

**Minutes (draft) of Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council (TKCC) Meeting held by Zoom on Wednesday, 28 July 2021 at 7pm**

Present: Caroline Hamilton (Chair), Chris Davies (Secretary), Colin Stevenson, Tom Forrest, Councillor Alex MacInnes, Graham Gristwood - Cape Wrath Ultra

5 members of the public.

Before the meeting started, TKCC recorded its great sadness at the passing of Helen Callow. Helen was elected as a Community Councillor last year but unfortunately had to resign almost immediately as a result of her ill health.

**1. Apologies**

Steve Schnabel (Treasurer), Alpin Stewart, Mat Webster, Sally Cook.

**2. Minutes of meeting on 30 June 2021**

Approved.

**3. Cape Wrath Ultra**

Graham Gristwood from Ourea Events, organiser of the Cape Wrath Ultra, said this year's event would take place from 1-8 August (postponed from May). The race from Fort William to Cape Wrath is 400km long and runners will pass through Kinlochewe on 4/5 August.

The field is smaller than it was last time the race was held in 2018, with fewer than 100 runners. They are expected to arrive in Kinlochewe very spread out from early afternoon onwards on 4 August, having passed around the back of Ben Eighe. They will cross the road at Cromasaig where they will camp for the night. They will then set off in two groups at around 7-7.30am and 8.30-9am on 5 August, and run along the road through Kinlochewe and Incheril before taking to the hills again. They are expected all to be gone by 9.30am.

The organisers are very aware of safety issues along the road and assured TKCC that they would put all the necessary safety measures in place.

They pride themselves on their environmental and sustainability credentials, and are focused on causing the minimum of damage. This has included taking advice from an ecologist on areas and sites along the route to keep away from.

The organisers hope to make the race an annual event and would like to bring business to the Torridon and Kinlochewe area. They are keen to obtain feedback from locals – both positive and negative – on how the race goes this year.

**4. Matters arising from minutes of 30 June**

*Alex MacInnes email problems*

AM is trying to resolve his IT problems so that he can receive emails from tkcc.scot email accounts. He agreed to sort this out with HC as soon as possible, pending which he asked TKCC to use his personal address: alexmacinnes88@yahoo.com

Action: AM

#### *Torridon road sign*

MW to report at the next meeting on any progress he has made on finding out whether the brown tourist sign that used to be outside Torridon could be reinstated.

Action: MW

#### *Traffic calming – Kinlochewe*

AM reported on his meeting with Ian Moncrieff. It appears Ian is the only person at HC able to produce the necessary designs and drawings for traffic calming schemes, and he has 95 schemes to do. The Ward 5 Councillors are therefore seeking additional resource to do this for Ward 5, having disaggregated the Ward 5 roads from the rest of the HC roads department.

AM has asked HC to make the Kinlochewe scheme a priority, and is waiting for Ian to give him a date when it will be implemented. He agreed the scheme had been under discussion for far too long and suggested TKCC should increase the pressure on HC by writing to the Chief Executive, copying Ian.

Lilah Ford said Ian had promised that HC would do the work 3 or 4 years ago. She described the problems with traffic in Kinlochewe and said these were getting worse. She highlighted in particular the noise and speed of motorbikes, and vehicles parked on pavements.

TF also reminded AM that HC agreed last year to install traffic counters, however these have not materialised. AM said he would chase this up.

Action: AM

#### *NTS Ranger, Torridon*

Paul Bolton has moved to Torridon and starts officially in his post in the next few days. It was agreed we should invite him to the TKCC meeting in September.

Action: CD

*Scottish Fire and Rescue Service* – CD has informed SFRS of the TKCC decision taken on 30 June. It was agreed that if SFRS ever change their mind, their representatives would be welcome to attend and present their reports to our meetings.

A representative from the First Responders would also be welcome, and CD will enquire if they still wish to attend.

Action: CD

#### *Diabaig roads*

TKCC is extremely pleased that HC has started work this week on the roads in Diabaig. CH thanked TF and AM for their assistance in getting this done.

## **5. Post Office – Torridon**

It was agreed that TKCC should explore the possibility of re-establishing the Post Office facility in Torridon. This was previously provided as an outreach service by Kinlochewe Post Office.

CD said she understood that Kinlochewe Post Office was not doing outreach services any more. It was agreed we should talk to Jeremy about the reasons for this, and depending on his response, we will consider approaching another post office to provide the service.

Action: CS

## 6. Correspondence

*Press and Journal* – Reporter Stuart Findlay is working on a project focused on local views of the North Coast 500 and hopes to create the most extensive level of feedback there has been on the route so far. It was agreed that TKCC should contact him.

Action: TF

*Skillseeder* – SkillSeeder is an online platform, backed by the Scottish Government, intended to improve access to training and help the nation upskill. The idea behind the platform is that for every skill someone needs to learn, somebody in their local community already has it, therefore it is designed to enable people to share their skills.

It was agreed we should look at the platform and, if appropriate, contact them to find out more.

Action: CH

## 7. Planning applications

No new planning applications in the area.

It was noted that planning permission has recently been granted for a 4G telecoms mast to be erected on Applecross near the road between Kenmore and Arrina. TKCC understands this is intended for use by the Emergency Services Network (ESN) as well as general mobile phone operators. Therefore if it goes ahead, the proposed Home Office mast on the path from Diabaig to Craig may no longer be required, and the residents of Diabaig should all benefit for the first time from mobile phone coverage.

## 8. Any Other Competent Business

A hill race up and down Meall a'Ghuibhais will take place on Saturday, 16 July 2022. This will start and finish at the National Nature Reserve car park beside Loch Maree, and will be a counter in the Scottish Hill Runners 2022 championship series. The organisers are in touch with Kinlochewe Hall as a venue for registration, refreshments and presentations.