Kippen Community Council

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting held in Kippen Reading Rooms at 7:30 Wednesday 11th October 2023

Present: Derek Shanks (Chair), Barbara Ross (Vice-Chair), Margaret Beaton (Planning/Licensing), Scott Crawford, Michaela Yates and Ann Milligan.

In Attendance: Councillor Paul Henke, (Esther Lim (Minute Taker)

Apologies: Robert Clubb (Treasurer), Christine Stewart.

Residents: There were 4 members of the public present

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and gave the apologies.

2. Adoption of Minutes

It was noted that under point 3.1 of the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2023, Scott Crawford (SC) is designated as 'The Secretary'. As SC has resigned from this position, it was agreed these words would be removed.

The unconfirmed minutes of the Meeting held on 13th September 2023 were then approved having been proposed by Margaret Beaton (MB) and seconded by Michaela Yates (MY).

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Castlehill Loan Recycling Hub

Robert Clubb (RC) emailed the 3 local councillors regarding this issue but has received no reply as yet. Councillor Paul Henke (PH) recommended the Community Council (KCC) contact only one councillor in future as writing to 3 councillors with the same enquiry can cause delays. The KCC agreed that RC would resubmit his enquiry directly to PH. **[Action: Robert Clubb]**

3.2 Local Place Plan (LPP)

RC has been in touch with Paul Ede of Planning Aid for Scotland (PAS) and received a new proposal. The Community Trust (Windfarm) have agreed to pay the fee of £150. RC recommended that he, Barbara Ross (BR) and Alan Beaton and/or Martin Brown from the Community Trust meet with PAS at a date to be agreed. They will look at hosting a survey on the KCC website following the meeting with PAS. **[Action: Robert Clubb]**

Barbara Ross (BR) has written up the results of the LPP drop-in session. A short version has been submitted to 'The Wee Vine' and a longer version will be posted on the website. BR and Ann Milligan (AM) attended a webinar on the LPP. Going forward the need is to get input from all sectors of the community and advice on

formulating a questionnaire to gather both quantitative and qualitative data. KCC agreed not to contact other CCs until they know the direction they will take.

3.3 Website Access for Michaela Yates

RC agreed to arrange access within the next few days. **[Action: Robert Clubb]**

3.4 Bridge Handrail Repair

DS agreed to make the repair before the next meeting.

3.5 Roads Update

SC has been advised that enquiries must be sent to Stirling Council individually in future. KCC has been update as follows:

3.5.1 Overgrown Verges

A local resident had raised the question of road markings and verges. The verges of roads are quite overgrown especially on the Fore Road, B822 Kippen Station and A811. Due to this, there are no/few visible road markings to mark the outside of the road. These lines are extremely important especially as the dark nights are drawing in.

SC received the following reply from SC: “There is currently no edge markings on the B822 or Fore Road in Kippen, however I would agree that the centre line markings, bus stops and yellow lines do require to be refreshed. This will be added to the works schedule subject accordingly. In regard to the A811, this is currently being looked at from Stirling to Drymen and we are awaiting confirmation of a grant application for this relining work to be carried out.”

3.5.2 Blocked Drains on Main Street

KCC have been advised by SC that these will be cleared before the start of the winter cycle (end of October). Members confirmed that some drains were unblocked yesterday but some could not be cleared due to parked cars. SC noted that details of several additional blocked drains had been posted on facebook and a resident noted some others. SC requested that these be emailed to him so he can forward details to the roads department to request these are cleared also. It was also suggested he request prior warning of their next visit so that parked cars can be moved**. [Action: Scott Crawford]**

3.5.3 Castlehill Loan – Damage due to Large Vehicles

The Roads Inspector has advised that the damage is not of a scale that justifies the council seeking remediation from the developer. They road will be reviewed again in their next survey in 2024/5. Members agreed that this was not satisfactory.

3.5.4 Speeding

Stephen Bly had apologised to KCC that Stirling Council is not able to respond to their enquiry as the Traffic Management Officer has left. He has asked the roads service to respond to the KCC once the position has been filled.

Balfron police have also agreed to visit the area to obtain information on speeding in the near future.

3.5.6 Adoption of the Private Road Near Dasher Farm

KCC and a councillor have sent emails to Stirling Council in support of this application.

3.6 Air Quality

BR attended an air quality workshop hosted by Amy McCarron of Stirling University. She is developing a website which enables residents in rural areas to find out about their local air quality. BR highlighted the following points:

- The nearest monitor to Kippen is at the Craigs roundabout in Stirling.
- The only area in the UK in the category of lowest air pollution is the North of Scotland. Kippen and the surrounding areas are in the next lowest group.
- Ammonia levels can be a concern in rural areas and can become an issue when combined with car pollutants. BR noted there is a large dairy farm in the area.

