

Minutes (draft) of Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council (TKCC) Meeting held by Zoom on Wednesday, 10th June 2020 following the AGM at 8pm

Present: Caroline Hamilton (Chair), Christine Davies (Secretary), Anne Macrae, Colin Stevenson, Tom Forrest (Treasurer), Mat Webster, Cllr. Alex MacInnes, Firefighter Emily John

6 members of the public

1. **Apologies:** Robbie Main, Ward Manager
2. **Co-option of new member**
Tom Mallows of Wester Alligin was nominated and approved as the third co-opted Community councillor to the TKCC.
3. **Minutes of meeting on 27th May 2020**
Approved.
4. **Matters arising**

Defibrillator – Kinlochewe

TF advised that the Hickman Trust have offered to pay for a new battery for the unit based in the entrance of Kinlochewe Hotel. However, there will be an on-going maintenance plan needed to ensure that the machine remains viable. Who should cover these costs? MW/TF to develop a proposal for on-going maintenance for the next meeting, and before the offer from the Hickman Trust is accepted.

Action: MW/TF

COW have advised that they would happily host one of the machines on the new toilet block once it has been built, but until then it will continue to be hosted in the lobby of the Kinlochewe Hotel.

Jonathan Petrie advised that the un-coding on the defibrillator at Kinlochewe Hall will be discussed with other hall members.

Roads

TF confirmed that once TM had kindly provided feedback of any road repairs required for Inver Alligin and Wester Alligin, the finalized spreadsheet will be submitted to Mackenzie Sutherland at HC for consideration. TF will also address traffic calming in Kinlochewe and some other matters.

Action: TW/TF

5. Treasurer's Report

TF confirmed that the Bank had confirmed that our account balance currently amounts to £22.1K, of which £21K is ring fenced for Covid activities.

The Bank has provided authorisation for Internet Banking and this will enable the Treasurer to provide a full financial report for the previous year at the next meeting.

6. Update on grant-funded Covid-19 initiatives.

- a. Food/fuel vouchers

After the first week of the scheme running, 26 adults & children from 17 households from across the area were now receiving support from the voucher scheme. The local shops will need to submit their scheme records for reimbursement for the first week. TKCC thanked the local shops for supporting the initiative.

b. PPE

MW confirmed that the first delivery of face masks, gloves and hand sanitizer had arrived. 3 different types of masks will be available, including washable masks, as well as more medical style versions. These will be made available to community volunteers, the Torridon Community Centre, Kinlochewe Hall, community car scheme etc, in the first instance.

TKCC would like to celebrate those people in the community who have been making facemasks for distribution.

c. Website

CD advised that she had developed a strawman of the potential requirements of the website, which will be circulated to TKCC members in due course for their input.

Action: CD

d. Driver screens

CH advised that the car scheme will be ordering a small number of screens for testing, before rolling out across all the volunteer vehicles.

e. TDCA – physical activity

Working in collaboration with TKCC, the TDCA has been awarded a grant of £5,225 from the Scottish Government Wellbeing Fund. This is to promote physical activity in our community and thereby enable people to improve their physical and mental health.

The project aims to enhance the existing lowland trails in the local area, with a focus on Torridon, and create an enhanced heritage/viewpoint trail in the old village enclosure behind Torridon Community Centre. This will include improving access especially for those with impaired mobility, and providing more benches/rest stops at key locations

The project will be delivered by local volunteers in conjunction with the TDCA, TKCC and National Trust for Scotland. Calls for volunteers will be issued shortly.

COVID funding “round 2” – If anyone wishes to submit an idea for a potential new proposal for additional COVID funding, please get in contact with any of the TKCC members to discuss further.

**7. MOWI planning application – ref 20/01745/54
TM declared an interest so abstained.**

The planning application submitted by MOWI is seeking to remove the time limited permission it currently has for the farm opposite Wester Alligin in Loch Torridon. TKCC believe that their application does not adequately address all of the potential environmental problems associated with fish farming, nor does it commit them to meet minimum standards or improve practices if they are causing environmental degradation.

TKCC acknowledged that MOWI is a significant employer and important to the local economy. Nevertheless it was agreed by a majority that the application should be objected to, to ensure that proper checks and balances are imposed by the Highland Council.

It was noted that TKCC does not object to MOWI continuing to operate a fish farm at the site, however we have consulted with local experts and believe any permission from the Highland Council should remain time limited.

CH had contacted Highland Council which has agreed to an extension to the closing date for comments and objections to 30 June. CH circulated a draft objection letter on behalf of the TKCC, which the committee approved in principle, but CH will circulate a re-draft to committee members for further feedback before submission.

Action: CH

NB The TKCC letter of objection has now been sent. A copy is available in the document library on the TKCC website.

MOWI to be invited to address the TKCC about their activities.

Action: CH

TKCC to ensure it is automatically notified of local planning applications in good time in the future

Action: CD

8. Emergency Services report

Emily John provided an updated from the local fire crews – they had attended no incidents since the last meeting. Weekly drill training had resumed with social distancing.

The Make a Call initiative for home fire safety visits was still on-going and she encouraged everyone to participate as much as possible. This is for very high risk people, ie people who are over 50, smoke, and have long-term health or mobility issues, are on medical oxygen or live alone.

Emily also updated the meeting about the First Responders who help support the ambulance service. There are currently five first responder volunteers (down from over 20) covering the area from Kinlochewe to Diabaig, Shildaig and Ardheslaig. New volunteers are always welcome and the team is looking to boost their numbers so they can provide a 24/7 service. Full training will be given and the rota can be flexible to suit your situation.

Emily would be keen to hear from anyone interested in joining the team.

Due to the Covid-19 situation, the First Responders are currently stood down from service.

9. AOB

HIE has confirmed that a TKCC subscription to Zoom would be an eligible expense for any spare Covid-19 funds that we may have.

Action: CD

The TKCC wished to extend its condolences to the family of Norman Cameron who recently passed away. Norman was a much loved member of the community who was dedicated to improving and working with the local communities.

After many years as Secretary, Anne Macrae has decided to stand down from her role to enable her to focus more on her masters degree, and her many other commitments. On

behalf of the TKCC and the local community, all present thanked Anne for her hard work and dedication to the community over many years.

Alex MacInnes, provided a brief update on HC's plans going forward for a cautious recovery from the COVID-19 lockdown. There is a big acknowledgement within HC on the way communities have worked together during the pandemic. HC is keen to build on this community engagement and is looking at ways of supporting this, and Community Councils will be key. A road map is currently being developed, led by Karen McDermott.

10. Dates of next meetings

Confirmed dates for the next meetings: 1 July; 29 July; 26 Aug; 23 September