

KINLOCHBERVIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting 25th August 2020

Held via Zoom

PRESENT: Kirsty Holland, (Vice-Chair), Graham Wild (Chair) (via phone link), Hugh Morrison (Highland Council), Christine MacKenzie, Margaret Meek, Murdo Macpherson, Sandra Armes-Harris, Mairi Eastcroft.

Guest: Laura Hamlet

Members of the public: Paula Macloud, Alexander Munro.

Margaret Meek chaired the meeting.

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

2. **MINUTES of the 30th June 2020**

The minutes from the 30th June 2020 were proposed for approval by Murdo and seconded by Christine. The minutes were approved.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 30th June 2020**

3.1 The barrier for the Big Brae still has no update. With winter on the way, this should be a priority.

3.2 Highland Council have agreed to the 30mph speed limit throughout the village. Graham will check progress.

3.3 The Grant offer for the Hydroelectric scheme at Rhiconich has been signed off.

3.4 Margaret has been given the details of the Kinlochbervie.info website by Gary Sutherland. Still to confirm with Andrea if she has found someone to run it.

3.5 The toilets are now open.

3.6 Access to Oldshoremore Beach now has a warning sign in place. Access is difficult but not dangerous.

3.7 Household skips at KLB are open on Wednesday 1000 - 1400 only.

3.8 Andrea is taking the food project forward.

3.9 David Forbes' letter to Anders Povlsen on the matter of the NC500 with advice for tourists to drive on the left has been sent, no reply as yet.

4. WORKS PRIORITIES FOR 2020

4.1 Loch Clash picnic area is still a bit unsafe. The log and the pile of stones are still causing an obstruction, so cars are parking on the road. The CC will organise these to be removed. Christine will see if the pier forklift truck can move the large bag of grass cuttings.

4.2 White line painting is ongoing, grass cutting is now finished. Work is concentrating on maintenance team clearing ditches and general maintenance.

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

6. POLICE REPORT

No Police report.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Paula Macleod sent a letter about the volume of tourism and the possible solutions. Graham has spoken to Scourie and Durness CCs who have sent letters to Scottish Office, but have received no reply. It was suggested that KLB CC send a letter of support.

At present, there are no enforceable bylaws. Hugh will investigate to see if anything can be done.

7.2 Paula suggested writing a letter asking Scottish Government what they intend to do for fragile communities inundated with tourists.

7.3 The Ranger Service has been increased.

7.4 The enforcing of parking restrictions was discussed.

7.5 Billy MacFarlane sent a letter about business premises, he is trying to find one locally. All units on the industrial site are currently in use. He asked if KLB CC could find funding to build new units, but it was felt that this would be too big a project for the CC. Alexander Munro added that one unit, currently being used by Norscot, will soon be available.

8. AOCB

8.1 Laura Hamlet has the new post with KSDT, Sutherland Adaptive and Collaborative Communities. There are 3 project officers centred in KLB, Bettyhill and Lochinver with a coordinator who used to work for the Geopark. Their task is to develop the Action Plan that was drawn up by the Local Partnership. Projects will be developed over a 2-year period (with a bit of flexibility due to Covid) to make them ready for funding, though the partnership has not yet committed to any project.

8.2 Graham has spoken to Police Scotland about campervans that are inappropriately sited. The Police are moving them on, where possible. They are asking that individuals call in and the advice from Scourie CC is to ask the Police for an incident number if they are unable to respond. Hugh emailed wild camping guidelines via Scourie CC, but the advice from Scottish Government is unclear about what campers can or can't do.

8.3 The Loch Clash Stopover is now too small to cope with demand. There are regularly up to 20 parked campervans. It was suggested that the waste ground past the harbour could officially be used, and motorhomes are already using it. The land belongs to Highland Council, and it is within walking distance of the public toilets.

8.4 The possibility was discussed to use the football pitch for tents, but there was concern about the proximity to the nursery and Primary Schools, and the lack of toilets. Paula will speak to other committee members.

8.5 It was discussed whether some of the tax money from tourism could be returned to communities to improve the infrastructure.

8.5 Alexander Munro reports that he has planning permission for waste disposal and he hopes that his campsite at Oldshoremore will be up and running by next year with space for 20-30 campervans plus tents. AMENDED: Mr Munro indicated that he had space for 20-30 campervans but had no plans to do so. He also stated that he could develop a site for 5 campervans through the Campervan and Caravan Club.

8.6 Scourie CC's excellent letter about the change to council boundaries and reducing councillors from 6 to 4 was praised. KLB CC will write a letter of support, agreeing with the points raised. KLB CC agreed that this change would further marginalise Sutherland in favour of Inverness, and since most voters are on the East Coast of Sutherland, the North would lose voice.

8.6 Murdo announced some changes to the Geopark; the new Board, including Laura Hamlet, is up and running after the resignation of the old board, though they still need to elect a new Chairman.

The next 4 years of UNESCO funding has been revalidated. A new Geopod has been erected at Keodale. Laura suggested that the Geopark may be able to support tourism infrastructure with policy, but not funding.

8.7 Kirsty is hoping to join a virtual meeting with the other north and west community councils of Tounge, Durness, Scourie, Lochinver & Coigach on 26/8/20. Initial topics under discussion will be the Ward boundary changes and Tourism in NW Sutherland.

8.8 Phone box closure: There are none in locality, except one on the Durness road, which Hugh pointed out, was regularly vandalised and out of order. This one wouldn't be missed and no objections were recorded.

Graham announced that he was resigning his post on the KLB CC and thanked everyone for the support he has received.

Hugh thanked Graham on behalf of the Council and expressed what a pleasure it had been, working with him. All the members of the KLB CC expressed their thanks for all the hard work Graham has done over the years.

9. NEXT MEETING –

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 29th September 2020** at 7:00 pm **With Zoom.**

SUMMARY LIST OF ACTIONS FROM MEETING 26th May 2020

	Action	Who?	Completed /Ongoing
4.1	Ask to use harbour fork-lift truck to remove bag of grass at Clash picnic site	Christine	ongoing
4.1	Organise the removal of the log and pile of stones also at the loch Clash picnic site	CC	ongoing
7.1	Investigate the making of by-laws enforceable	Hugh	ongoing
	Letter of thanks to be written to Graham	Kirsty	ongoing