3.7 Giant Hogweed

Members informed Councillor Henke that giant hogweed is spreading rapidly along waterways in the area and is highly toxic. It needs to be sprayed regularly for a period of 5 years in order to be eradicated and ordinary members of the public are not allowed to purchase the chemicals needed to do this. Members pointed out that some areas, such as the cycle track to Buchlyvie, appear to have been treated but not others with the result that hogweed will continue to spread. It was recognised that this is now a national as well as local issue. PH agreed to raise this with Stirling Council and the Scottish Government **[Action: Councillor Henke]**

3.8 The Wee Vine Update

BR has submitted a report on recent KCC activities to ‘The Wee Vine’ including details of who is on the council, the dates of meetings, updates on air quality monitoring and the LPP as well as other issues.

3.9 Windfarm Funding

The KCC agreed to apply for funding in January 2024.

3.10 Improvements to Recycling Shed, Sign & Panorama

SC suggested posting on the village pages that neither KCC nor Stirling Council are responsible for the recycling shed, the sign near the recycling shed or the panorama. He suggested contacting local residents via facebook to form a committee to work on these areas alongside KCC. A proposal for funding could potentially be included in the application for windfarm funding in January 2024. Members agreed to discuss this at the next meeting. **[Action: Scott Crawford]**

4. Administration / Secretary

The Chair asked for volunteers to step forward for this role. Michaela Yates (MY) put herself forward and it was agreed she would take over the role with immediate effect. It was agreed she would meet with Scott Crawford to discuss the role. **[Action: Scott Crawford and Michaela Yates]**

5. Matters for discussion

5.1 Police Report

SC read the police report. He noted that KCC had requested a detailed report but only a short summary had been provided. Enquiries are still ongoing regarding the motorbike thefts in Kippen and the surrounding area reported at the last meeting. The following cases were reported since the last meeting:

- I case of a person fishing without a permit
- Several cases of speeding on the A11
- A domestic assault

The report also shared a number of tips on how to prevent thefts and other crimes. SC will pass these to MY to put onto the website.

5.2 Correspondence

Stirling Council asked KCC to discuss the proposal to address a 4-property development at Kippen Station as ‘1-4 The Sidings’. Members agreed they had no concerns with this address.

5.3 Planning

There has been one application since the last meeting:

- A single-storey side extension at Braehead Farm.

5.4 Treasurer’s Report

The Chair read the treasurer’s report. It highlighted the following:

- The only expenditure since the last meeting was the cost for a minute taker and room hire.
- The administration grant has been received from Stirling Council.

5.5 Councillor's Report

Councillor Henke gave the Councillor's Report. He had planned to speak on the issue of giant hogweed which was discussed earlier in the meeting.

He reminded KCC that Stirling Council are having to find £12 million in cuts in the coming year in addition to the £5 million this year so there will be some difficult decisions to be made. He encouraged KCC to contact him directly by email with any issues that arise and he will be happy to help.

6. Round Table Discussion / Any Other Competent Business

6.1 Drains – Cameron Crescent

The condition of the drains on Cameron Crescent was raised with Councillor Henke. PH agreed to contact Scottish Water regarding this. SC agreed to send the relevant information to PH. **[Action: Scott Crawford and Councillor Henke]**

6.2 Standing Water – The Meadows

SC brought up the issue of the standing water on The Meadows and the risk of ice causing accidents. SC agreed to send the information to PH. PH will raise this with Stirling Council. **[Action: Scott Crawford and Councillor Henke]**

6.2 Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Points

SC raised concern at the potential hazard of EV charging points located near trees or wood clad properties in Kippen in the light of recent media reports. He suggested there should be a need to request planning permission before points are installed.

DS shared his professional opinion as a fire consultant that charging stations do not pose a high risk. He stated that electric cars are a greater risk as, although the risk of them catching fire is minimal, the consequences of battery damage and the resulting thermal runaway are very high. However, this is not an issue which community councils can address but will need to be discussed at government level in the future.

6.3 Installation of Telegraph Pole without Consultation

BR raised the issue of a new telegraph pole installed beside the A11 (to carry high-speed fibre broadband) without consultation. She expressed concern at the lack of consultation she felt was particular to rural areas and asked PH if this could be raised with the Council. PH felt nothing could be done in this particular incidence but agreed to raise a request for more community consultation in general. BR agreed to email him the details of this case. **[Action: Barbara Ross and Councillor Henke]**

6.4 Potholes

A local resident asked if the road works currently being undertaken at the end of the village on the road to Fintry could be extended to include the potholes outside

her house. PH asked her to email him with the details and agreed to take this forward. **[Action: Councillor Henke]**

6.5 Amendments to Minutes

BR suggested any amendments to the draft meeting minutes be sent by members to the Secretary within 3 working days of receipt. The Secretary will forward these to the minute taker in one go to avoid confusion or duplication.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place at 7:30pm on Wednesday 8th November 2023 in the Kippen Reading Rooms.