

KILLEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2025

Members present Elizabeth Jones, Fiona Rennie, Andrew Donaldson, Calum Mclean, Hilary McGregor, Michael Bowdidge.

Apologies Heidi Bryce, Lindsay Kirk, Matt McCammon (Police Scotland), Cllr Gerry McGarvey

In attendance Graeme Fraser (KCFC), Tasha Houchin (KCC Planning Consultant), Graeme Knox (presenting), 30 members of the public, Emily Semple

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

CC1594 - MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER'25

Minutes were approved by Andrew Donaldson and Calum McLean.

CC1595 - MATTERS ARISING

- Community Council Membership - There have been a couple of changes since the last session. Susie Henderson has moved out of the village and Calum McLean has been voted in as a full member of the Council.

These changes have allowed for 2 co-opted positions to become available. These positions were discussed at the last meeting and have been advertised in the usual way. Two nominations were received and these nominees have subsequently been approved for eligibility by Stirling Council, which allows KCC to move forward with co-opting.

The two candidates are Tasha Houchin, who has been our planning associate for two years and Emily Semple who has been our minutes secretary for a year and 9 months.

Both candidates received votes from all members present, officially confirming the 2 new co-opted members.

Liz invited both new members to introduce themselves.

Tasha lives on Allan Road and has lived in the village for 16 years. She is an Architect by profession and is a Mum. She has always felt very welcome since arriving in the village and got very involved in the primary school. As an architect Tasha is very interested in retrofitting and how energy efficient our buildings are and how we can all live in healthy buildings. She first came to the community council 2 years ago to speak about retrofitting and has continued to support the community council by coming on board as the planning consultant last year.

Emily Semple has grown up in the village, left to live in Edinburgh for a few years but has returned with her family. She is a freelance project manager and mum with a son nearing nursery age. Emily thought it would be nice to be part of the community and hopefully bring a different perspective to the community council.

Emily is currently the KCC minute secretary so this role will need to be advertised - until then she has offered to continue to do the minutes in an unpaid capacity.

- EV charging units in the Health Centre Car Park - These have now been installed but aren't yet working due to damage to the electrical feed. SSE are due to come out and complete the fix.
- Blackwood's Beech House - No update but both Cllrs Gerry McGarvey and Rosemary Fraser have been approached.

Action: KCC (Liz) to follow up and see if there is any further update.

- Killearn Nursery - It was brought to KC's attention at the November meeting that places have been cut causing issues with fully funded places, pushing families to use private childcare providers who are not allowing parents to split time.

The reply from Stirling Council can be found on the KCC website here:

<https://www.killearncc.org.uk/docs/misc/KillearnNurseryProvision-202512.pdf>

In summary, the reply outlines that for the number of children on the roll, there is ample space available. Stirling Council are happy to facilitate a meeting with providers in the area as applicable.

Action: KCC (Liz) to follow up and see if there is the opportunity to review capacity if the estimate was incorrect.

- Youth Member - KCC are still looking to fill this position and are in discussion with Balfron High School.

CC1596 - POLICE MATTERS

No incidents to report.

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

CC1597 – KCFC UPDATE

Graeme Fraser gave the following update relating to KCFC activities:

- Christmas Tree - The Christmas tree was erected last week, unfortunately due to the adverse weather conditions the tree fell down. The stand in which the tree sits has metal spikes that go into the ground to secure it, this stayed in place, along with the lights so luckily nothing was damaged.

Graeme thanked those from the community who helped to right it and hopefully that will be the first and last time.

Graeme wished everyone a Happy Christmas from all at KCFC.

