



Minutes of meeting held on 15 April 2021 at 7.30 via Zoom

1. Present:

Tom Anderson **TA** (Chair), Sandra MacDonald **SM** (Vice Chair), Marion Macleod **MM** (Secretary), Rita Fenton (Treasurer) **RMF**, Ron Ferguson **RF** CC, Isabell McLaughlin **IM** CC, HCllr Derek Loudon, **DL**

Public in attendance - None

2. Apologies:

Angie Cox **AC** (Minute Secretary), Dave Macrae (Tain & District Development Trust)

3. Police report:

Apologies given for nonattendance due to shift cover. Report sent to **MM** prior to meeting - no callouts in our CC area since our last meeting and local Patrols are ongoing.

Police Scotland has consulted on a Visitor Management Strategy for 2021 with partner agencies, including the Highland Council to mitigate some of the main concerns of the public as lockdown eases and we are likely to see visitor numbers in our area rise. The key point of the strategy is to ensure that tourists can visit the area in a safe and responsible manner, while not having a negative impact on the local environment or causing unnecessary nuisance to the community. To assist in tackling this, several Seasonal Access Rangers have been employed who will engage with visitors. A summary of their remit was provided and circulated to CC members.

No issues were raised for the Police.

4. Minutes of meeting held on 18 March 2021:

Minutes Proposed by **RMF** and 2nd by **IM**

5. Matters arising from Minutes:

Playpark update to be given by **DL** under next agenda item. Streetlights in Milton, **MM** confirmed that HC have advised that they will check the streetlights noted and see if the lantern can be changed to give more light on the payments. **MM** confirmed the damaged Signposts have been fixed by HC. **MM** advised that there is still no date for when HC will be able to take down the Christmas lights due to Covid restrictions. Email has been sent to HC for update.

6. Reports by Highland Councillors.

DL advised that there are no scheduled Committee meetings in April and therefore not a lot to report until meetings resume in May. The two current issues are Playparks and Potholes, with both Services involved having earmarked the £100K available before Councillors have even had a chance to look at the issues.

Playparks are being fenced off following inspections due to a lack of bark. The bark required in playparks is specific for use in playparks and costs more than ordinary bark. Following safety inspections, several items of play equipment have also been removed from a number of parks as they no longer meet safety standards. HCllrs do not want to see playparks lost but they are being advised by HC that there are too many and the money is just not available. KALECC members wished to make it clear to HCllrs that they felt that the community of Milton had a strong case for retaining a playpark. Currently, several items of equipment have been removed and not replaced. **MM** asked **DL** whether HC would retain the park in Milton if residents were to get involved in fundraising for new equipment, therefore ensuring Liability insurance and safety inspections continued. **DL** felt that HC would continue to provide this, as is the case with another community he is aware of.

DL advised that HCllrs had been given promises that the pothole repairs, when undertaken, would be done correctly, with square corners cut, a machine would be available to roll the tar and all edges sealed with liquid tar, but unfortunately it is becoming clear that the standard of work so far is poor. For the job to be completed correctly there is a need for labour, plant, and tar to be available at the same time and budget constraints have meant the correct plant has not been available, meaning the result is not what was promised.

7. Annual accounts - £1102.51 in the account.

Members wished to thank Rita for preparing accounts for the year end.

8. Community Council issues.

TA was contacted by Helen Ross as HC had received calls about access to the woodland in Milton being restricted. **TA** advised Helen that KALECC had been contacted by residents who were concerned about the use of Quad bikes in the fields adjacent to the woods, with the vehicles being ridden on the paths used by walkers/Mobility Scooter users. The landowners had been notified and the field margins ploughed due to the damage caused.

RF & MM gave a brief overview of the Zoom meetings they had attended with the other CCs re the Strathroy Windfarm Community Benefit Fund. No agreement between the CCs as to the percentage split to each CC. Another meeting to be scheduled and meantime we agreed to take another look at our proposal and see what other data can be added to strengthen our proposal, such as deprivation. **RF, TA & MM** then gave a short overview of our catch-up meeting with Eli Harji and Mark Cummings of Invicta Public Affairs, re the Strathroy Windfarm. They confirmed that the planning application will be considered at the June 2021 North Area Planning Committee meeting and the next roundtable meeting will be scheduled after a decision has been made, if planning is granted, with a final decision made on the Community Benefit Fund split to each CC. KALECC members agreed to send a letter to our three HCllrs to confirm KALECCs position on this proposed application. **MM** to follow up.

9. Planning and Licensing

Ref Number: 21/01505/S42 - Section 42 application to remove Condition 1 of planning permission 19/04722/FUL - Members would be concerned if this proposal failed to meet the Housing in the Countryside requirements but appreciate that this will be considered by HC when considering this application.

Ref Number: 21/01540/FUL - Erection of extension to flat. No objections by members and no contact from members of the public regarding this application.

10. Mental Health and wellbeing

11. Correspondence:

Letter of thanks from Cromarty Firth Men's Shed for their Beinn Tharsuinn funding application.

12. AOB

RMF distributed a proposal for KALECC to sponsor and support kids in the area to play tennis at the Tain Tennis Club, by providing rackets, tennis balls and membership fees. Local children will be invited to 'apply' for a place on the scheme. The intention is to start with 12 places. Agreed that **RMF** will make an application to Beinn Tharsuinn for funding. We hope to have this up and running by the summer school holidays if funding is agreed.

KALECC have been notified of a white van which has been towed and abandoned in Milton, near to the Playpark. **DL** to follow up with HC.

KALECC also notified of a Campervan and Caravan which is being stored in a carpark by Old Mill road, Milton. Vehicles seem to come and go from this carpark and so members decided to see if they were still there at the time of our next meeting before contacting HC about this.

13. Date of next meeting – 20 May 2021 at 7.30 via Zoom

14. Beinn Tharsuinn