

Minutes of Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council (TKCC) Meeting held by Zoom on Friday, 3 April 2020 at 7pm

Present: Caroline Hamilton (Chair), Tom Forrest, Colin Stevenson, Cllr. Alex McInnes, Ward Manager Robbie Bain

1. Apologies and quorum

Anne Macrae (Secretary) had sent apologies on behalf of herself, Carol MacIver and Margaret Smith. This meant there were only 3 members present. RB felt it was necessary to be pragmatic and confirmed that provided there was no dissent from other members to any decisions taken at this meeting, the decisions would be valid.

2. Approval of minutes from meeting on 12 February 2020

Approved by CH, TF and CS.

3. Matters arising

Notices: CH confirmed she had put notices on the noticeboards in the area inviting people to contact TKCC if there were any matters we could help with.

Torridon Play Park: RB said no application to the Ward 5 Discretionary Fund had been received, however members at a recent Ward business meeting had agreed to pay for fixing the gate. This would be subject to TKCC completing the necessary paperwork. After some discussion, it was agreed that £600 should be sufficient. All present thanked RB very much indeed for this.

CH said she contacted the person who TKCC thought might be interested in helping with the Play Park. She had a warm reply, although they did not want to get involved as yet. CH had also spoken to the Community Out West Trust who potentially could be interested in helping once a community 'champion' was on board.

4. Covid-19

CH reported that TKCC was working closely with other organisations in the area to help protect the community from Covid-19, in particular those who are most vulnerable. Measures taken include the following:

- Working with the TDCA and the Community Car Scheme whereby groceries can be delivered to the Torridon Community Centre and placed in an area to be collected. For those self-isolating, the car scheme will then deliver groceries to people's doors.
- The car scheme will also deliver prescriptions.
- At the request of the HC, TKCC had provided a list of community support groups in the area. These include Torridon Stores which can arrange food deliveries to the Community Centre; Gille Brighde which can also order food; and the café in the Torridon Community Centre which is providing takeaway meals.
- A few residents had expressed concern to TKCC about the safety of the takeaway service, however the TDCA had confirmed that all takeaways needed to be ordered in advance and collected within a dedicated timeslot. Also that all sanitising and social distancing rules were being observed.
- Acting as an interface between community groups and the HC.

- Providing the community with useful information from the HC – for example, helplines, business support, NHS guidelines etc. These are posted on Visit Torridon and the Kinlochewe Facebook page.
- Helped to produce guidelines for people receiving food and other deliveries.
- Wrote to Ian Blackford MP and Kate Forbes MSP about the need to deter visitors to the area.
- Considered putting up signs to deter visitors, however decided the area was now so quiet, this would be best left until a later date if necessary
- SSE has announced a fund of £325,000 for grants of up to £3,000 each for Community Council Covid-19 initiatives. It was agreed at the meeting that we should talk to the TDCA and car scheme to see whether they would like TKCC to front an application.

AMc said he was very relieved to hear how much is going on in the area. Without wishing to be complacent, he thinks the Ward is well covered.

5. Westerbus

CH reported that Westerbus had recently announced a reduction in its service from Gairloch to Inverness via Kinlochewe from three to two days a week.

AMc said the HC had discussed providing funding for bus services to rural areas, and he expected further information to come out about this later in the year.

CS commented that the new timetable was very difficult to read, however after some discussion it was felt the service was not much used by local residents, therefore the reduction in service would not affect local residents too badly.

6. Committee roles/bank account signatories

It was agreed it was extremely difficult, particularly at the current time, for members to contribute to the Council if they were not IT proficient and available by email and through internet conferencing facilities.

It was agreed to put the co-option of new members onto the agenda for the next meeting as this could enable the Council to operate more effectively. A new member could potentially take on the role of Treasurer.

Pending a new Treasurer being appointed, it was agreed that CH should collect the books and records from the previous Treasurer, and the bank mandate should be amended to remove the signatories who were no longer members. TF agreed to act as a new signatory.

7. Agendas and minutes

It was agreed that minutes should be posted as soon as possible after each meeting on Visit Torridon and the Kinlochewe Facebook page. Where appropriate, these will make it clear they are in draft.

The issue of where and when to publish agendas will be discussed at a later meeting.

8. Correspondence received

CH confirmed she had received a large number of emails from the HC concerning Covid-19 and related matters. Those containing useful information for the community have been posted on Visit Torridon and the Kinlochewe Facebook page.

9. Planning applications

No notices of planning applications had been provided for the meeting.

10. AOB

The attached report was received from Torridon Fire Service.

The Forestry Commission is looking to close the toilets permanently at Slattadale car park. TF agreed to investigate.

11. Date of next meeting

Wednesday, 27 May 2020 at 7pm. Location or Zoom TBC.