

## **Minutes of Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council (TKCC) Meeting held by Zoom on Wednesday, 2 December 2020 at 8pm**

**Present:** Caroline Hamilton (Chair), Tom Forrest (Treasurer), Colin Stevenson, Christine Davies (Secretary), Steve Schnabel, Alpin Stewart, Sally Cook, Mat Webster,

Highland Councillor Alex McInnes, PC Craig Allan, Firefighter Emily John, 6 members of the public

### **1. Apologies**

None

### **2. Minutes of meeting on 21 October 2020**

Approved (SS/CS)

### **3. Matters arising**

*Data Protection* – AS confirmed that the TKCC is now registered and confirmation details will be sent to CD

*Dropbox* – CD to send details around now that the new TKCC email accounts have been set up.

Action: CD

*Planning Applications – Diabaig Telecoms Mast* – Following their visit in October, the Home Office have provided further details on the various sites visited. Two of these appear to provide considerably better coverage than the current proposed site, but due to time pressures the Home Office say they have to proceed with their current plans. There are however, still a number of regulatory hoops to go through, for example we expect they will need to make an application to HC for the powerlines and provide an environmental impact report.

AM to send CH details of the HC case officer responsible for reviewing the application.

Action: AM

*Roads* – A response is awaited from Mack Sutherland and Ian Moncrieff on our request for the installation of traffic counters.

*Remembrance Day commemorations* – Wreaths were laid at the memorials in Torridon by Tom Lambert and Donald MacDonald and in Kinlochewe by TF.

*Postal Delivery times* – Following initial discussions last month, John Wilkins confirmed that due to the huge increase in the volume of post, daily deliveries were taking a lot longer than usual to complete, and with the long nights and winter setting in there are health and safety issues due to the long hours the posties are having to work every day.

Therefore as a temporary measure, John, Fiona and Janet will now rotate 2 x 12 hour days each (ie John on Mon/Tues, Fiona on Wed/Thurs and Janet on Fri/Sat) starting at 8:00 am each morning. Pick up times from each post box will be a couple of hours earlier than previously. These new arrangements will be reviewed early in the new year.

TKCC agreed that notification of the new arrangements should be circulated to ensure the community is aware of them.

Action: SS/CD

#### **4. Report from PC Craig Allan from Lochcarron Police Station**

PC Craig Allan joined the meeting to provide a report on local policing issues. He reported that there has been a general decrease this year in crime reports for the area, with a big decrease in calls. However, the volume of campervans and motorhomes has been of major concern for both the police and Community Councils around the area.

The different coronavirus restrictions across the country have made policing challenging, especially across large rural areas with second homes. The Police are very much taking a counselling approach to people reported to be breaking the restrictions.

Celtman organisers have been in touch to discuss traffic management for the event in 2021 along Glen Torridon. They are suggesting taking over the Ling Hut car park on the Friday evening before the race, and asking for the road through the glen to be closed at the peak time on Saturday (between 1-4pm) when competitors reach the T2A.

Craig said the organisers were keen to obtain TKCC's views. It was agreed that we will invite them to a meeting to discuss their proposals and any possible solutions we may have to help manage the traffic flow. Craig will forward details to us for us to contact them.

Action: CD/SS

#### **5. Emergency services report from Emily John**

- Callouts - both stations continue to be very quiet. Kinlochewe have had no callouts since the last meeting. Torridon attended an electrical fire on 5<sup>th</sup> November outside the hatchery at Culdoren. This brings the total incidents to 7 so far this year.
- Home Fire Safety Visits are continuing
- Focus for the next month is safety in the home during the festive period as there is an increased risk of fire due to decorations etc. Information about how to stay safe are available on Scottish Fire website or Emily can provide leaflets for those who require them.
- Both Torridon and Kinlochewe fire teams are advertising for additional members. Due to low current numbers the engines may be unable to respond to calls as they can only operate with a minimum crew of four. Vacancies are now being advertised at My Job Scotland and current crew members would be delighted to talk to anyone interested.
- First responders – COVID PPE has been delivered and Emily attended the first callout since the team has been put back on call. The callout highlighted the importance of the first responder service. Emily was in attendance within 10 minutes, while the ambulance took 56 minutes to arrive. 5 people have applied to join the team, which is excellent, their training will take place between January/March and this will bring the team number up to 7. If anyone else wishes to join please do get in touch with Emily.

