

## **Minutes (draft) of Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council (TKCC) Meeting held by Zoom on Wednesday, 21 October 2020 at 8pm**

**Present:** Caroline Hamilton (Chair), Tom Forrest (Treasurer), Colin Stevenson, Christine Davies (Secretary), Steve Schnabel, Alpin Stewart, Sally Cook

Mary Peart – COW Trust, 4 members of the public

**1. Apologies:** Mat Webster and firefighter Emily John. Unfortunately Helen Callow has had to resign as a Councillor due to health issues. The committee wished her a speedy recovery. We were delighted to welcome SC as a co-opted member to the committee.

### **2. Minutes of meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020**

Approved.

### **3. Community Out West – Kinlochewe toilets - Mary Peart**

The meeting was joined by Mary Peart who shared some of COW's experiences from running and upgrading the Kinlochewe toilets, so that TKCC can explore options for addressing the lack of public conveniences elsewhere in our area.

Key points included:

- cleaning and funding are the principal challenges
- COW believes the toilets have brought business to the village, with lots of people stopping for a coffee etc.
- local businesses advertise at the toilets, last year they paid to advertise, this year not.
- the proposed new chemical toilet waste disposal unit will cost £400 for a non-flushing version, £600 for a flushing version
- there will also be delivery (£60) and installation costs, plus paving and a tap to put in, making the total cost just over £1,000.
- North Highland Initiative have provided a grant for the above of £1,000.
- it takes 5 minutes to empty a toilet using the chemical waste unit
- COW have decided not to charge for using the chemical waste unit, since they do not wish to put drivers off using it.
- Campervan drivers have historically been generous with their donations.
- Kinlochewe operates with a giant septic tank, this makes the permissions easier, however the process is still not complete, with Anglian Water being particularly slow.
- Mary believes SEPA would need to be involved with any similar unit in Torridon.
- similar chemical waste units either exist or are being installed in Shieldaig, Gairloch and Big Sand.

### **4. Matters arising**

#### **Data protection**

TKCC needs to register with the Information Commissioner.

Action: AS

#### **Email accounts & dropbox**

CD to setup and circulate details of the new Email accounts and dropbox details

Action: CD

### **Planning Applications**

#### *Diabaig – Craig path telecoms mast*

CH, CD and Kevin Wood met with representatives of the Home Office who came on a site visit today. We walked out to the proposed location on the Diabaig to Craig path to see some of the difficulties of the proposed location and discussed the concerns which have been expressed by members of the public which they acknowledged. We also visited and discussed other potential locations close to the target section of road on Applecross. They agreed to evaluate again the possible sites and report back. There has been no response from Highland Council about the proposed overhead powerlines, CH will follow up again.

Action: CH

TKCC brainstorming meeting confirmed for 11 November by Zoom.

### **5. Treasurer's report**

The current balance, as at 21<sup>st</sup> October, for the COVID funding after all expenditure to date stands at £3,224.68. The balance of other TKCC funds stands at £1,457.83, with liabilities totalling £68.95.

### **6. Emergency Services report (written)**

Firefighter Emily John was unable to attend in person but submitted a written report with the main points below.

- Callouts - both stations continue to be very quiet. Torridon crew have attended just 6 incidents so far this year, with the last one on 13 Aug (an "AFA" - false alarm).
- Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) are continuing and there is a new online Fire Safety in the Home questionnaire available for those would further advice/info.
- Kishorn Rig Familiarisation Visit - local crews from the area went on a familiarisation visit to the Oil Rig at Kishorn.
- New Fire & Smoke Alarm Standard in Scottish Homes - the new legislation regarding smoke/heat detection in Scottish homes is set to be deferred from Feb 21 until Feb 22. The new standard requires every domestic property in Scotland, regardless of tenure, to have:
  - one smoke alarm installed in the room most frequently used for general daytime living purposes;
  - one smoke alarm in every circulation space on each storey, such as hallways and landings;
  - one heat alarm installed in every kitchen;
  - carbon monoxide detectors where there is a carbon-fuelled appliance or a flue
  - all alarms should be ceiling mounted and interlinked.

See <https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/for-householders/fire-and-smoke-alarms-in-scottish-homes.aspx>

- Bonfire Night - Bonfire/Fireworks Safety Leaflets will soon be available locally. Advice also available online <https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety.aspx>

- Chimney Fires - a reminder to give your chimney a clean sweep before winter. The type of fuel you burn will determine how often your chimney should be swept:
  - smokeless coals or oil - at least once a year
  - wood - quarterly when in use
  - bituminous coal or peat - twice a year

### **First Responders**

*Reactivation Training* - having been stood down as responders early on in the pandemic, CFR are now being reactivated and training was received on 29 Sept. If an ambulance is called to the area (Ardheslaig - Diabaig - Kinlochewe) and CFR are available, they will respond, providing life saving interventions, or maybe just some calm, control and comfort until the ambulance arrives.

*Recruitment* - the Scottish Ambulance Service are starting to plan training courses again, to start in Jan 21. As the Torridon team is down to just 2, now is a great time to get involved and help build this potentially lifesaving resource for the community. The ambulance can be 45mins-1hr away, which makes CFR so essential. If you are interested, see <https://www.scottishambulance.com/YourCommunity/responders.aspx>

For further information on all the above, please contact [emily.john@firescotland.gov.uk](mailto:emily.john@firescotland.gov.uk), 07876 610167.

## **7. Roads**

- **Update since last meeting**

The damaged road surface at Coulin has now been repaired. Crews have been clearing flooded areas and filling potholes on the A896. Verge cutting has started in Kinlochewe.

- **potential traffic counters**

Mack Sutherland has advised that one of the ways to have more cash invested in the local roads, is to have the roads upgraded. Therefore he has suggested traffic counters could be installed to record traffic usage on the roads and encouraged TKCC to put a request into the Roads Department for counters to be installed at Easter 2021.

Following discussion the committee voted and approved the request for counters to be installed at the following points:

- Torridon House - turn on the road to Diabaig
- Glen Torridon – single track section
- Above view point in Glen Doherty.

Action: TF

- **winter gritting**

Mack advised that he has arranged for 10 gritting bins to be put along the road to Diabaig

## **8. HIE Communities Recovery Fund**

The TKCC has £3,224 left from the COVID funding which we have been advised can be rolled over to the Communities Recovery fund. The Communities Recovery Fund has different funding criteria, so we need to submit new ideas for the use of the remaining funds, otherwise we will need to return them.

Ideas suggested for further consideration: Prescription/shopping deliveries via the car scheme – but need to check if this can be incorporated as part of their remit (SS to draft a recommendation to the car scheme to consider); Renewals for website domains, email etc; Helping children to be more involved in the wider community and enhancing some of the public spaces, eg. Bus stop at Torridon, gardening, outdoor activity which brings the kids and wider community together; Natural play areas for children within the play park; External hand sanitisers and PPE for Kinlochewe Hall; With second wave of COVID-19 should we request to retain the funds as we do not know what is around the corner; Compostable toilets - maybe an option at Alligin, Diabiag and/or the playground in Torridon.

CH will discuss our ideas with HIE and report back.

Action: CH/SS

## **9. Remembrance Day commemorations**

Guidance has been issued by the Highland Council advising against any formal commemoration celebrations for Remembrance Day and Armistice Day. Given the restrictions in place, SS will discuss with Tom Lambert in Fasaig about how they would like to proceed with laying the wreath in Torridon. Lilah Ford subsequently confirmed that she and colleagues will arrange for their own wreath to be laid at Kinlochewe.

Action: SS

## **10. AOB**

### **The Grampian Club Centenary Woodland Project**

The Grampian Walking Club, who own Newton Cottage in Annat, contacted the TKCC to advise that they are planning a woodland planting project in 2027 to plant 2000 native trees to replace the trees which were destroyed in the hill fire a few years ago. They will hopefully be working with the NTS on the project and were keen for the community to be aware of their plans. We have advised that we are supportive of the project and asked to be kept in the loop as their plans develop.

### **Celtman**

They have written to advise that they hope to be back next year on the 12 June 2021.

### **Two Ball Banger Rally**

An old banger car rally is due to be held on the May bank holiday and in October 2021.

### **Postal Delivery Times**

A resident of Diabaig has asked whether TKCC could help her to lobby Royal Mail to get the postal deliveries to Diabaig to be made earlier in the day. With the increased volume of post due to Covid-19, delivery is sometimes not made until 7.30pm. After some discussion, it was agreed that before taking any action, we should discuss the situation in detail with the posties to obtain their views.