

KILLEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 MARCH 2021

Members present	Caroline Carrick, Andrew Donaldson, Susie Henderson, Hilary McGregor, Jim Ptolomey (Chair), Fiona Rennie
Apologies	Heidi Bryce, Elizabeth Jones, Police Scotland
In attendance	Doug Ashworth, Cllr Alistair Berrill, Cllr Rob Davies, Graeme Fraser KCFC, Euan Shaw, Fergus McFarlane, Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust 21 members of the public, Christine Bauwens (Minute Secretary)
How to contact us	Go to www.killlearncc.org.uk and click on contact button.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the KCC meeting on 17 March 2021 was held via Zoom.

Jim informed the meeting of the passing of Jim Fallas who died on Thursday 11 March. Mr Fallas was a very active member of the local community and will be sorely missed. His funeral will take place on 25 March at 11.00 am. KCC wish to extend sincere condolences to his wife Mary and family at this sad time.

CC1032 – MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2020

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

CC1033 – MATTERS ARISING

- **CC1022 – Road and General Maintenance**

Jim informed the meeting that resurfacing work will begin on Branziert Road week commencing 22 March. The state of the footpath at the bottom end of Station Road was raised at the recent SW Area Forum.

- **CC1023 – Q&A with Alyn Smith MP – Broadband**

A letter has been sent to Openreach from Alyn Smith MP regarding the broadband situation and a response awaited.

- **CC1025 – Councillor's Report – Education issues during lockdown**

Cllr Berrill and Alyn Smith followed up the issues raised for education during lockdown. The response from the Department of Education indicates some improvements although day to day teaching varies between different teachers and different schools.

CC1034 – PRESENTATION BY LOCH LOMOND FISHERIES TRUST

Fergus McFarlane of the Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust was welcomed to the meeting. He spoke about the Endrick Legacy Project, which has involved habitat restoration work in the local area such as targeting Invasive Non-Native Species, removing small barriers to fish migration and tree planting. Fergus explained about the control of invasive plants such as Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and American Skunk Cabbage in the local area. Invasive animal species such as American mink and American cray fish also require to be controlled. As well as bank protection and willow weaving, clearing of fallen trees and debris is also undertaken. The Trust has recently planted around 300 trees but sadly Fergus informed the meeting that between 26 February and 9 March, the trees which were planted on the banks of Endrick Water, had been stolen. As this area is popular with walkers and cyclists, if any member of the public recalls seeing anything out of the ordinary, please contact Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust on l.lomondfisheriestrust@gmail.com

Subject to the easing of COVID restrictions, the Trust would welcome the opportunity to work with volunteers. Please see their website for further information <http://www.llft.org>

CC1035 – POLICE MATTERS

As Police Scotland was unable to attend the meeting, due to it being held via Zoom, Fiona presented the following Police Report:

- Vehicles stuck on A81 near Gartness due to flooding.
- B818 closed due to partial bridge collapse.
- Police deterred motorists from parking in the area at Glengoyne Distillery and moved away persons who had come from outwith the area.
- Speed checks to be carried out in the village in the near future.
- Report of suspicious person thought to be a bogus workman at house in Balfroon Road. Search made by Police but found no trace of him.
- Fraud reported in Gargunnock of company offering to investigate Council Tax banding and apply for backdated rebate if error found. The company took a fee of £195 without the approval of the customer. Bitcoin investment fraud and fraudulent sale of puppies have been attempted in other local villages. Residents should also beware of telephone callers pretending to be from their bank, from HMRC or offering a deal or prize and asking for personal information.
- The problem of sheep worrying by dogs at this time of year.

The full police report is available on KCC website www.killlearncc.org.uk

CC1036 – KCFC UPDATE

Following recent announcements from the Scottish Government, Graeme reported it is hoped to gradually open up facilities at the Village Hall. Weddings with a maximum of 50 guests can take place and the Kitchen Window café has been open for takeaway. The recent edition of Killlearn Courier features an article on the Heritage Trail and it is hoped to have the official opening in May depending on COVID restrictions. £500 has been donated to the G63 Group Crowdfunder to support the Grow Garden project to create a community food garden between Balfroon and Killlearn.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/grow-g63>

CC1037 – BROADBAND

Doug informed the meeting that a letter had been sent from KCC to Alyn Smith MP regarding the problems with broadband in Killearn. He in turn has written to Openreach.

Residents in the Branziert area have received postcards from the Scottish Government stating that the planned landline upgrade will not happen until the second half of 2022. It is hoped that because of this, these premises will be able to use the Interim Voucher Scheme which should cover the installation costs of a wireless internet facility.

It would appear that other premises in the village, such as Rowan Crescent and other properties in the Trees Estate, will also not have a fibre connection until the second half of 2022. Help for these premises may be possible with the Interim Vouchers.

Following investigation into the poor bandwidth at the Primary School, Doug explained that the current service of 300 Mbps is shared across 22 sites, including McLaren High School and Balfron High School. SC are working on connecting these two high schools to their own fibre services which should make a significant improvement but will take some time to implement. In the meantime, more locally-based interim alternatives are being investigated to bring about improvement more quickly.

