

KIRRIEMUIR LANDWARD WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting, Thursday 25 August 2022 in Glenisla Hall at 1930

Present: Sue Smith (Chairman, Balintore), Geoff Hobson (Kingoldrum), Meg Mearns (Glenisla), Sally Colville (Glenisla), Helen Humphreys (Westmuir), Liz Hamilton, Dave Koller (Kilry), Rosemary Scrimgeour, Cllr Ronnie Proctor, Cllr Bell, Cllr Meechan, Sam O'Connor (SSEN), Ruth White (SLE)

1. **Welcome:** SS welcomed Sam O'Connor, Regional Manager, SSEN and Ruth White (Scottish Land and Estates)

Apologies: David Robinson (Airlie), Roger Clegg (Kilry), Alison Bannerman (Ruthven)

2. **Minutes of Meeting on 26th May 2022.** Approved

3. **Matters arising from previous meeting**

Ruthven Lodges: Progress has halted as there appears to be a shortage of water and electricity supply as water tanks and generators are being installed. Queries over possible contra-vention of planning for restricted use will be addressed by Cllr Proctor.

Peathaugh Planning Application – no response so far - chaser emails have been sent.

State of the Roads – U388 (Kilry) issue continues with damage to road surfaces and verges whilst wood extraction continues. MM raised the B951 at Pitmudie (DD8 5JQ) that continues to have water running down the verge despite the prolonged dry spell and exacerbating the deteriorating condition of the road surface and verge.

4. **SSEN - Sam O'Connor**

Sam discussed the issues facing SSEN raised by Storm Arwen and others and shared with us the major investments SSEN are making to investigate and remedy defects in the network. These included investment in equipment, aerial surveys of the network, tree cutting around lines. Promotion of community and personal resilience is a key strategy and annual funding is available for communities. Sam brought along samples of home emergency kits, including information on how to register for Priority Service. Members took these to promote further. She discussed the links with other Category 2 responder organisations who form part of the Tayside Local Resilience Partnership. They will continue to identify strategic sites for focusing priority help in large events such as Arwen, develop a “warn and inform” system to key people who can then disseminate that information further within their own communities. They will be linking in with upcoming Warm Homes scheme looking at “Warm Banks” and promoting the existing free energy efficiency checks for homes.

SSEN acknowledged the need for change in their communication procedures on updates. Sam highlighted access to the 24 hour call centre for updates to the system by phoning 105 and the free Powertrack app.

5. Financial Report

Sally Colville is now officially in post as Treasurer as the bank signatories have now been changed after a marathon effort by SS

SC made a request on behalf of SS to donate a compensation sum totalling £249, awarded to SS & KIWCC by Bank of Scotland for poor service, to Forfar Guide Dogs for the Blind. This was agreed unanimously and rounded up to £250 by KIWCC. Cheque to be issued accordingly.

Funds stand at £5595.77

6. Police Report

Circulated, but no attendance at CC meetings for some time was noted.

7. Correspondence

Cairngorms National Park have commissioned the Scottish Community Development Centre to carry out work on their Heritage Horizons Programme (Lottery funded) on an Effective Community Engagement Project. They are holding face to face meetings in the north and east of the Park, but for the west and south intend to hold an online meet (Zoom or Teams) in the week beginning 5th or 12th September. If anyone is interested please get back to MM before Thursday 1st September.

8. Community Council Elections 2022

All nominations have to be in by 31 August at 4pm.

3 members are standing down but there have been 3 expressions of interest.

9. Backwater/Lintrathen/SW partnership

This partnership was formed to address issues of antisocial behaviour, wild camping, wildfires, coldwater shock etc. It includes Police Scotland, Mountain Rescue, Scottish Fire and Rescue, Scottish Water (landowner) and other stakeholders such as local residents and representatives from KIWCC. Despite needles found at Lintrathen Loch, examples of poor behaviour and dirty camping, there seems to have been no apparent action. These local problems do not appear to be a priority for the landowner (Scottish Water).

A coordinated event was held at Backwater and Lintrathen reservoirs in July and attended by SC and SS for KIWCC. The event was a success but, owing to inclement weather, there were few visitors to either site. Another event is planned for October, subject to weather. As a result of this engagement, SS has been in dialogue with Inspector Grant McGaughay, Police Scotland, who has expressed intent, together with his colleague PC Paul Morgan, to attend a future KIWCC meeting.

Ruth White, Regional Support Officer at Scottish Land and Estates shared similar experiences at Clunie Loch, Perthshire and highlighted some of the mitigating actions taken there. These include making a Clearway by marking the road with lines, putting boulders in parking places but the most effective had been provision of a Ranger Service, talking to visitors, many of whom are unaware of the ecological sensitivity of this area. This service was provided by a £600,000 grant that runs out in 2023. Ruth will connect SS to the Clunie Steering Group.

Action Point – Ruth will contact her Head Office to investigate making connections with Scottish Water.

Action Point – SS will ask Gavin Steel of Scottish Water to invite Ruth to the next Partnership Meeting.

10. **BT plans for removing all landlines** at some point (2024 mooted) was brought up by MM as rural communities depend on landlines for emergency contact in times of power cuts. **Action Point** – all to monitor and lobby

11. **KLWCGS**

Next meeting is in October to discuss opening of the next round grants for aiding local projects.

Members were reminded to alert any organisations that may benefit to be aware of the new round of funding.

12. **Member's Items**

None

13. **Planning**

None

11. **AOB**

Thanks were given to all the retiring members for their contributions over the years – Roger Clegg, Helen Humphreys, David Robinson.

12. **Date of Next Meeting – Please note – AGM!**

24 November 2022 at 7.30pm in **Kilry Hall, PH11 8HS (tbc)**