

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting 30th June 2020

Held via Zoom

PRESENT: Kirsty Holland, (Vice-Chair), Graham Wild (Chair), Hugh Morrison (Highland Council), Christine MacKenzie, Margaret Meek, Murdo Macpherson, Sandra Armes-Harris, Mairi Eastcroft, Maaike Silcock (Minutes),

Members of the public: Gordon Grassick, Paula Macleod, Hugh Elrick

Due to the lack of internet at Graham Wild's house, Kirsty chaired the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES:** P.C. Frazer Mitchell, Andrea Boyes.

2. **MINUTES of the 26th May 2020**

Amendment to the minutes: Item 3.2, Graham spoke to 'Roads and Transport' rather than wrote to them as indicated.

The minutes from the 26th May 2020 were proposed for approval by Murdo and seconded by Margaret. The minutes were approved.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 26th May 2020**

3.1 The barrier for the Big Brae still needs to be assessed.

3.2 Highland Council have agreed to look at a 30mph speed limit throughout the Kinlochbervie and it is now on their agenda. Any other alterations are not in the current budget.

3.3 The grant has been approved by Highland Council for the Hydroelectric scheme at Rhiconich. Lawyers have been appointed and the project can continue as soon as paperwork has been signed.

3.4 The Kinlochbervie.info website is still in need of a new manager. Gary Sutherland is happy to train someone to keep it going. Gary will co-ordinate with Margaret to update the contact list on the website and circulate it. (A group email will be sent to Highland Council)

3.5 The public toilets within Highland Council region are re-opening including the ones at the harbour which are now open. At Bonar Bridge the carpark has been closed off, probably to deter overnight camping, but the toilets seem to be open.

3.6 Access to Oldshoremore Beach is still unsafe. Kirsty will organise a sign in the form of a laminated disclaimer, to make the public aware that access to the beach is dangerous and they do so 'At their own risk'.

3.7 Household skips at KLB and Durness are still not open, but hopefully will be within the next 2 weeks.

3.7 Christine confirmed that the Covid-19 grant has been received.

3.8 Availability of Tesco slots during Covid-19. The KLB CC regrets the advice stated in the minutes of 26th May 2020 to use alternative on-line shopping. As Christine pointed out, the Spar, Garage and The London stores have remained open, well stocked and fully staffed for the entire lockdown period. The KLB CC and the entire local community greatly appreciate the service they provide and are aware of the risk to personal safety that the staff are exposed to.

The KLB CC apologises for any offence given.

4. WORKS PRIORITIES FOR 2020

4.1 The rubble from the landslide has now started to be moved from the Kylesku carpark to local depots.

4.2 The play park will be opening up again in 2 weeks. Hugh will organise someone to cut the grass.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Kinlochbervie Community Council bank balance is...£1674.39

The Christmas Lights fund stands at.....£3739.53

The Brochure fund has.....£456.38

The War Memorial fund.....£242.21

The War Memorial fund pays for the wreath every year, but is not being replenished. In a few years' time there will be no money left in the fund. It was suggested that when the money runs out, the wreath is payed from the Community Council funds.

6. POLICE REPORT

Once the 'Lockdown' is finished, the Police can have an input into the council meetings.

Hugh will write to the Inspector at Dingwall to ask what kind of cover Kinlochbervie can expect when tourists start to come back into the area.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 The Community Council has received numerous emails from Alexander Munro. The issues raised are primarily not Community Council business. Untarred passing places and missing sections of cattle grid are a Highland Council issue. The fact that Mr Munro has raised these already with Highland Council is acknowledged and appreciated. Mr Munro is also seeking an introduction of a 30mph speed limit at Oldshoremore. This is noted and it is understood that he has raised this too with Highland Council.

Mr Munro also contacted the Community Council regarding anti-social behaviour. As per Mr Munro's email on the 14/06/20 this is not Community Council business but a police matter. However, KLB CC does not condone anti-social behaviour.

It was noted that the tone of Mr Munro's correspondence has at times caused upset and offense. It would be appreciated if all member of the public communication was clear and polite.

7.2 Planet Sutherland is looking for interested parties to set up a food growing project. If there is interest from the public, there may be a certain amount of funding to start up the project. Kirsty will speak to Andrea to see if she would like to take this forward and perhaps advertise it in the community.

7.3 James Keith has informed the Council that he will be opening the campsite from the 17th July for caravans and campervans only as they are self-contained units. Tents will not be admitted.

The Council is concerned that if campsites are not allowing campers with tents, the campers will just pitch their tents wherever they want. Although wild camping is not illegal, there are guidelines that need to be followed. It was suggested that these guidelines should be posted on Facebook and posters put up, where the facilities are, advising the public what they can and can't do. Hugh will find out if there is any way to enforce these guidelines. If there is 'antisocial camping', could the police be contacted as a last resort?

7.4 David Forbes has been in touch with the Klb CC regarding the 'Drive on Left' signs. He suggests contacting Wildlands with relevance to the NC500 in the hope of securing some funding for more of the signs for the benefit of foreign tourists. Hugh suggested that David sends him a letter and he will send it on to other CCs, John Muir Trust and Wildlands to see if there is any funding for these signs.

7.5 The Loch Clash Stopover will be opening shortly. Richard Hulme will be coming up and will assist in the operation of the facility.

8. AOCB

8.1 Grass cutting is well underway and ongoing. There is concern that the grass can not be cut around the stone lying on the ground at the Loch Clash picnic site. Cars could be damaged if they try to park and can't see the stones. Graham will sort this.

8.2 There have been complaints in the village of too many deer causing damage to gardens. Kirsty has already spoken to Sarah Harkins, estate owner, and Lawrence MacLeod regarding controlling the numbers.

9. NEXT MEETING –

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 25th August 2020** at 7:00 pm at the Harbour offices if permitted, otherwise with Zoom.

SUMMARY LIST OF ACTIONS FROM MEETING 26th May 2020

	Action	Who?	Completed /Ongoing
3.4	Update and circulate contact list	Margaret	ongoing
3.6	Organise a disclaimer sign for Oldshoremore Beach access	Kirsty	ongoing
4.2	Organise grass cutting in play park	Hugh	ongoing
6	Write to police Inspector about police coverage during tourist season.	Hugh	ongoing
7.2	Discuss food growing project with Andrea	Kirsty	ongoing
7.3	Look into wild camping guidelines and whether they can be enforced	Hugh	ongoing
7.4	Send on letter from David Forbes to Wildlands, John Muir Trust and other CCs for funding for signs	Hugh	ongoing
8.1	Make the Loch Clash picnic parking area safe for cars.	Graham	ongoing
8.2	Deer in the village	Kirsty	completed