

Minutes (draft) of Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council (TKCC) Meeting held by Zoom on Wednesday, 29 September 2021 at 8pm

Present: Caroline Hamilton (CH) (Chair), Chris Davies (CD) (Secretary), Steve Schnabel (SS) (Treasurer), Colin Stevenson (CS), Tom Forrest (TF), Mat Webster (MW), Sally Cook (SC).

7 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Alpin Stewart.

2. Minutes of meeting on 28 July 2021

Approved.

3. Matters arising from minutes of 28 July

Alex MacInnes email problems - AM appears now to have resolved his IT problems so he can receive emails from tkcc.scot email accounts.

Torridon road sign - MW has not yet made any progress on finding out whether the brown tourist sign that used to be outside Torridon could be reinstated. He will get on with this as soon as possible.

Action: MW

NTS Ranger, Torridon - Paul Bolton was unable to attend today's meeting, but has agreed to attend our next meeting on 3 November.

First Responders – CD has not yet enquired whether they wish to attend our meetings, but will do so.

Action: CD

Torridon Post Office – Jeremy at Kinlochewe PO has confirmed to CS that they are not providing an outreach service in Torridon. SC will make further enquiries to find out whether they wish to re-establish this and if they do not, what the procedure would be for obtaining an outreach service from somewhere else.

Action: SC

Press and Journal – TF and CH have both spoken to Stuart Findlay.

Skillseeder – It was agreed there was nothing further for TKCC to do on this.

4. Annual accounts for year to 31 March 2021 – see attached App 1

SS thanked Caroline and Donald Duncan for undertaking the independent review and TF for the work done prior to handover.

In summary, income received was £22,519.54 comprising administrative grants from Highland Council, £21,000 Covid-19 support grant from HIE, £265 donation from the

Hickman Trust to support the cost of replacement defibrillator pads and batteries and £360 of donations collected towards Seamus MacNally's retirement gift.

The Covid-19 support grant was spent against agreed support programmes (£244.87 unspent at the end of the financial year is allocated to the Community Garden fund). The end of year reserves totalled £1,666.49 - £1,061.62 TKCC funds, £244.87 remaining Covid-19 fund and £360 Seamus MacNally collections (spent in April 2021 on retirement gifts).

The accounts were approved and adopted – proposed CH, seconded MW. SS to submit to HC as this is a pre-requisite for receiving the current year administrative grant.

Action: SS

5. Treasurer's report – see attached App 2

The balance in the Covid 19 grant fund stands at £244.82 (see above). As for the "Torridon toilets fund", TKCC secured grants of £3,200 from Highland Council (£1,500), NTS (£700) and NHI (£1,000); expenditure to date stands at £865 leaving a balance of £2,335. We also secured a grant of £410 for a new waste bin now installed opposite the shop and café in Torridon.

TKCC's own funds stand at £1,114.17 with this year's Community Council administrative grant still to come.

6. Community development plan survey

With the support of the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC), members of TKCC are currently working in an action group with representatives from the TDCA, COW Trust, Kinlochewe Village Hall and other members of the community with a view to putting together a community development plan. Any projects that come out of the process will need to be taken forward by one or more community organisations.

The first stage is a community survey to find out what people who live here like about the area, what they would like to protect, and how they think it could be made a better place to live, work and visit.

CH thanked everyone who has been involved with drafting the survey, including those who have participated in a pilot and given very useful feedback.

Survey launch

The survey is now ready, and will be launched at the following events. We would like to encourage everyone to come to these to find out more:

- **Torridon Community Centre – Saturday, 6 November, 10am-12.30pm**
- **Kinlochewe Village Hall - Saturday, 6 November, 2.30-5pm**

We hope these will be 'village events' with other community groups attending as well in order to publicise local activities.

At the events there will be information boards explaining the survey and development plan process. Members of the action group will give a short presentation, and they and SCDC will be available to answer questions. Free coffee, tea, cake, rolls etc will be served.

The survey will be available online and in paper form and people will be asked to complete it by 6 December. We will have paper copies available at the events to take away, also on request after the launch.

All answers will be anonymous, unless people tick a box to enter a prize draw – for which SCDC have kindly agreed to provide cash prizes of £100, £50 and £25.

The committee agreed it was essential to encourage as many people as possible to complete the survey. MW and CH are working with SCDC on the information boards and publicity materials, MW also intends to put together a short video.

