

Minutes (draft) of Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council (TKCC) Meeting held by Zoom on Wednesday, 17 February 2021 at 7pm

Present: Caroline Hamilton (Chair), Tom Forrest (Treasurer), Colin Stevenson, Steve Schnabel, Alpin Stewart, Sally Cook, Mat Webster, Chris Davies (Secretary), Councillor Alex MacInnes

4 members of the public

1. Apologies

Firefighter Emily John

2. Minutes of meeting on 13th January 2021

Approved

3. Matters arising

National Trust for Scotland

Follow up correspondence between TKCC (Mat) and Clea Warner in relation to local issues had been circulated and further discussions will be held once the new ranger has been appointed.

Diabaig mast planning application

Alex MacInnes confirmed Dafydd Jones of the Highland Council is the officer responsible for the planning application and he will follow him up re the issue of the overhead powerline being excluded from the original planning application.

Action: AM

CH confirmed she had updated Kalie Wilkinson from Shildaig Community Council on the current situation with the planning application.

Community Gardening

A request for community ideas has not yet been circulated and this needs to be completed asap to ensure funds are spent by 31st March. Members offered to help SC to develop a plan of actions for taking this forward.

Action: SC

Possible COVID funding from HIE

In light of the new COVID lockdown, CH confirmed she had contacted HIE to enquire whether there was additional funding available. Unfortunately, they are not running any further funding programmes as they feel communities should have adapted by now.

High Life Highland – Torridon toilets

CH said she had contacted High Life Highland again about the possible option of de-coupling the toilets from the Torridon campsite to enable them to be opened. High Life Highland advised that the toilets are currently not regarded as essential and that they require remedial work to be carried out on them, which they are currently unable to do due to travel restrictions and a need to make use of the furlough scheme. As a result, they do not know whether they will be able to open them this season. CH advised she will continue to press the case, but doesn't hold up much hope.

Action: CH

CH and MW will be attending a Highland Council webinar on plans for Waste Management and Toilet facilities across the area and will report back. AM advised the issue of the Highlife Highland toilets should be raised at the webinar.

SC will draft a possible email for CH to send to High Life Highland pointing out that under their Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Directors have a duty to pursue the objects under the Articles which includes providing recreational facilities, and facilities for the public at large.

Action: SC

4. Emergency services report

The TKCC, on behalf of the community wished to express our thanks to the Fire Service who have dealt with several large wildfires across the area in recent days.

5. Community Development plan

CH gave a short presentation (please see attached) on the essential elements of what a Community Development plan is, possible advantages and disadvantages of developing a plan, and suggesting the steps we should take if we decide to go ahead and develop a sustainable plan for the Torridon and Kinlochewe community.

The development of the plan will be a large and lengthy undertaking, and managing expectations of the outcome following community consultation will be very important. But with the current shift away from central funding for facilities, and towards community ownership, having a Community Development Plan has become almost an essential requirement for applying for grants or any other project funding.

After considerable discussion, the general consensus was that this is something that should be done and that we should engage a consultant to help. AM advised that HIE should be able to provide guidance and should also be approached to help fund the cost of a consultant.

It was therefore agreed that the TKCC should enquire within and outwith the community to identify potential consultants who we could ask to tender. A brief for the consultant will be prepared by MW and CH and brought back to the TKCC for approval. Potential funding sources to cover the costs will also be explored. Everyone is encouraged to talk about the plan with community members and generally anyone that will listen!

Action: All

6. Treasurer's report

Current funds: TKCC - £1,059.49, HIE Covid/Communities Recovery - £2,696.98, less £400 which has just been paid to the Medical Practice Fund for defibrillator maintenance.

7. Roads Update

HC have confirmed that the cattle grids in the Glen and the bridge at Alligin are in hand and will be progressed. Contractors have confirmed that they will repair the damage to the road in Diabaig on the corner where house building is currently underway.

8. Planning applications

There were no comments on either of the planning applications.

Doire Na Garbhe Telecommunication Site Kinlochewe
[Installation of headframe strengthening kit \(14.7m\), replacement of 2No. antennas on new antenna poles, 4No. RRUs on RRU rails fixed to tower legs, 1No. 0.3m dish on tower leg and refresh of equipment within cabin](#) (21/00446/FUL)

The Torridon Torridon Achnasheen
[Erection of agricultural building](#) (21/00561/PNO)

The MOWI application for the removal of the time limit on the fish farm opposite Wester Alligin has been approved. MOWI have advised TKCC that they are putting in sound mitigation for the noise reported by residents which should improve the situation. This should be monitored.

9. Any Other Competent Business

The Community Housing Trust has contacted the TKCC about potential plans for community housing and a meeting with TKCC members will be arranged soon.

Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council

Community Development Plan

FOR DISCUSSION

What is a Community Development Plan?

- Establishes what people would like to happen within **their** community (if anything)
- Sets out **the communities** priorities
- Seeks to come up with sustainable ideas
- 5-10 year period

Advantages of a Community Development Plan

- Enables community to develop in a sustainable way
Provides a framework by which opportunities can be assessed
- Demonstrates community support for projects – vital when applying for grant funding
- Valuable reminder in future

Why do we need one?

- Way in which local services/ amenities are run is changing
- Trend towards community ownership and engagement
- Funding shifting from central government/ Highland Council to communities
- Grant funding for projects now the norm
- Without a plan real danger of missing out
- **Helps to build a sustainable community for future generations**

Plenty of examples

Click on hyperlinks below

- [Morven](#)
- [Applecross](#)
- [Lochcarron](#)
- [Garve](#)
- [Lochalsh](#)
- [Feughside](#)

How to do it

- Need to obtain views from as many people as possible
- Essential that process is - and is seen to be – impartial
- Community questionnaire, community events, focus groups?
- Learn from others
- Encourage people to think big!

Other assistance

- HIE
- Highland Council
- DTAS
- SCDC
- Do it ourselves or engage consultant with development plan experience?

Advantages/disadvantages of consultant

- May not know the area
- More likely to be seen as impartial
- Unconscious bias less likely
- Experienced in canvassing opinions/obtaining views
- Experienced in synthesising views into a plan

TKCC role

- Could engage consultant – approx. cost £5k
- Funding required – Highland Council, HIE, elsewhere?
- Prepare brief
- Invite consultants to tender
- Oversee and drive process forward

Then what?

- Depends on outcome of community consultation
- Assuming projects are identified, highly unlikely TKCC will be able to undertake them – prohibited from taking any financial risk
- Projects would need to be undertaken by another community organisation
- Community Development Company?

Disadvantages

- Could cause difficulties if community consultation done badly?
- Or if priorities not acted upon
- Potential for a lot of work
- Likely to take at least 12 months
- Starting a journey without knowing the destination

