-2 years rather than a few weeks.

It was agreed that Mack Sutherland should be invited to the next meeting to provide an update on planned works.

**Action: TF**

## 9. Planning applications

No comments were made on either of the following applications:

[Alterations and extension](#), Ref. No: 21/01846/FUL – Birchlea Inveralligin Alligin Achnasheen

[Erection of polytunnel](#), Ref. No: 21/01859/PNO – Duart 2 Kinlochewe Achnasheen IV22 2PA

## 10. Any Other Competent Business

### *COW Signs*

Residents and business providers in Torridon have raised concerns about the signs installed by COW Trust at both the NTS visitor centre (entrance to Fasaig village) and the Coire Nobuil car park. These advertise and direct visitors to Kinlochewe for toilets, water, shops and accommodation. It was agreed that these are likely to divert visitors away from Torridon, and should therefore be moved to more appropriate locations. MW will discuss with COW.

**Action: MW**

It was agreed that it would be more appropriate if the brown tourist sign outside Torridon, which was damaged some years ago, should be repaired/replaced and that maybe Visit Scotland or the North Highlands Initiative could be approached for funding. We will investigate this possibility.

Action: SS

### *Slattadale car park*

Hugh Bannister has advised that following anti-social behaviour at the car park he has approached the Forestry Commission requesting barriers to be installed to stop overnight parking. The fire service have advised that they will attend and assist with any anti-social behaviour where there is a fire risk.

**CORRECTION: Martin Butcher, Watch Commander District Support, has advised that “No such undertaking has been given as any alleged antisocial behaviour is a matter for Police Scotland. It is very important that the public are correctly informed of the role of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service”.**

MW will contact Douglas Gibson to request an up-to-date overview of the ranger positions and duties and will circulate.

Action: MW

### *Minutes Secretary*

CD has advised that due to work load producing timely minutes is becoming a challenge. Therefore if anyone local would like to offer their time as to act as minutes secretary to ensure the timely production and circulation of minutes, please do contact any TKCC member.

*Accounting*

Accounting procedures designed to smooth the process around grant funding and expenses etc are currently being formalised and will be circulated to all TKCC members.

**Action: CH**

*Traffic calming – Kinlochewe*

Lilah Ford asked for an update on the planned traffic measures for Kinlochewe. AM advised he will follow up with Ian Moncrieff.

**Action: AM**

*Bealach Mhor Sportive*

LH requested that it be noted that the Kinlochewe community were very supportive of the Bealach Mhor Sportive, and on behalf of the community hope that it will continue to be hosted at Kinlochewe Hall.

**11. Future meetings:**

AGM and meeting – Wednesday 30 June 2021. Venue to be confirmed

Further meetings

It was agreed future meetings of the TKCC will be held in July & September (dates/venues to be confirmed).