CC1598 – PLANNING AND LOCAL PLACE PLAN

Planning Applications

There are currently 9x applications live in the Killearn area 4x recent applications:

- 25/00559/FUL - 5 Main Street, Killearn G63 9RJ
Proposed roof works including maintenance re slating, replacement of zinc ridges, replacement of existing covering to stone copes, and replacement of existing 3 front rooflights and 2 rear rooflights
- 25/00646/FUL - Machar 2 Ibert Road Killearn G63 9PY
Replacement of roof slates and guttering

This application was discussed by the owner, Peter Wilks who shared his surprise at needing planning permission for this sort of work. Due to the conservation area Mr Wilks must ensure the Spanish slate being used is the same size as the Scottish slate that is being replaced. However, further concerns over consistency with the Stirling Council planning was raised due to other roofing works in the area that have not followed the same protocol.

- 25/00683/FUL 74 Main Street Killearn G63 9ND
Demolition of sunroom and erection of single storey extension

Planning Concerns - Planning has been a major issue and has come up a lot in the past meetings and is noted within the Local Place Plan. Mr Knox has approached KCC again with reference to what is happening at Two Oaks, 41 Station Road. **At the November meeting Liz explained that Mr Knox had emailed prior to the meeting to raise his concern over Stirling Council in his view, having acted illegally by breaching their own guidelines.** Mr Knox has previously taken legal advice in the matter and is looking for KCC's support.

KCC decided in November that as a community council they were **unable to support any allegation that Stirling Council have broken the law** ; KCC felt, however, that there were sufficient concerns with planning in general that they would seek another meeting with Stirling Planning to put those concerns to the department and get more dialogue going.

Liz drew attention to the email sent by Mr Knox prior to the December meeting that included 30 residents as well as KCC, who were copied for information. It is important to minute where KCC stands so that the way in which the email was worded cannot be misconstrued: **KCC have never felt able to support any allegation that Stirling Council have broken the law.**

Following November's meeting, Mr Knox emailed his request to speak to at least two, or more, of the KCC committee. He was asked to attend the December meeting, and present his concerns, which he did at our invitation. The matters presented, as far as they relate to any allegation of unlawful behaviour on the part of Stirling Council, were Mr Knox's own opinion, and were not presented on behalf of KCC.

Please email should you wish any further information on the details: **c/o contactus@killearncc.org.uk and please note that copies of the talk and slides are available on request by emailing GraemeKnox@aol.com**

A number of points were made by members of the community in attendance, many of which raised concerns that if there was a lack of evidence for any assertion of possible unlawful behaviour on the part of Stirling Council, it could leave Mr Knox open to his statements being considered defamatory. .

It was discussed that rather than going down the legal route perhaps the passion and energy around this situation should be put towards ensuring that the planning clause to replant hard woods is enforced and to support the owners with bringing back the biodiversity that has been lost.

KCC are still to have a meeting with Ingrid the Stirling Council Tree Officer in regards to various Tree Preservation Orders around the village.

Action: KCC (Fiona) to follow up / confirm a pre-arranged meeting with Sharon Marklow in January. It is noted that this meeting will be between Stirling Council and members of KCC only.

CC1599 – ROADS AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE REPORT

Calum shared the following updates with reference to local road activities:

- No road closures to report
- The obscured light on the footpath from Graham Road to the garages has been raised with Stirling Council - they have 4 working weeks to process so KCC will follow up in January

CC1600 – CORRESPONDENCE

Fiona reported on the following correspondence:

