

**KILNINVER AND KILMELFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Draft

**TUESDAY 10th December
Kilmelford village hall at 8pm**

Present: Roanna Clark (RC) Convenor and chair, Gill Philpotts (GP) Secretary, Samantha Dunion (SD) Treasurer, Jamie McAndrew (JM), Georgina Dalton (GD), Vice-convenor, Keiron Green (KG), Andrew Vennard (AV) councillor – Oban N & Lorn,

4 members of the public attended

1 Apologies: Stuart Cannon, David Wilkie

2 Declarations of Interest: There were none

3 Minutes of meeting: held 15th October 2024; The minutes were approved by Jamie McAndrew, and seconded by Gill Philpotts

4 Matters arising/progress from previous meeting:

- a) Pictures displayed in the village hall; Village hall committee is sourcing an appropriate sized portrait of the King to replace the one of the late Queen that was taken down, GD is sourcing an appropriate frame for the pictures of the children.
- b) Notice board for Arduaine; Unanimous support for this in the village at a recent meeting of residents. There are a few new houses and more permanent residents so this would be beneficial. David MacKay would keep this updated. GP to do main windfarm grant application, as the value is likely to be above the micro grant amount. Deadline for main grant will be end of January to be considered in March/April.

All other items are covered in the agenda

5 Roads;

- a) GP had emailed Roads department to request that the greenery be chopped down from in front of the speed limit sign to the south of the village – no response. RC will take a look and see if it is safe for her to do with a chainsaw.
- b) Sign for Arduaine to encourage drivers to slow down; Designs from Digital Kangaroo were very uninspired. There is a new person in Lochgilphead who was advertising, quoted £150-200 for designs, then we can get Digital Kangaroo to produce. Agreement to go ahead.
- c) Car in ditch between Kames and Loch Melfort hotel, caused by overflowing ditch, frozen with a very thick patch of ice. Jane Rentoul enquired why the council are unable to keep drains clear. KG – lack of money. GP will email roads department regarding this issue.
- d) Also noted that there was police tape at the loch North of Kilmelford, unsure of what happened, but to be noted on the RTA log.
- e) Liz Mackay has reported the issue of speeding in Arduaine to the council. There are a number of children being collected for school and speeding is an issue.
- f) KG; There is a consultation by the Scottish Government regarding a possible change to the speed limits on single carriageways from 60mph to 50mph. The speed limit for

lorries would increase from 40mph to 50mph on these roads. Consultation open to 5th March 2025. <https://consult.gov.scot/transport-scotland/national-speed-management-review/>

6. Future Events

- a) Tractor run: Tuesday 17th December. Start at 6pm Melfort Club, where the tractors will gather. Leaving at 6.30pm to go up towards the Cuilfail, turn round and then into the Glebe, then back to the Village hall. Wind farm grant has been applied to for costs of providing sweets, teas, hot chocolate and cakes. Collection bucket will be at the hall. Discussion regarding funds, agreed that this year funds raised will go towards the Summer Festival.
- b) Carol Singing will be at Kilmelford Church, Friday 20th December, 6.30pm
- c) AGM Community Company, 14th February

7 Community Company; Loch Melfort and Kilninver Company Ltd

Liz MacKay: Now have 73 members, most of them full members. Someone from the company will attend the melfort club AGM to try and get some associate members.

Village Shop; Shop is closed, but keys not handed back yet as Post Office still have to collect the equipment.

They had a meeting with the council regarding the proposed site at the bus stop/car park.

The council representative has gone back to talk to colleagues about the next steps.

They may need to have another consultation early next year to gauge support.

The community company's first AGM is 14th February 2025, and the first newsletter has gone out to members. There has been a few articles in the Oban Times.

The tabletop sale raised around £8-900, and the Christmas fair was well attended, but still working out expenses for this event.

The company logo has been drafted, a few minor changes are required with the designer, but it will help to give the company a recognisable identity.

The company will organise a public meeting about the shop, maybe before the AGM.

Must be a member to be able to vote, anyone wishing to join should contact Liz MacKay for a membership form.

The company is looking for people that will do some of the things that need to be done;

Finance Director

Social Media Think they have someone for this role

They will also be looking for an operator for the shop, as a community staffed shop would not work as there would be too much work for the voluntary committee to do with the organisation of this.

It is unlikely that they will get a post office back in the village.

8 Planning

A list of planning applications was circulated. No objections were raised.

9 Correspondence

- a) Sepa Flooding Toolkit; <https://beta.sepa.scot/flooding>
- b) Details received for another planned windfarm. Will get more details in due course
- c) Police report. 24 calls for service, 5 crimes, 45 Road Traffic offences in November.

This covers a wide area and is not broken down to show how many of these are in our area.

KG; other Community councils have expressed disappointment at the level of community engagement and the quality of these police reports. Suggested a joint letter to police from community councils if this was of concern

Discussion was that the reports are too broad so we cannot see what information is relevant to our area.

- d) Bank Charges; Letter received from BOS to say the type of account is changing. The previous treasurers account was free, but the new Community account has a monthly fee of £4.25 and there will be fees for transactions, including fees for putting cash in the bank. SD will investigate alternatives. RBS are offering free accounts for community groups.
- e) Joe Wadsworth, Arduaine has been in touch regarding smart meter uptake in the area. General discussion to see if any issues. Some smart meters not working in the area, and some electricity companies are not fitting them due to connection issues. Possible Facebook post to see what the general feeling is regarding this and whether there is a demand in the area.
KG; those with total heat, total control meters are going to be forced to get smart meters as the radio signal for the old meters is getting switched off.
SD; has asked for a smart meter and is being stalled by Octopus who are citing limited connectivity. Will investigate contact for getting government to lobby the electricity companies to improve connectivity.

10. Any Other Competent Business

- a) There was a previous proposal to have a recreational corridor LMH to Craobh. What is the current status? It would attract visitors as well as benefit locals, and there is a possible route. RC it was discussed, but limited room on roadside as one side has a drop to the shore. Also need to consider land ownership. There was previously discussion around a similar path from Kilmelford to the boat yard, but as well as land ownership issue, there is no funding available.
- b) Visitor Levy; Council will be deciding soon on whether to proceed with consultation into visitor levy. If goes ahead it, consultation will run Jan – March 25. Proposal is for 5% levy, with some exemptions. Consultation will also look for views on use of funds.
- c) Local Place Plan; Antonia Baird has been in touch with Community Company suggesting that they look at this, however they feel the project is more appropriate for community council. KG; Luing have done theirs, and it is getting published this week. Worth looking at theirs to see what can be done.

11 Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 11th February 2024 Kilmelford Village Hall 8 pm