

Minutes (draft) of Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council (TKCC)
Meeting held in person at Kinlochewe Hall at 7.00pm
Wednesday 21st June 2023

Present: Caroline Hamilton (Chair), Steve Schnabel (Treasurer), Sue Whiting (Secretary), Colin Stevenson, Maud McIntyre, Alpin Stewart, Councillor Chris Birt
4 members of the public.

1. **Apologies** – Tom Forrest, Mat Webster.
2. **Minutes of the meeting on 24th May 2023**
Approved.
3. **(a) Matters arising from meeting on 24th May**

30mph signs in Fasaig/Torridon – The day after SW installed the 30mph signs in Fasaig, HC started to install their new 20mph signs. So we took the 30mph signs down again.

For information on the 20mph programme

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/1523/transport_and_streets/1049/20mph_programme

Parapet repair to bridge by Wester Alligin – HC has now finally finished the repair, although a resident has questioned its suitability (see correspondence below).

Kinlochewe Toilet Signage – HC has now finally installed the sign.

HC Local Transport Strategy – MM completed the HC survey to provide feedback on HC's Case for Change report. This feeds into the national planning framework, prioritising sustainable transport and means TKCC is now in the loop for further consultation.

Dog poo bin – This has been purchased using Covid funds and will be placed on the Torridon shore path.

Bin surround, Torridon – AS noted that now the large bin has been moved from opposite Torridon Stores, the smaller bin has been overflowing at the time of the last 2 uplifts. This is clearly very unsightly, therefore he will ask residents if they would prefer to have the large bin back with a neater surround. Once the size of bin is known, an estimate can be obtained for building the surround.

Action: AS

Balgy bridge road closure, 31 May – SW contacted HC as agreed. HC said they had discussed the closure with Kinlochewe School and agreed timings with them. As daylight hours are long, they agreed to consider working in the evenings if any road closures are required in the summer in future. In the event, AS noted they completed the work ahead of time.

(b) Matters arising from meeting on 25th April

Torridon School – Following HC's public meeting as part of their statutory consultation, TKCC was contacted by the inspector from Education Scotland. Her role is to help inform HC's decision by providing a report on the educational benefits of closing the school after the public consultation is complete.

AS reported that MW met the inspector as agreed on 9 May. She was very sympathetic regarding the lack of educational facilities, especially for children and parents who needed to travel long distances to Shieldaig from Diabaig and Kinlochewe. She agreed Torridon School was more centrally located but the consultation has to be seen in the context that the school has been mothballed for a long time, and Shieldaig School has received a lot of investment and is more fit for purpose.

4. Treasurer's report

Costs incurred this month included £340 relating to the community development plan (£60 for meeting room hire, £100 photocopying and £180 printing of leaflets). Of the £926.00 received in March from SCDC to finance items of this sort, the balance remaining is £201.75. After the purchase of the dog poo bin (see above) for £138.82, the Covid fund now has a balance of £561.18. Current bank balance £2,029.06.

5. Guest Speaker – Fraser Conall – Seasonal HC Access Ranger

Unfortunately, as a retained firefighter, Fraser was called away on an emergency and was unable to attend the meeting. This item was therefore deferred to the next meeting.

6. Correspondence received

- HC - Community Council Election Timetables

The next election for TKCC and other community councils in the HC area will be held in September/ October 2023. People who wish to become members, as well as current members who wish to re-join, must send their nominations/ applications to HC at the earliest on 5 September, with the deadline being 12noon on Tuesday, 3 October 2023. If 8 people or fewer put their names forward, they will join TKCC unopposed, if more people want to join, there will be a public vote. Link to the full timetable: www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/download/1109/community_council_notice_of_election_-_2023.

The notice of election and further guidance for candidates wishing to serve their local Community Councils for the next four years will be published by HC online on Monday, 4 September.

The application process is very simple, it requires nothing more than a name and address and confirmation that the applicant is on the electoral roll for our area. You must have a note of your electoral registration number which can be obtained by contacting your local electoral registration office (on HC website). CH encouraged anyone who is interested to contact an existing TKCC member to find out more about what the role entails. She also asked any existing members who do not intend to stand again to let her or SW know as soon as possible.

TKCC will put notices on village noticeboards to advertise.