- Replacement of Flying Fox & Slide in play area -The council has committed to replacing the flying fox and the slide in the play area at the park. Timelines are to be confirmed.
There is a complication with the cableway as it is very close to the large Oak tree, where were some branches that fell from it this year and it is important to minimise any disturbance to it while the old cableway is removed and the new one installed.
Stirling Council want to move the new cableway slightly downhill and away from the rooting zone of the tree, also when the new sports pavilion was built the path in front of it was moved closer to the cableway which was a bit close to the safety zone of it. Moving the cableway will address both problems. The Tree Officer has been consulted and asked for recommendations for the construction phase so that the tree is protected while the works are carried out.
- Christmas Lights - Thanks were noted to Killearn Community Council, CALA homes, Killearn Community Futures Company, the Beer Festival and Killearn Trust who are funding the Killearn Christmas lights.
- Trim Trail - Balfron Primary School pupils are enjoying their playground even more than usual due to the recent installation of a fantastic new Trim Trail. The upgrade to the school's playground will help to ensure that opportunities for outdoor exploration and play are available, not only to pupils during the school week, but also to the wider community who visit the campus during weekends and holidays.
- Stirling proud to be named happiest place to live in Scotland again - Stirling is beaming with pride after being named as the happiest place to live in Scotland for the second year in a row. A study conducted by Rightmove ranked Stirling as the eighth happiest place to live overall in the UK, climbing up from 12th place last year. A recent report from Ernst and Young suggested Stirling will have the fastest-growing economy in Scotland over the next three years and be among the top four for growth in the UK.
- Stirling Visitor Levy Scheme approved to generate investment in tourism economy - Stirling Council has approved a visitor levy scheme that will enable major new investment in the area's tourism offering. At a meeting of council today (Thursday, 11 December), a year round 3% levy was agreed for all overnight paid visitor accommodation stays in the Stirling Council area.

It will come into effect for stays on or after 14 June 2027 and apply to bookings made from 1 January 2027. The 3% levy is a reduction on the 5% rate that was

initially proposed in the draft scheme. Additional Stirling specific exemptions to paying the levy also feature in the scheme. These include exempting (through reimbursement) the following: Stirling Council residents, Those in the receipt of carers' allowance, Visitors staying more than seven nights

- Festive waste details announced for Stirling households - There will be no waste and recycling collections on: Thursday 25 December, Christmas Day / Friday 26 December, Boxing Day and Thursday 1 January, New Year's Day / Friday 2 January, Bank Holiday.

All residents whose bin collection falls on one of those days can check their online postcode finder for any temporary collection dates. To accommodate the adjustments, there will be no brown bin collections between: Monday 22 December - Sunday 28 December and Monday 29 December - 4 January

Brown bin collections will resume from the week commencing Monday 6 January.

The Household Waste Recycling Centres will be open and operating as normal, under winter hours, but will be closed on the following dates: Thursday 25 December, Christmas Day / Friday 26 December, Boxing Day and Thursday 1 January, New Year's Day / Friday 2 January, Bank Holiday.

Standard paper, wrapping paper and gift cards should be placed in your green recycling bin. Wrapping paper or gift cards containing foil, glitter, ribbons or felt coatings are not recyclable and should be placed in your grey bin

CC1601 – QUESTION TIME

- Social Housing, Lampson Road - Peter Bowness shared positive feedback on the new social housing development at Lampson Road, noting the quality of construction and local occupancy.
- COOP Flowers - Mr and Mrs Wilks collect unsold flowers from the Co-op which rather than being disposing of - are then gifted to residents within the village. More recently, the 'flower group' has been giving them to new residents in the CALA homes and the Lampson Court homes as a small welcome gesture.

This prompted discussion on whether the Community Council could consider providing information to newcomers about the village. It was noted that the church had previously undertaken this role, but this had ceased as information changed fairly frequently and became more readily available / up to date, online.

- Sewage Pollution - Concern raised over the pollution at the Kirkhouse Burn now being significant due to the high levels of rainfall. There is also what appears to be a fountain of waste around the manholes at Millhouse. Scottish Water have been out to assess it but SEPA do not appear to have.

Action: KCC (Liz / Fiona) to follow up with Stirling Council

CC1602 – COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No councillor in attendance.

CC1603 – TREASURER'S REPORT

Andrew Donaldson presented the following report:

Income:	£120	Donation for Christmas lights from Killearn Trust
Outgoings:	£62	Administrative expenses and Hall Hire

Current balance: £1,561.41

CC1604 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- New Minutes Secretary - Position to be advertised in due course
- Notice Board at Children's Hub - KCC to look into getting this repaired

CC1605 – DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next KCC meeting will be on Wed. **21 January 2026 at 8.00 pm**

This meeting ended at 21:23

KCC wishes everyone a happy Christmas and looks forward to returning in 2026.