KCC wish to express grateful thanks to Doug and Euan for their ongoing work on behalf of the community.

CC1038 – PLANNING

Planning Schedule

- **Valid Planning Applications Received**

21/00065/FUL Change of Use of Farm Building to Storage and for Parking of Buses (Retrospective) at North Ballochruin Farm, Balfron Station, Killearn G63 0LE
No comment.

21/00138/FUL Extension of Bedroom at First Floor Level into Footprint of Existing Balcony at 9 Drumbeg Loan, Killearn G63 9LG
No comment.

20/00868/FUL Erection of Building to Form Garage and Holiday Let Unit at Carbeth Lodge, Drumtitan Road, Killearn G63 9QB
No comment.

21/00186/LAW Erection of Dwelling House Approved under Conditions of Planning Permission 11/00441/MSC at Land at Killearn House Walled Garden, Killearn.
No comment.

- **Decisions of Appointed Officers**

None.

Other Planning Matters

- Rural Stirling Housing Association – Lampson Road site.

No further information is available.

- Former Killearn Hospital Site

There have been staff changes within CALA. No date for starting work on site has been announced as yet.

- Development of Former Killearn Hotel

Final paperwork is awaited before work can commence. 100 entries were received by the developers in response to their competition to rename the building. The winning entry is “Killearn Court”. A plaque will be made for the front wall of the building with information about the Black Bull Hotel, so that this piece of local history will not be forgotten.

- Finnich Glen

The local developer informed the meeting that on 23 February, agreement was reached with SC on their reasonable conditions. However, due to the COVID pandemic and the protracted length of time taken in the project so far, alternative investors are now being sought.

CC1039 – ROADS AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE REPORT

Speed monitoring has been carried out in Balfron Road, Station Road and Main Street. It is expected that more information regarding the 20 mph consultation process will be available in April.

Residents of Branziert Road have received letters from SC regarding resurfacing work beginning on 21 March. As this is bin collection day, it was agreed KCC write to SC to clarify whether bins should be put out that day. (*Action JP*)

The meeting was informed of a proposal for glamping pods at Drumtian Road, off A81 to Aberfoyle.

CC1040 – COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Cllrs Berrill and Davies were both in attendance and reported on the following issues:

- As yet, no response has been received regarding the Councillor’s enquiries about the pathway on Station Road.
- Viewforth link road has been postponed but not cancelled.
- A bid to stop the £35 garden waste permit was voted down by 11 votes to 10.
- There will be a bi-election on 6 May for Strathendrick Ward.
- Closure of B818 for major bridge repairs. A local resident expressed frustration about SC neglect of local bridges over the past number of years.
- COVID related grants are available for B&Bs and guesthouses but applications must be submitted by week ending 19 March.
- Delay in painting double lines on A81 near Dumgoyne Distillery.
- Council Tax has been frozen for the next financial year.

CC1041 – TREASURER’S REPORT

As Elizabeth was unable to attend, Fiona gave the following report:

Expenditure	£40.00 administrative costs
	£71.86 annual web hosting fee
	£2,307.46 Christmas lights invoice
Current Bank Balance	£1,176.79

From the grant for Sharing Happiness Project, £32.98 has been spent on COVID information cards with support contact details.

CC1042 – QUESTION TIME

A question was asked from a member of the public regarding the garden waste permit. It was confirmed that the permit will be issued as a weather-proof sticker which will adhere to the brown bin in all weather conditions. See website for further information <https://stirling.gov.uk/bins-waste-recycling/garden-waste-permits/>

CC1043 – CORRESPONDENCE

Fiona reminded the meeting that the deadline to apply to vote by post in Stirling for the Scottish Parliament Election on 6 May, 2021 is 6 April. <https://stirling.gov.uk/council-democracy/politicians-elections-democracy/elections-voting/how-to-vote/>

Thanks were expressed to Andrew Donaldson for updating the map of the KCC boundary now available on the KCC website.

CC1044 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Following a recent meeting for carer and server users, a member of the public updated the meeting on a Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health & Social Care Partnership Consultation for service users. In the future, it is intended that focus will be on providing individual care for individual persons. Respite care, including nursing care, will be provided in Bellfield Centre, Stirling and at Blanefield House, Blanefield. Strathendrick Care Home, which has had no maintenance money spent on it in over the past six years, has closed with all staff having found alternative employment.

As Killearn already has an active informal neighbourhood watch scheme in different areas within the village, it was agreed, following discussions with the Police, that this should be encouraged and is the best way to deal with the issues at this time.

A request was made for a dog waste bin to be put in the Ibert Road/Branziert Road area of the village. This is a very popular area for dog walking and it has been noticed that a number of plastic dog waste bags have been left at the roadside. It was agreed KCC write to SC with this request. (*Action FR*)

CC1045 – DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next KCC meeting is scheduled for 21 April 2021. This will be held again via Zoom and details will be confirmed nearer the time.

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm.