

KILLEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2021

Members present	Andrew Donaldson, Hilary McGregor, Jim Ptolomey (Chair), Fiona Rennie
Apologies	Heidi Bryce, Caroline Carrick, Susie Henderson, Elizabeth Jones, Police Scotland
In attendance	Doug Ashworth, Cllr Alistair Berrill, Cllr Rob Davies, Graeme Fraser KCFC, Jessie-Anne Malcolm NHS Forth Valley, 17 members of the public, Christine Bauwens (Minute Secretary)

How to contact us Go to www.killlearncc.org.uk and click on contact button.

The KCC meeting on 20 October 2021 was held via Zoom.

CC1099 – MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2021

Subject to a change of wording in CC1092 Roads and General Maintenance, paragraph 2, the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. "...claim of a lack of evidence from SC 30 year old traffic statistics..." should be changed to "... claim of a lack of evidence from SC traffic statistics over a 30 year period...".

CC1100 – MATTERS ARISING

- **CC1087 – Presentation by Crispin Hayes, Cycle Paths Services Ltd**

A meeting will take place on 2 November in Killearn Village Hall with Kenneth Alexander and Boquhan residents to further discuss the proposed cycle path project. A public meeting will also be held at a future date to be announced.

A member of the public commented on the proposal for only one dedicated lane for vehicular traffic crossing the bridge at Balfron and the possible structural problems caused by 100% increase in traffic on this half of the bridge.

- **CC 1090 – Broadband**

Jim informed the meeting that KCC has written to Alyn Smith MP regarding the broadband problems at Killearn Primary School. A reply is awaited.

CC1101 – POLICE MATTERS

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

- Male cautioned and charged with assault after an incident outside The Old Mill.
- Male found in possession of cannabis in Main Street, Killearn.

- Accident on A809 north of Queen's View car park involving two motorcycles and two vehicles. The riders of the motorcycles both sustained broken bones and were reported for Road Traffic Act offences.
- Accident on A81 at junction with Gartness Road involving a van and car. One driver issued with a fixed penalty for careless driving.
- Accident on A875 between Killearn and Balfron involving one vehicle. No injuries were sustained.
- Speed checks have been carried out in Boquhan with further checks due in Killearn in the near future.
- Suspicious male attended a door in Gartness Road stating he was an ex-convict and in need of help. He left soon after and police found no trace of him.
- Break-in at St Mocha Café on the Stockiemuir Road.

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

CC1102 – KCFC UPDATE

Graeme informed the meeting that activities at the Village Hall are continuing to increase.

Discussions are taking place with Killearn residents Jackie Savery and Nigel Pope of Maramedia, TV production company specialising in wildlife filmmaking. It is hoped another evening activity with them can take place in December.

KCFC AGM will take place on 21 October 2021.

CC1103 – BROADBAND

Doug reported on the ongoing problems with the Broadband Voucher Scheme which have resulted in all applications from the Branziert and Drumbeg Loan for Euan Shaw's project being stopped and having to be reapplied for. R100 scheme availability has been revised to April 2022 – 2026.

Despite having raised concerns about the inadequate provision of good broadband connectivity at Killearn Primary School with SC, there is still no information about the situation. It was agreed Cllr Davies continue to follow this up.

A local resident spoke of numerous problems encountered with BT Digital Voice. It was agreed he provide a written summary of same to share with other potential customers for Digital Voice. This information will be made available on KCC website.

CC1104 – PLANNING

Jim highlighted the following planning issues and pointed residents to KCC website www.killearncc.org.uk to see the full planning schedule:

Planning Schedule

- **Planning Panel Recommendations**

20/00408/MSC Application for Approval of Matters Specified in Conditions 1-9 and 12 of Planning Permission 17/00978/PPP for Eleven Affordable Dwelling Houses at Land Adjacent to no's 1 and 2 Lampson Road, Killearn.

Approve with Conditions.

Other Planning Matters

- Former Killearn Hospital Site

No further information available.

- Development of Former Killearn Hotel

Work has begun on the site. Phase 1 is due to be completed in 44 weeks with the full completion in 52 weeks.

