



### **Minutes of ordinary meeting on the 18.05.23 at 7.30 in the Mercat Centre**

**1. Present** Tom Anderson **TA** (chair), Ron Ferguson **RF** (Vice Chair), Rita Fenton **RMF** (Treasurer), Marion Macleod (Secretary) **MM**, Allan McLeod **AM** CC, Sandra Macdonald **SM**, CC HCllr Derek Loudon, **DL**

**Public in attendance** – Claudette Bruce, Highland Broadband; Jim Moran, Highland Broadband & Catherine Williams, Chair, St Duthac Book & Arts Festival Group

**2. Apologies** Angie Cox **AC** CC (Minutes secretary) & HCllr Sarah Rawlings **SR**,

**3. Police report** - No report provided. No matters raised for the Police. **MM** to email again to see if a report can be provided.

**4. Minutes of ordinary meeting on 20.04.23** - Minutes approved by 1<sup>st</sup> - **RF**, 2<sup>nd</sup> - **RMF**

**5. Matters arising from minutes.** The loop Road in Milton has now been resurfaced. **THC's** 20mph speed limit programme is progressing. Bin replacement, **AM** has been chasing Community Services and Helen Ross for an update but has not had an answer. There is a real need for a bin at the playpark to stop kids leaving litter/using bins belonging to residents.

**6. Reports by Highland Councillors.** Sarah Rawlings attended briefly before the meeting began to advise KALECC members of her resignation as a Highland Councillor. **TA** thanked her for coming to tell us personally and for work done for KALECC. There will be an election to replace her in due course. **HCllr DL** advised that there had been a full Council meeting last week and they are focused on generating income and not putting peoples bills up. The Climate Change Committee met this week and have now agreed a strategy. **THC** are one of the last Local Authorities to produce a strategy, but now they have one in place, they can build on it. NDR appeal/complaints are likely to increase due to the re-evaluation undertaken. Financial Accounts are nearly completed so hopefully we will know soon if **THC** have hit their targets or not. Some tough decisions had to be made; areas where **THC** don't have a statutory duty to provide a service will likely see a reduction/removal. Not a decision members wanted to make but they had little other options.

**7. Annual accounts** - £1520.90

**8. Community Council issues.** Highland Broadband, part of Lothian Broadband Networks has recently been awarded permission to roll out Ultrafast, Purefibre Broadband by the Department of Digital, Cultural, Media, and Sports (DCMS) under their Gigabit Voucher Scheme, to Milton & Kildary. They are currently rolling this out in Alness, then Invergordon and Evanton. These areas will be the first rural areas in the Highlands to get 1GB Ultrafast Purefibre Broadband. They will continue to roll this broadband out to other areas - Fearn, Tain, the Seaboard villages and up as far as Helmsdale. Barbaraville and surrounding areas

are not included in this first phase but may well be included in a later phase. Timescale for Milton & Kildary is late summer. The company works closely with the communities they are working in, offering free fibre connections to Community Halls/Hubs to benefit people in the community who might otherwise be unable to access the internet. They also offer sponsorship for local groups. A Toby box with fibre cable is installed outside each property in the areas where the broadband is being rolled out and an engineer will then run this fibre cable into any property where the occupier signs up for the broadband, undertaking whatever work is required to get the cable into the property. 15M and under is a standard install, over 15M requires more work and preparation. This broadband provides a symmetrical system meaning that the upload speed and download speed will be the same. You will also be able to keep your land line telephone number if you decide to take up their Internet based phone system. They are seeing good take up numbers in Alness so far and this is expected to continue. More information can be found at [highlandbroadband.com](http://highlandbroadband.com). KALECC thanked Claudette and Jim for attending our meeting to explain more about this project.

Catherine, Chair of the St Duthac Book and Arts Festival Group attended our CC Meeting to speak about the festival. Last year was the second festival with 39 different events around the area, 19 events held in the first year. They use different venues all over the area to ensure even the most rural areas are included, to enable as many people as possible to enjoy the festival. It is a cultural festival for all ages, with authors, artists, special events geared towards children and much more. Balnagowan Estate hosted an event last year and have agreed to two events this year as it was such a success. The group is run by volunteers, and they fund the festival themselves, through raffles, ticket purchases and securing funding from local groups. KALECC thanked Catherine for her time and members agreed to write a letter of support for this organisation, to help them secure funding.

Transport Consultation & Local Development Plan, members had no comments.

KALECC Member, Sandra Macdonald, gave her resignation. **TA** and members thanked Sandra for all her hard work for the CC over many years.

Members hope to co-opt someone to replace Sandra, **MM** to add this to the agenda for the next meeting.

## **9. Planning and Licensing.**

### **10. Mental Health and wellbeing.**

**11. Correspondence.** Boundaries Scotland is undertaking it's Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries. Consultation runs from 17 May 2023 to 17 June 2023. Details forwarded to CC Members prior to meeting. **TA** confirmed this review has no changes to our area.

**12. AOB.** Examples of benches and picnic benches sent by **AM** to other members prior to the meeting. Decision taken by members that the more expensive, more durable ones should be purchased for the playpark.

**13.Date of next meeting.** AGM on 15 June 2023 at 7:00pm followed by general meeting at 7.30pm, in the Mercat Centre.

**14. Beinn Tharsuinn Fund Applications.** St Duthac Book and Arts Festival Group application agreed; Kilmuir & Logie Easter Action & Development Group (K.A.L.E) application agreed; and Milton & District Bowling Club application agreed.