

WEST KINTYRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of AGM held on 20th September 2021

1. Present:

Margaret Pratt(MP)(Convener), Linda McCrae(LMcC) (Vice Convener), Margaret Soudan (MS)(Treasurer), Morag Branson (MB)(Secretary), Zofija Sloan(ZS), Christine O'Hanlon(CO'H)

2. Apologies:

Councillors John Armour, and Alistair Redman, Joseph Loganbill

3. In Attendance:

Councillors Anne Horn and Robin Currie, one member of the public.

4: Conveners annual report;

The convener gave her annual report on the work of the Community Council over the last year. This is attached to these minutes.

4. Treasurers annual report:

The treasurer reported that the accounts were currently still with the auditor and would be forwarded to the council as soon as received back. However, with the funding received from the council annually only being circa £400 the Community Council were continuing to seek funding assistance for the running of Tayinloan toilets to enable them to remain open.

5. Election of officer bearers for forthcoming year:

The whole community council stood down whist Councillor Anne Horn chaired the election of office bearers for the forthcoming year. Elections were as follows: M. Pratt – Convener, L. McCrae- Vice chair, M. Soudan – Treasurer, M. Branson – Secretary, Z. Sloan, C. O'Hanlon and J. Loganbill(who had previously indicated he was willing to continue as a Community Councillor) Councillors.

6. End of AGM – next AGM to be arranged at a future date.

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Due to Covid-19 it has been two years since we last held an AGM therefore this report is of necessity a bit longer than usual.

Although the pandemic regulations meant we were unable to meet in person we have continued to meet regularly via Zoom to carry on the work of the community council. Although many projects such as the development of the toilets at Westport beach have of necessity been put on hold, we intend to pick up this project soon with the hope of progressing it to completion in readiness for next year's tourist season.

We now have 7 defibrillators throughout the area with the addition of one at Kilkenzie now giving all the villages we represent access to life saving equipment should the need arise.

Due to being classed as essential Windfarm developments have carried on despite restrictions with the construction of BaT 3 now completed and in the testing and commissioning stage. ~~Di~~ During the construction of BaT 3 there were several problems with regards to workers that were being housed in the area breaking Covid rules, but these were dealt with promptly by the setting up of a community liaison group (initially weekly) which included ourselves, local councillors and the developer for dealing with these infringements and agreeing solutions. The construction of Blary Hill construction also commenced with the developer agreeing to regularly update residents in the form of regular household letter drops and the local site manager and liaison officer regularly dropping into to see residents to discuss any problems, this model of working has proven to be very good with little conflict arising throughout the construction period. Several other new windfarm applications have come through and are being dealt with namely Narachan – now in planning, Sheirdrim Hill, now in planning with public hearing/inquiry dates set for 8 days commencing 22nd November 2021, Clachaig Glen – change of size of consented turbines, Earraghail, Rowan, Cnoc Breacon. High Constellation are currently gearing up for construction.

We have been party to the Clachan Flood forum – a group set up by the Council to discuss and plan for the possibility of Clachan being put forward by the Council to the Scottish Government for consideration of funding for a flood relief scheme. In the meantime, we have funded a flood pod containing flood defence gear for those properties most at risk if we were to receive a flood alert from the river tracking systems we have also helped to fund.

We have had discussions with Gigha with regards to their concerns about car parking at Tayinloan and taken part in the Council's car parking consultation. Dog waste bins have been placed at the entrance of Tayinloan playpark to hopefully get dog owners to do the responsible thing and pick up after their dogs and dispose of properly

Following several incidences of people being caught in rip tides we have funded several signs at Westport Beach that show the dangers and what to do if caught and who to contact. These

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signs contain both pictorial images and wording to enable anyone whose first language is not English to be able to understand what to do,

We are party to monthly meetings set up by SSEN concerning the new overhead power line and pylons being installed between Inveraray and Crossaig.

We are proud to have been the co-sponsors to the recommendation that Shopper-Aide be awarded "The Queens Award to Volunteer Groups" for which we are pleased they have been awarded and are fully deserving of such a prestigious award.

We have joined with East Kintyre and set up the East Kintyre Renewable Energy Group with equal funding from both East and West Kintyre for the costs in the setting up of this group which will negotiate with one voice with regards to our wishing to invest in suitable Community Shared Ownership agreements with developers of windfarms, Campbeltown CC and Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust have now also signed MoU's with this group with regards to CSO agreements.

Covid-19 has brought out the best in local communities with people pulling together to look after their neighbours and support those on the front line. Several people sat for many hours making scrubs for the NHS and face coverings for those who wanted one, the local shops are to be commended for helping to distribute essential items to those who were unable to get to the shops and for helping make up orders for those who were delivering shopping to neighbours and friends. Throughout Covid-19 we have funded many projects and groups working in the area, most of which are outlined in the reports below:

The Windfarm Trusts:

The Windfarm Trust

Although many projects planned by groups throughout the area had to be shelved or postponed the Windfarm Trust continued to support many projects plus several linked purely to pandemic support. Since April 2019 the Wind Farm Trust has allocated £109,711.00 to various projects such as:

£10,750 to Shopper-Aide for adaptations to vehicles to carry extra loads during increased shopping requests during "lockdown" and the development of the "telephone buddy service", quizzes and virtual tea parties and the delivery of prescriptions

£27,000 towards the West Kintyre Playpark developed at Tayinloan

£11,000 towards the upkeep of the Kintyre Way

£10,500 to Rhunahoarine School for the archaeological project with Kilmartin Museum

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£12,000 The setting up of EKREG

£3,000 Glenbarr School for the development of the outdoor play area

£1000 Campbeltown food bank

£10,000 Campbeltown Mixed Marshal Arts to help purchase their building

£200 Friends of Tarbert fuel costs for food delivery during pandemic

£801 Rip tides signage at Westport Beach

These are just a few of the projects we have managed to support despite Covid-19

West Kintyre Community Fund

Continues fund the local electricity discount scheme for those houses built and occupied on the day the Freasdail Windfarm was commissioned. This is proving to be a god send to many households and this paid £242 towards their electricity bills.

The Fund had continued to offer bursaries and is currently supporting 8 bursaries of £1000 per annum for the duration of applicants course. We currently have applicants undertaking undergraduate degrees, apprenticeships and college course. Since this fund commenced six people have successfully completed their courses, but sadly 2 have also dropped out.

The fund has also helped two new business "start-ups" with business "start-up" grants, one aiming to produce ancient recipe wines, and the other a charcutarrie.

The big pandemic item saw this fund purchase a brand-new vehicle for Shopper-Aide built to the specifications Shopper-Aide needed such as wheelchair friendly, large space for carrying goods etc.

The above lists some of the work we as a Community Council have undertaken during these past difficult months.

All that remains is for me to thank my fellow Community Councillors and local Councillors for their support over the past two years.