

**Minutes (draft) of Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council (TKCC) Meeting held by Zoom on Wednesday, 3 November 2021 at 7pm**

Present: Caroline Hamilton (Chair), Chris Davies (Secretary), Colin Stevenson, Tom Forrest, Alpin Stewart, Sally Cook.

11 members of the public.

**1. Apologies**

Steve Schnabel, Mat Webster, Cllr. Alex MacInnes

**2. Minutes of meeting on 29 September 2021**

Approved subject to the following amendments:

*Installation of 2no. charging points* - The Village Hall Torridon Achnasheen IV22 2EZ - Ref. No: 21/04200/FUL. Rather than "rapid" charging points, this should read "will charge vehicles as rapidly as the electricity supply will allow".

*Torridon path signage* – Words will be added to record that TKCC assisted the TDCA with obtaining the grant to pay for the footpaths and signage.

**3. Matters arising from minutes of 29 September**

*Torridon road sign* - deferred until the next meeting.

Action: MW

*First Responders* – SC will provide contact details for a person for CD to contact to enquire whether they wish to attend our meetings.

Action: SC/CD

*Torridon Post Office* – Kinlochewe PO has confirmed it does not wish to re-establish its outreach service in Torridon. SC has started the process of asking head office whether a new outreach service could be provided, she will also contact Lochcarron PO to see whether they would be interested.

Action: SC

Those completing the community survey will be asked for their views about a post office outreach service, and nothing further will be done by TKCC until these are known.

*NatureScot – Loch Maree islands* – NatureScot have drafted a code of conduct and have circulated this to interested parties, including TKCC, for comment.

Action: CH

*Remembrance Day wreaths* – CH has written to Lilah Ford confirming that, as in previous years, wreaths will be laid on behalf of TKCC, however we will not be providing wreaths for others to lay.

TKCC wreaths will be laid at 11am on 11 November at the war memorials.

Torridon – a short ceremony conducted by Minister Colin Macleod will take place at 10.55am before the TKCC wreath is laid by Tom Lambert.

Kinlochewe – the TKCC wreath will be laid by Doug Stephenson. Also attending will be the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Wester Ross, Andrew Townsend.

*Torridon path signage, Afghan refugees, Torridon school, Diabaig motorhome park* – CH and CD have responded to the relevant people in accordance with the minutes.

*Slattadale Forest Plan* – CS has not yet followed up with Hugh Bannister to determine what he would like TKCC to do, but will do so.

Action: CS

*TKCC email addresses* – discussions are underway.

Action: CD

#### **4. Paul Bolton – NTS ranger**

PB advised the meeting that he had now been in post for about three months. In that time he has identified visitor management, control of deer and rabbits and redevelopment of the Visitor Centre as key issues. NTS employed a seasonal ranger over the summer and she and PB spoke to visitors about their conduct in the countryside.

The visitor centre building is beyond its useful life. NTS intend to engage three or four architects to come up with proposals for its replacement and will consult on options locally. SC raised the issue of risk to pedestrians walking between the visitor centre and the village.

NTS is considering an extension to the Coire Dubh car park to address the problem of parking on road verges. CS asked them to consider work to the parking area near Glen Cottage. PB confirmed they would do so.

NTS is in discussion with the Grampian Club about the Club's proposal to plant an area of woodland to mark the Club's centenary in 2027. Catherine Botting from the Club spoke to the meeting and gave further details of the Club's proposals explaining that they intend to plant native species with trees being purchased from Beinn Eighe NNR and grown from seed collected locally. PB advised that NTS considers that the proposed woodland would be a useful link allowing species to pass along the Glen.

In response to a question from a member of the public, PB advised that NTS has contractors coming up over the winter to work on the problem of rhododendrons on the Torridon Estate.

#### **5. Treasurer's report**

TKCC's 2020-21 accounts have been accepted by the Highland Council and we have now received our administrative grant for 2021-22. This is the same amount as last year - £447.27.

TKCC's own funds stand at £1,615.08. We also have £274.82 in the Covid 19 grant fund, this has been allocated to the Community Garden fund. In relation to the "toilet fund", the remaining balance is £245.00 after all expenses have been paid.

## **6. Community development plan survey**

CH advised the survey is to be launched on Saturday with drop in events in Torridon Community Centre and Kinlochewe Hall. A variety of other groups will also be at the events. The survey has been advertised online, by leaflets being put through doors and by posters. Paper copies of the survey will be available for those who do not have internet connection.

## **7. Torridon toilets**

Highlife Highland (HH) have now successfully recruited two new cleaners on casual contracts to work alongside the permanent cleaner, Mat Webster. They have also confirmed that only one clean a day will be necessary from now on, in line with pre-Covid protocol.

The above means that as of 1 November, HH have been able to take back full responsibility for cleaning the toilets. They have also confirmed the toilets will remain open throughout the winter (or until at least the end of the current financial year, being 31 March).

All agreed this is very good news. On behalf of TKCC, CH thanked Ian Goode of HH for all his efforts in making this happen, also the volunteer cleaners who have worked so hard.

With regard to the £245 left in the "toilet fund", it was agreed we should spend this on some basic maintenance of the building. SS has confirmed this should be acceptable within the terms our grant.

## **8. Planning applications**

Peatland Restoration - Ref. No: 21/04753/PNO Land 3270M NE of Professors Cottage, Kinlochewe

SC and CH to consider whether TKCC should comment.

Action: SC/CH

Erection of new bunkhouse and meeting area, with parking and drainage arrangements - Ref. No: 21/04667/PIP Land 80M NE of Dipin, Annat, Torridon

Phil Reid spoke of concerns locally regarding the capacity of the existing water supply to meet this extra demand, possible problems with drainage, lack of details regarding foul water drainage, a mismatch between the stated capacity of the proposed bunkhouse and parking provision and issues of road safety.

TKCC to object to HC granting planning in principle without more detail being provided in relation to these matters.

Action: CH

## **9. Correspondence received**

*Queen's Green Canopy Scheme/Jubilee beacons* – to be considered at a later date.

*Community Christmas hampers* – this was considered a worthy cause, however TKCC does not have funds to support it. It was also agreed it was not appropriate for TKCC to pass on

names and addresses. The organisers will be advised of our position and invited to advertise the scheme through local various mailing lists/Facebook pages.

Action: CH

*Vacant and Derelict Land Investment Programme* – Meeting advised of this.

*Tesco deliveries* – A resident of Diabaig has enquired why Tesco will not deliver beyond Torrison Community Centre. SC will investigate if the SW Ross Community Car Scheme might be able to help with deliveries locally. It was agreed TKCC should not be promoting the services of one commercial company over others. Correspondent to be advised of this.

Action: CD

#### **10. Any Other Competent Business**

*BT/EE 4G outage* - E-mails received from West Lodge and Shialdaig advising of a service outage from BT and EE. SC advised this was also a problem in Fasaig and Wester Alligin, and that it appears to be a supply chain problem that EE/BT have been working on. CD to draft a response to the correspondents and refer the matter to Cllr. MacInnes.

Action: CD