

KILLEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 18 June 2025

Members present	Elizabeth Jones (chair), Fiona Rennie, Andrew Donaldson, Hilary McGregor.
Apologies	Lachlann Mackenzie, Heidi Bryce, Calum McLean, Natasha Houchin (Planning Consultant), Rev. Stuart Sharp, Police Scotland, Jim Ptolomey (Killearn Trust), Emily Semple
In attendance	Cllr Paul Henke, 17 members of the public,

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MINUTES OF LAST AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 19 June 2024 were accepted as a true record of the meeting, proposed by Fiona Rennie and seconded by Andrew Donaldson.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair Liz Jones presented the Annual Report for the year 2024/2025. The Annual Report is attached to the minutes and available online https://www.killearncc.org.uk/docs/annualreports/KCC_Annual_Report_2024-25.pdf

TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts for the year 2024/2025 were presented to the meeting by the Treasurer Andrew Donaldson. The Audited Accounts and Treasurer's Report are attached to the minutes and available online <https://www.killearncc.org.uk>

Andrew Donaldson expressed thanks to Iain Somerville for auditing this year's accounts.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Elizabeth Jones was re-elected as Chair of the Council, proposed by Fiona Rennie and seconded by Andrew Donaldson.

Fiona Rennie was re-elected as Secretary of the Council, proposed by Elizabeth Jones and seconded by Andrew Donaldson.

Andrew Donaldson was re-elected as Treasurer, proposed by Fiona Rennie and seconded by Elizabeth Jones.

Fiona Rennie was re-elected as Vice Chair of the Council, proposed by Andrew Donaldson and seconded by Fiona Rennie.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was agreed the next KCC AGM would be held on 17 June 2026 at 7.45 pm.

REPORTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, YEAR ENDING JUNE 2025

We have had a well-attended year, with a healthy amount of audience participation, which is great to see. We will continue to run our hybrid model for the foreseeable future; there is a consistent demand for online viewing, the numbers for which are not far short of the number of residents attending in person.

Planning had continued to generate the greatest debate, and there is clearly a high level of concern regarding some of the decisions made by Stirling Council planning department. In order to address this, and to allow greater understanding of the planning process, Sharon Marklow, head of Planning and Enforcement for Stirling Council, joined us for our January meeting. She was very generous with her time and answered many questions. It did provide much greater clarity around the decision making and enforcement processes, but clearly frustrations remain, and effectively representing the view of the village in planning matters remains one of our greatest challenges.

On a similar vein, in conjunction with our friends in KCFC and Killearn Trust, we continue to pull together the results of the two surveys carried out this year to inform Killearn's Local Place Plan report. We had good engagement with the survey questions and are also fortunate to have a great bank of knowledge and expertise in the village, to contribute to the report. Tree protection, in terms of the village streetscape, and also wildlife habitat, is a consistent concern, and will be well represented in the report. Another significant concern will be balancing the requirement for greater housing diversity alongside maintenance of the village character and much valued green space. We will have a draft report to share later in the summer, before the Stirling Council deadline for submission, at the end of October.

The new housing development at the old hospital site is now filling up with new residents. The village has benefitted from the work in two main ways. One is the completion of a safe pavement for pedestrian access from the bottom of Station Road to the existing pavement above Lampson; this work was carried out by Stirling Council, but financed by CALA, and was much overdue. We will also benefit from CALA's community pledge, which will provide donations to Strathendrick rugby club, Killearn tennis club, Killearn village hall, Colourful Killearn, the Killearn Christmas lights, and the primary school. There will also be a Rob Mullholland sculpture created for the entrance of the development, with design involvement from Balfour High School students. Rural Stirling Housing Association are progressing well with the new housing at the bottom of Lampson Road, with new residents expected to be moving in by late summer.

The loss of some of the large oak tree in the park caused anxiety over the winter; it was initially unclear how safe the remaining tree was, and how best to manage its health, and the large branches which dropped. In addition, it destroyed the flying fox. There has been resolution, however. The tree health is not as bad as once feared, limited reduction work needed, but the tree can remain. The wood is being milled and prepared locally, the plan being to create a park bench, the funding for which has been agreed, the site still to be determined. The flying fox is to be replaced, and the fencing around the small playpark will also be repaired, which should improve the quality of a much-valued play area.

In other news, the 20mph speed limit in the village, initially a pilot project, will now be permanent and the temporary signs will be replaced by the definitive traffic signs.

KCC was approached to consider adoption of the phone box outside the little classroom, and we have done so, but without applying for any change of use. The box is safe but

would need considerable work to be fit for any other use. It is currently used as a floral display and adds greatly to the view around the Wellgreen.

We have had a busy year, and as ever, our thanks go to the whole committee, and to Emily, our admin secretary, for all their support, and to our three councillors, Gerry McGarvey, Rosemary Fraser and Paul Henke for all their engagement and input. We are also thankful to have such an engaged and enthusiastic village and will continue to do our best to resolve the issues you bring.

TREASURER'S REPORT 2023-2024

We began the financial year with a balance of £530.90.

Income during the year was from our annual grant from Stirling Council of £861.04 and £1.51 from interest on the bank account. The greatest part of our expenditure was administration costs totalling £741.72. This included the usual expenses for secretary fees, ICO registration and other minor expenses. This also includes £198.00 to continue using the Village Hall Garden Room for as a meeting venue. This allows us to offer hybrid meetings where people can attend the meeting either in person at the Garden room or online. Despite the additional costs of providing hybrid meetings, this continues to enable increased attendance at meetings and allows people to attend who might otherwise be unable to do so. Improving the reach of the Community Council as far as possible remains an important aim.

We also continued to support the community in other ways. We again supported the Christmas lights on the lampposts on Balfron Road but this year even greater support from other groups reduced the Community Council contribution to just £12.10 towards the total cost of £912.10. We are grateful for the generous contributions from KCFC, Killearn Trust and Killearn Beer Festival, without which we would not be able to continue having the lights.

We also supported "happiness cards" at Christmas, delivered to some of the elderly residents of the area by children from local nurseries. This once again helped maintain a sense of connectedness in the community.

This financial year also saw the continued development of our Local Place Plan (LPP). As in the previous year, this incurred costs for publicity and consulting with the community through surveys. We are working on the LPP along with KCFC and Killearn Trust, and we are again grateful to both bodies for their contribution to these costs, reducing our own expenditure.

Total expenditure on the happiness cards and our share of LPP development amounted to £236.13. This left us with a closing bank balance of £403.50. We continue to operate at a loss but have been able to reduce the deficit from the previous year and will need to continue to be prudent to maintain an adequate operating reserve.

Finally, our thanks once more go to Iain Somerville for again generously giving of both his time and expertise to audit our accounts this year.

Andrew Donaldson, KCC treasurer

-Meeting Close-