

Minutes (draft) of Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council (TKCC) Meeting held by Zoom on Wednesday, 14 April 2021 at 7pm

Present: Caroline Hamilton (Chair), Steve Schnabel, Alpin Stewart, Sally Cook, Mat Webster, Chris Davies (Secretary), Janet Miles, GALE, Louise Close, GALE, Cory Jones, GALE

3 members of the public

1. Apologies

Tom Forrest (Treasurer), Colin Stevenson & Firefighter Emily John.

2. Minutes of meeting on 17th March 2021

Approved.

3. Gairloch and Loch Ewe Action Forum – Janet Miles

Janet Miles, Managing Director of GALE presented an overview of the GALE development trust and its vision to develop a sustainable, resilient and vibrant Gairloch and Loch Ewe community where people of all ages live, work and thrive. GALE is a membership organisation, and covers a geographical area from Badcaul to Kinlochewe (based on the old parish wards) running a wide range of projects from infrastructure to social projects.

Pre-Covid, typically around 75% of GALE's funding was self-generated, with the remaining 25% coming from grants. This did however vary year on year. They aim to become an independent, entirely self-funding organisation.

GALE commenced a fresh consultation for their development plan in 2019, this was then put on hold because of Covid. They have recently started it up again using Planning for Real and the online platform Vocal Eyes which enables people to submit their ideas for the area. They also plan to hold a series of "drop-in" sessions once Covid restrictions are lifted.

GALE has never done anything in Kinlochewe and they currently have no project plans for the village. However, as part of the GALE consultation, a possible drop-in session could be scheduled for the autumn.

CH advised that as Kinlochewe is part of the TKCC area and is part of our local community, Kinlochewe will certainly be included in the community development planning process that TKCC has initiated with the help of SCDC.

4. Matters arising from the minutes of meeting on 17th March 2021

Community Gardening

SC confirmed that all projects are progressing.

Previous Community Development Plan

CH to follow up with TF to check if he has found any further information or documentation about a reported previous community development plan.

Action: CH

Community Housing Trust

The Communities Housing Trust (CHT) have provided some more information on their proposed plans, and have advised that they will try to dovetail their consultation with our community development plan consultation if the timetable allows. AS to provide CHT with our planning timescale and to encourage them to incorporate their consultation with ours.

Action: AS

Seamus MacNally Collection/Local Hero Awards

A reminder that the deadline for contributions to the collection for Seamus is 15th April. MW confirmed an article will be published in An Carrannach.

Nominations for the final round of local hero awards have been received and the awards will be made over the coming days.

National Census

CH confirmed that representations have been sent to the Scottish Parliament querying why the census in Scotland has been cancelled, and highlighting its importance for rural communities.

A totally inadequate response has been received, but no further action is proposed.

Torrison School

No response from the HC has been received following several chasing emails in relation to ownership of the school. AS however has undertaken research on the land titles and they appear to confirm that the Council has title to the school and the school house, the play area to the side of the school and the ground at the back of the school to the burn.

AS also confirmed that the HC has title to the site of the toilets as well as the campsite and the site of the fire station. It is possible that the fire station may have been transferred "off register" to the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service.

Bealach Mhor Cycle race

TF to confirm whether Alex MacInnes has contacted him in relation to insurance requirements.

Action: TF

Celtman

SS confirmed that following the relaxation of Covid restrictions, the organisers are currently assessing the potential implications for this year's event. They are keen to attend the next TKCC meeting to discuss their plans. SS to follow up and invite.

Action: SS

5. Emergency services report

Firefighter Emily John was unable to attend the meeting but requested that the following should be brought to the attention of the meeting:

Scottish Fire & Rescue Service in conjunction with the Scottish Wildlife Forum have issued an EXTREME risk of wildfire warning for the area from tomorrow until Saturday. Please can people locally exercise extreme caution and think twice before using anything involving a naked flame.

6. Community Development plan update

Further meetings have been held with SCDC involving representatives from TKCC, TDCA, COW, and Kinlochewe Hall (the Torridon Kinlochewe Development Plan Group (The Action Group)) to draw up an outline plan of how to proceed.

A series of fortnightly meetings of the Action Group were agreed and anyone from within the community can join the meetings. These are scheduled for every other Tuesday at 7pm. A flier will be distributed explaining more, and giving the Zoom joining details.

A timetable for the community consultation has been developed and it was agreed that a launch event will be held possibly in early to mid July at Torridon Community Centre.

The next step is to develop a questionnaire for the community consultation.

7. Waste & Toilets

Torridon toilets

MW advised that the public toilets should be reopening on 26th April. The campsite will not be reopening. TKCC has been promised total funding of £3.2K which should enable the facilities to stay open until the end of October. The grant funding was provided by: £1.5K from the Highland Council Discretionary Fund; £1K from North Highlands Initiative; £700 from the National Trust.

Further volunteers to help keep the facilities clean would be very welcome. Volunteers will be paid out of the above grant funding.

Despite MW trying to contact Alex MacInnes at his request, via both phone and email, Alex MacInnes has so far failed to be in touch.

The meeting thanked MW for all his hard work and perseverance in getting the toilets reopened.

Waste bins

An order for a replacement bin in front of the shop has been placed following confirmation of grant funding from North Highlands Initiative. Delivery should be early May.

The old bin will be moved back to the campsite area.

8. Treasurer's report

Deferred until next meeting

Action: TF

9. Any Other Competent Business

HC has opened a book of condolence for HRH Duke of Edinburgh, and it was agreed that TKCC should sign it.

Action: CH