As well as the cash prizes, SCDC have agreed to pay for the following: advertising posters for online circulation and on noticeboards, information boards and flyers, centre/hall hire and refreshments, printing the survey, video editing, reminders to complete the survey.

GALE

CH has spoken to Janet Miles at GALE who has confirmed that the community survey in Kinlochewe that GALE have planned will not be run this year. They would however be interested in exploring whether any ideas that come out of our survey could be taken forward by them.

7. Roads update

Torridon glen road – many potholes have been filled in.

Diabaig – substantial works now completed to resurface the worst parts of the road and junction.

Alligin bridge – TF has been chasing HC and has suggested a new barrier (possibly Armco)

Kinlochewe – HC have proposed putting red paint on the road at the entrance to each new speed limit (30 and 40mph), 5 places in all. HC say they will do this as soon as a team is available. TF/CS are pushing for 40mph limits to be extended further out of the village.

Lilah Ford highlighted the problem of cars parking opposite the petrol station blocking the pavement. Various possible solutions were discussed, Lilah will try putting up a homemade sign in the first instance. She confirmed she did not wish us to contact the police at this stage. CS added that BT vans often park on the pavement alongside the exchange which sets the wrong precedent.

Mack Sutherland at HC is moving on, and is being replaced by Andrew Bone. TF is already in touch with him.

8. Torridon toilets

Lack of toilets in summer 2020 due to Covid lockdown was intolerable leading TKCC to lobby Highlife Highland (HH) to allow the toilets to be opened for 2021. HH stated last year that they didn't have enough budget to cover the cost of cleaning (recommended 3 times per day because of Covid). As an interim measure, TKCC decided to help HH and arrange volunteer cleaning, securing a number of grants to cover expenses.

Subsequently, HH have re-opened the campsite which means the showers in the toilet block are now also open. This has resulted in more cleaning which the volunteers have undertaken so far. However, it is clear this cannot continue and that volunteer activity needs to end.

MW and CH have had recent discussions with Ian Goode (IG) of HH; IG acknowledges that:

- HH needs to take back full responsibility for the cleaning at least from the end of October (preferably earlier).
- The toilets need to remain open through the winter
- They no longer need to be cleaned 3 times a day
- HH needs to employ more than one cleaner so they can be open 7 days a week

IG is endeavoring to secure the necessary funding from HC and has promised to keep us updated.

Action: CH

9. NatureScot – Loch Maree islands

CH reported on a meeting she had attended held by NatureScot to discuss access to the islands on Loch Maree which have experienced major habitat impact from kayakers, powerboaters etc. landing, camping, lighting fires. Representatives from kayak/canoe rental providers and others (eg. Hugh Bannister, Eoghain Maclean) attended with a view to signing up to a Code of Practice or similar – NatureScot left with a mandate to produce an action plan for further review. It was agreed Doug Bartholomew (Beinn Eighe and Loch Maree Islands NNR manager) should be invited to a future TKCC meeting to expand on the review.

Action: CD

10. Planning applications

Erection of House - Land 50M SW Of Bellavista Wester Alligin - Ref. No: 21/04269/FUL. No comments.

Installation of 2no. charging points - The Village Hall Torridon Achnasheen IV22 2EZ - Ref. No: 21/04200/FUL. Kevin Wood confirmed these would be rapid charging points and will operate 24 hours a day. TKCC expressed its support for the project.

11. Correspondence

HC Community Support Coordinator – Lynn Frost has recently been appointed to this new post. It was suggested the TKCC invite Lynn to a future meeting to expand on what the role is tasked with.

Torridon path signage – correspondence received complaining that signs recently installed in support of the Torridon walks had no Gaelic and the English translations were poor. It was agreed, and Kevin Wood confirmed, that this was a TDCA matter as they had secured the grants to pay for the walks and signage. We will therefore respond in writing to that effect.

Action: CH

Website correspondence – (a) should TKCC try and secure some housing to support incoming Afghanistan refugees and (b) is there an opportunity to use the Torridon school building for housing as well. CH pointed out both these suggestions were beyond the scope or

responsibility of TKCC but that the upcoming survey was the ideal vehicle to get this and similar ideas tabled for future planning. SC stressed that HC have been very clear that nothing can be done with the school until they have gone through a formal closure consultation process. CD to respond to the writer to that effect.

Action: CD

12. Any Other Competent Business

The crofters in Diabaig are investigating the possibility of creating a motorhome park in Diabaig and have enquired whether TKCC could help access funding for this. As with the school, it was agreed this was not TKCC's role and that the upcoming survey was the ideal vehicle to table this idea. CD to respond to that effect.

Action: CD

Next year's Celtman event will take place on 18 June 2022.

Hugh Bannister has emailed CS about the Slattadale Forest plan - the TKCC are apparently a statutory consultee although no one was aware of this. CS agreed to follow up with Hugh and determine what he would like TKCC to do.

Action: CS

The TKCC email addresses will need to be renewed soon. CD will contact members separately about this in order to set out some options.

Action: CD

Anne Macrae flagged an issue concerning expenses – CH agreed this would be dealt with outside the meeting.

Lilah Ford asked that if TKCC were providing Remembrance Day wreaths this year, they would appreciate receiving one for Kinlochewe. CH agreed to be in touch in this regard.

Action: CH

App 1 - Annual accounts for year to 31 March 2021

Torridon Kinlochewe Community Council

Income & Expenditure Account

for the period 1 April 20 - 31 March 2021

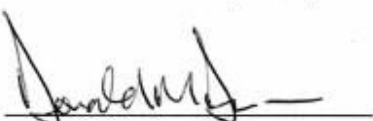
	2020-21 £	2020-21 FUNDS ANALYSIS			2019-20 £
		TKCC £	Covid Grant £	Seamus £	
Income					
Highland Council Grants	894.54	894.54			0.00
Covid 19 HIE Grant	21,000.00		21,000.00		0.00
Hickman Trust donation	265.00	265.00			0.00
Seamus retirement donations	360.00			360.00	0.00
Total income	22,519.54	1,159.54	21,000.00	360.00	0.00
Expenditure					
Meeting venue hire	96.00	96.00			57.50
Travel expenses	0.00	0.00			127.80
Insurance	172.00	172.00			86.00
Website, Mailboxes etc..	1,588.23		1,588.23		0.00
Covid-19 Community support	8,253.68		8,253.68		0.00
Covid-19 Local Heroes spend	164.65		164.65		0.00
Covid-19 Projects spend	10,748.57		10,748.57		0.00
Defibrillator support	617.21	617.21			0.00
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Total expenses	21,640.34	885.21	20,755.13	0.00	771.30
Surplus/(Deficit) in year	879.20	274.33	244.87	360.00	-771.30
Reserves b/fwd	787.29	787.29	0.00	0.00	1,558.59
Balance c/fwd	1,666.49	1,061.62	244.87	360.00	787.29
Represented by:					
Bank account balance	1,647.34				768.14
Petty Cash	19.15				19.15
Total	1,666.49				787.29



S P Schnabel, Treasurer

Date: 28 July 2021

I have reviewed the records of the above organisation for the year ended 31st March 2021 and confirm that, on the basis of the information provided, this is a true record of income and expenditure for that period.



Name:

Date: 5/8/21

App 2 - TKCC Income and Expenditure to 24 Sept 21

Torridon Kinlochewe Community Council

Income & Expenditure Account

for the period 1 April 21 - 24 Sep 2021

		2021-22 FUNDS ANALYSIS			
	TOTAL	TKCC	Toilets/ Bin Fund	Covid 19 Grant	Seamus Retirement
	£	£	£	£	£
Income					
Grants: Toilets	3,200.00		3,200.00		
Grants: Bin	410.00		410.00		
Donations	97.50	97.50			
Seamus donations	427.44				427.44
Total income	4,134.94	97.50	3,610.00	0.00	427.44
Expenditure					
Toilets cleaning	865.00		865.00		
Refuse management	410.00		410.00		
Misc TKCC expenses	15.00	15.00			
Seamus Gift fund	787.44				787.44
Total expenses	2,077.44	15.00	1,275.00	0.00	787.44
Surplus/(Deficit) in year	2,057.50	82.50	2,335.00	0.00	-360.00
Reserves b/fwd	1,666.49	1,061.62	0.00	244.87	360.00
Balance c/fwd	3,723.99	1,144.12	2,335.00	244.87	0.00
Represented by:					
Bank account balance	3,723.99				
	3,723.99				