

**Minutes (draft) of Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council Annual General Meeting held by Zoom on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 8pm**

**Present:** Caroline Hamilton (Chair), Anne Macrae (Secretary), Colin Stevenson, Tom Forrest (Treasurer), Mat Webster, Christine Davies, Cllr. Alex MacInnes

8 members of the public

1. **Apologies**  
Robbie Bain, Ward Manager.
2. **Minutes of 2019 AGM**  
Approved.
3. **Chair's annual report**  
The attached was delivered orally by CH.
4. **Financial statement for 2020 financial year**  
Deferred.
5. **Election of office bearers**  
CH, AM and TF stood down as office bearers.  
CH and TF were re-elected as Chair and Treasurer respectively.  
CD was elected Secretary.
6. **Provisional date for next AGM**  
June 2021.

## **Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council**

**AGM – 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

### **Chair's Report**

Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council commenced its new term of office this year. Our inaugural meeting was in February and, as a new member, I was surprised and honoured find myself elected Chair.

Since then, a lot has happened. We have welcomed new co-opted members, Mat Webster and Christine Davies, and hope to welcome more. Sadly too we have said goodbye to two longstanding servants in Maggie Smith and Carole McIver. Also, Anne Macrae, who whilst remaining as a member, has decided to stand down as Secretary after many years in office. For as long as I can remember, she really has been at the heart of everything at TKCC, and I would like to thank her very much indeed.

Covid-19 has turned everyone's lives upside down and, with the community facing unprecedented challenges, I believe it is more important than ever for everyone to work together.

We have put in place a number of measures that I hope will make a real difference. Thanks to a £21,000 grant we successfully obtained from the Scottish Government through HIE's Supporting Communities Fund, on 1 June we started a food/fuel voucher scheme to help those who are finding it increasingly hard to cope financially. At the same time, the scheme is helping local businesses to continue to trade and sustain the local economy.

We are procuring facemasks, gloves and sanitiser for the numerous volunteers who are helping others; seeking to help volunteers make facemasks for the community; building a new website that will contain information about Covid-19; and providing funding for screens for drivers in the Community Car Scheme with the aim of ensuring they can adhere to social distancing rules and carry more passengers again.

We have been collaborating with the TDCA, including in obtaining a further grant of £5,225, this time from the Scottish Government Wellbeing Fund. This is to enhance lowland walking paths and promote physical activity in the Torridon area, thereby enabling people to improve their physical and mental health. We look forward to putting together a volunteer team to deliver this project with the TDCA and NTS.

The community has been in lockdown now for eleven weeks. With no visitors or cars on the NC500, it has been exceptionally quiet and the environment and wildlife have flourished. Sometime soon, we expect tourists to return. This will be welcomed by some, and greeted by others with apprehension. As a Community Council, our role is to represent everyone. This will include looking for further grant opportunities and initiatives to develop, and dealing with more mundane matters such as the state of the roads.

We are keen to involve as many people in the community as possible. Please do tell us what you would like us to do, and please do participate and come to our meetings. I believe the community can thrive on healthy debate, and we will do our best to help.

I would like to thank all my colleagues for the huge energy and commitment they continue to show, as well as many others in the community who are helping us to get things done. A big hand too to Robbie Bain at the Highland Council and Cllr Alex McInnes for their support.

It's great to see people at our meetings from throughout the area and, in some ways, Zoom has brought us together. We will continue to meet exclusively this way - until the day we all look forward to, when finally, we can reconvene in person.

Caroline Hamilton

10 June 2020