#### **6. HIE Communities Recovery Fund**

Following TKCC's application to use the unspent funds of approximately £3k from the original grant from the Supporting Communities Fund, HIE has approved that these funds can be spent on the following:

- Community Gardening – ideas are invited from members of the community and a shortlist will be drawn up for a final decision. Requests for ideas to be circulated via the Visit Torridon mailing list and on the TKCC website and facebook. Ideas can also be sent to [secretary@tkcc.scot](mailto:secretary@tkcc.scot) or placed on the padlet board on the TKCC website

Action: SC/CD

- Renewal of TKCC zoom subscription
- £400 to the Medical Practice Fund to maintain the defibrillators
- Further sanitiser for Kinlochewe and elsewhere within the community

## 7. Feedback from discussions with other organisations

During the TKCC recent brainstorming session it was agreed that we should reach out to other local organisations/businesses to foster links.

SS contacted the new Shieldaig Community Council and they discussed attending each other's meetings when convenient. SS will attend their next CC meeting.

Action: SS

MW has spoken to the NTS and invited a representative to attend the TKCC meeting in January, so we can hear their plans for the Torridon estate once Seamus retires.

Action: MW

MW has also been in touch with the chair of Poolewe, Aultbea and Gairloch Enterprise (PAGE) who has expressed an interest in working with us.

CH contacted the Torridon Hotel. December and Christmas is an important time for them but they were unclear on whether they will remain open due to the current Covid restrictions. Dan is on the board of the NC500 and advised that the provision of aires is now being actively discussed by Visit Scotland and the NC500. The HC are keen on the idea and have identified some potential locations, although not in our area. The Hotel is planning to install a food waste composter and would be happy to open it up to local cafes if they are interested.

CH also contacted Joanne Crosby at High Life Highland (HLH) for an update on when the campsite and toilets in Torridon will be reopened. Joanne advised that there are currently no plans due to the changing situation. CH asked whether HLH would be interested in the possibility of a community group taking over the site, and she confirmed that they would. She subsequently provided details of the relevant person at the HC responsible for community asset transfers so we can understand the process. CH will follow up with HC.

Action: CH

CS has been in touch with the Hickman Trust and they were interested in possible representation at one of our meetings. CS also spoke to those responsible for Kinlochewe Village Hall who were interested in joining a future meeting of the TKCC. CS will forward contact details.

Action: CS

## 8. Possible further grant funded initiatives

*Coastal Communities Fund* - the deadline for Expressions of Interest to the fund is 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Expressions of Interest are non-binding.

Following lengthy discussions two submissions were voted upon and will be submitted:

- Torriddon toilet facilities - Working with other community organisations we are considering either (a) building new public toilet facilities in Torriddon, or (b) taking over and reopening the Torriddon campsite/public toilets/showers.;
- Diabaig Pier - working with other community organisations, we wish to take over the slipway and repair it.

Action: CH

The second round for EOIs will be in January 2021 and we will consider submitting an EOI for a Recovery & Development Officer. Further work is required to develop the terms of the role.

Action: SC/MW

## **9. Any Other Competent Business**

*TKCC Code of Conduct* – this has now been prepared and the final version will be placed on the website.

Action: MW/CD

A joint meeting with the TDCA is taking place on 10<sup>th</sup> December to discuss toilet provision in Torriddon.

The Highland Council have invited TKCC members on 8<sup>th</sup> December for an informal discussion in relation to Torriddon School.

Future TKCC meetings will start at 7pm rather than 8pm. Future meetings are scheduled for:

- 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021
- 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021
- 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021
- 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021
- 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021