CC1105 – ROADS AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE REPORT

Jim informed the meeting that an initial SC internal inspection had taken place on 30 September following the collapse of Catter Burn Bridge, Croftamie. A visual inspection was also undertaken by external consultants on Friday 1 October and a drone survey on Sunday 10 October. A laser survey of the structure is currently being arranged. SC is progressing a design for repair or replacement as a matter of urgency. It is envisaged the bridge will be closed until at least the end of the year.

SC will meet on 21 October to discuss £1.5m be taken from reserve funds to finance the work required on Branshogle Bridge and Catter Burn Bridge.

There was considerable discussion from the floor regarding the condition of these and other bridges and the lack of proactive repair work carried out by SC in the past. Disappointment and frustration were expressed at SC's apparent mismanagement of funding of repairs to bridges in the local area. Following a request from the community, it was agreed that a Freedom of Information request be submitted to SC for the history of Blane Bridge from 2015. (Action JP)

It was agreed Cllr Davies make these points to the SC meeting on 21 October and stress the seriousness of the situation.

A Vehicle Activated Sign has been set up at the entrance to the village when approaching from Balfron as part of the wider speed management activity.

Main Street/Balfron Road will be closed for a short while on 14 November during the Remembrance Sunday Service.

Following a local resident's query regarding the Ballat junction with A81, SC have explained why it is not deemed appropriate to change the *Give Way* signs to *Stop* signs.

Following the recent accident at junction with Gartness Road and A81, vegetation has been cleared to make the *Stop* sign more visible and white road markings have been repainted.

Cycle Racks have been installed outside Killearn Co-op.

Residents of Boquhan had requested a temporary speed restriction from 40 mph to 30 mph through the village, as the current bridge and road closures have increased traffic flow through Boquhan. SC has explained the criteria required in order to reduce the speed limit and the road through Boquhan does not meet those criteria.

It is hoped a representative from SC Roads Dept will be at the January 2022 meeting of KCC. Residents are encouraged to bring their questions and comments at that time.

CC1106 – COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Cllr Berrill and Cllr Davies reported on the following:

- Issues arising from closure of bridges at Branshogle and Catter Burn.
- Current consultations on SC Engage Stirling website, including the SC budget consultation for the next financial year.
- Community Councils can now meet in person if wished, continue on Zoom or have a hybrid meeting. It was requested that the councillors enquire about future school lets as this affects KCC and how hybrid meetings could practically take place when there is such poor broadband connectivity at Killearn Primary School.
- Stirling Council area was recently rated number one on the list of COVID-19 infections in Scotland but is currently rated number three.
- The reduced bin frequency collection has now started but questions about any additional waste that residents may be taking to the SC recycling centres have been raised.
- Stirling has secured a place on the longlist for UK City of Culture 2025.

CC1107 – TREASURER’S REPORT

The meeting was informed that the admin grant has been received and is now in KCC’s bank account.

CC1108 – QUESTION TIME

A question was raised by a member of the public regarding the recent letter received by all residents from Alyn Smith MP about the Kings Highway Project. As the letter did not explain what this is, KCC agreed to find out more information. *(Action JP)*

In the light of recent media reports about the current shortage of HGV drivers, a question was asked if SC had in place contingency plans to secure drivers for gritting and waste lorries. It was agreed Cllr Berrill find out more information.

CC1109 – CORRESPONDENCE

Fiona informed the meeting that part of the wooden trim trail in the fenced-off, toddler area at the play park had collapsed. SC Play & Maintenance Team have removed this and will replace it in due course.

CC1110 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Lindsay Kirk informed the meeting that 29 local homes will take part in the organised Advent Windows Trail around the village this winter starting on 1 December.

Discussion to fund the operation of the Christmas Lights on Balfron Road is taking place.

Following the announcement of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June 2022, the meeting was informed that KCC is looking to bring together a small organising group to plan for community activities during that period and is hoping to submit plans for a beacon to be lit on the evening of Thursday 2 June.

In view of the ongoing COVID pandemic and recent rise in cases, it was agreed to continue KCC meetings via Zoom while trying to ensure that those residents who do not have access to Zoom are still included.

CC1111 – DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next KCC meeting is scheduled for 17 November 2021 at 8.00 pm. Details of how to join the Zoom meeting will be issued nearer the time.

The meeting ended at 9.33 pm.