Action: SW/MM/Other members

- Scottish Government Planning - Phase 3 of Permitted Development Rights Review - Public Consultation

The Scottish Government is currently conducting a substantial review of permitted development rights (PDR) as part of its wider planning reform programme.

Phase 3 of the review focusses primarily on new and extended PDR for domestic and non-domestic renewable energy equipment. The proposals would streamline the planning

process for various zero and low carbon technologies, such as solar panels and heat pumps. Other proposals in the Phase 3 consultation relate to electricity network infrastructure, reverse vending machines, certain domestic flues and the temporary use of land.

The Phase 3 public consultation was launched on 31 May 2023 and can be found here: [Permitted Development Rights review - phase 3: consultation - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Permitted-Development-Rights-review-phase-3-consultation)
Closing date for responses is Wednesday 23 August 2023.

- Wester Alligin resident – has questioned whether HC’s repair of the bridge by Wester Alligin is appropriate and whether a safety barrier should be installed. SW has forwarded the email to HC roads department and awaits a response.

Action: SW

- TreeStory – Ben Damp Estate
Original email was sent to TKCC in early June but went into spam – SW discovered it just before the meeting and has requested an extension to the response date.

Ben Damp Estate is exploring the potential for creating new native woodland habitat at Allt a’ Ghiuthais and Doire Damh. TreeStory are working on behalf of the estate to undertake the planning process, following Scottish Forestry published guidance. They are inviting all stakeholders to provide input on any issues or constraints which they believe should influence the forest planning process. Their scoping document summarises the aims and objectives of the project as well as work carried out so far. Copies of the document can be found on TKCC website.

The cut off time for response has been extended to 21st July to allow for community feedback.

7. Planning applications

23/02539/FUL | Alterations to roof and extension; repurpose existing outbuildings as ancillary residential annexe and sauna; improvements to accessibility and drainage | East Lodge Annat.

It was noted the proposal involved removing a number of trees and members agreed that TKCC should ask for new trees to be planted in mitigation.

Action: CH/MM

Pre-planning consultation - Proposed base station installation upgrade at Cornerstone 11173828, 200m uphill from Forest Road, South East of A896, Coulin NGR: E: 201360 N: 858260.

No comments.

8. Any other business

Howard Doris Centre, Lochcarron – Public Meeting on Monday 12th June

NHS Highland plans to take on responsibility for the ongoing care of tenants and patients within the Centre later this year.

On the 12 June they held a public meeting to hear what facilities members of our communities would to see developed in the future and to answer any questions. MM attended and reported the following:

The catchment area is Applecross, Torridon, Lochcarron, however over the past few years, the Centre has had less contact with clients from Applecross and Torridon/ Shieldaig.

NHS are to take on 3 out of the Centre's 4 activities: Albion Housing tenancies with medical support, step up/ step down beds with minor medical support for those who are not quite fit enough to be at home, and respite/ end of life care.

The Day Care facility will be community run and become a community wellbeing hub. It already provides many activities including gardening, pétanque. It may rebrand but needs funding and volunteers for the steering group. MM joined as a volunteer in the capacity of a resident of the area.

There used to be 30 regular users of the day care facility pre Covid, including from Torridon and Kinlochewe area. David Murray who presented at the meeting reported numbers had dwindled post lockdown. MM's informal conversations with local residents in our area indicate there is still a need. It was agreed she should relay this on behalf of TKCC.

Action: MM

TKCC minutes – recognising that not everyone in our area has access to the internet, it was agreed that hard copy minutes of TKCC meetings should be made available every month in Torridon Community Centre and Kinlochewe Village Hall.

Action: SW/MM

Kinlochewe village septic tank – CS reported that due to the low level of the river in Kinlochewe, it was noticed that the waste water outflow pipe from the village communal septic tank near the public toilets was visible and solids were coming out of the pipe. SEPA, Scottish Water, COW Trust were all contacted. Scottish Water have inspected the tank and consider the cause of the solids to be a build-up of fats in the tank. The tank has been emptied and CS asked Scottish Water to review the frequency of emptying. Scottish Water will contact CS with an update.

It was agreed that more information may be need to be provided to those unaware of septic tank use on what should, and should not, be put into the waste system.

Action CS

Next meeting dates both on Zoom at 7pm:

Wednesday 19th July 2023,

Wednesday 6th September 2023

Note: In view of the upcoming TKCC elections, it is not possible to fix further meeting dates at this point. There will be no meeting in August.