

SOUTH KNAPDALE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

South Knapdale Community Council Meeting

28th February 2022

Minutes

1. Apologies for absence

- a. James Lithgow
- b. Brian Steven
- c. Agnes Wilkie
- d. Jonathan Sheldrick

2. Minutes of last meeting

- a. Statement from the Chairman:

I wish to record that with regard to a letter that went out with the minutes from the 4th October 2021 South Knapdale community council meeting, that I did not write the letter, or approve its release with the minutes.

I directed the immediate recall of the letter, a redaction of its content and gave a full and unreserved apology directly to both individuals concerned; which was accepted. I now consider the matter closed.

David Wilson
Chairman SKCC

- b. Minutes approved by Treasurer and second by John.

3. Co-option and Appointment of Secretary

- a. Peter Minshall appointed as Secretary

4. Chairman's report

- a. Community support WhatsApp group still open
- b. Reminder that the Council will uphold complete discretion and confidentiality if approached for any type of support.
- c. Compliments given to Hugh, Iain and Jarl for the F9/EDF discussion.
- d. Compliments given to Lynda for her contribution as secretary.

5. Police report

- a. Nothing relevant in the most recent Police report
- b. Jarl mentioned increase theft of quad bikes and stolen cooking oil in the wider Argyll and Bute area.

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6. Secretary's report

- a. No secretary report

7. Treasurer's report

- a. The balance at the last meeting was £3,202.31
- b. Received Annual Grant from Argyll & Bute Council £420.40
- c. Paid Data Protection Annual Registration Fee £35.00
- d. Balance in bank at the date of this meeting £3,587.71

8. Councillor's report

- a. Budget day last Thursday. There has been a 3% increase in council tax to justify the increased investments.
 - i. 8m for roads
 - ii. 1m funds to build new schools
 - iii. 0.5m +0.1 for staycation for saver paths and keeping it tidier.
 - iv. 0.5m on climate change reduction to council buildings
 - v. 0.1m on extra bins
 - vi. Additional budget for toilets open year-round and year to come.
- b. There have been some unallocated funds including for Covid19 and Crown Estate. There should be no reason that South Knapdale doesn't get part of this.
- c. There is 2M budget for local projects.
- d. Band A to D, and those that get an exception get 150 credit on their council tax.
- e. 1.4m allocation of Scottish Government to assist individuals and business in hardship.

9. Debriefing of meeting with Force 9 and EDF regarding Airigh windfarm

- a. Meeting by David, Grant, Hugh, Andrew, Iain, Jarl
 - i. Planning application is not economically viable. They could increase the size, height, and number of wind farms which all requires a new planning application.
 - ii. They want to reconsider bringing in the turbines through the Tarbert harbour.
 - iii. Iain's opinion is that the project is currently dead in water.
 - iv. They committed to 5000GBP to the community benefit and are considering a premium on the 5000GBP depending on the performance of the windfarm.
 - v. Hugh added that he feels that EDF and F9 were able to talk freely and productively.
 - vi. Jarl added that the connection to the grid and electricity prices are other hurdles also to be considered.

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- b. To summarize, positive meeting but with the expectation nothing to materialize in the next several years.
- c. Legally binding MOU with F9 / EDF for community benefit at £5000 per megawatt from Airigh windfarm
- d. We will have to wait to see if the project proceeds and how the economic environment will develop in Scotland.
- e. Scottish received 700M for offshore wind and Argyll and Bute would like to receive some of that revenue returned.
- f. Peter suggested that the Minute of Understanding should be followed up and signed by EDF/F9 to prevent any benefit intentions becoming waylaid over time. Confirmed by Treasurer and Chairman.

10. Wind Farm update (Rowan, Earraghail & Sheirdrim)

- a. Update from Hugh:
 - i. **SHEIRDRIUM** – The planning application for this wind farm remains with the DPEA (The Government’s planning appeals division) which has been conducting a public inquiry. Its target date was 25th Feb 2022 but no result had been posted by that date. The DPEA project reference number is WIN-130-5.
 - ii. **ROWAN** – Energiekontor has submitted the planning application for its wind farm to the Energy Consents Unit and has published a formal notice in the Argyll Advertiser (25/02/22). Members of the public can submit their views to the ECU – the deadline is 4th April 2022. The planning application can be viewed on the ECU web site where the contents are listed under numerous section headings as a useful index. When entering the ECU web site, first enter Rowan, then click on ECU00003230, and then “documents”. The most useful map showing visibility is Vol.2 Figure 6.4 ZTV (10km). The clearest map showing the developer’s access route onto its site can be found on its web site (www.energiekontor.co.uk/our-projects/rowan) by going to its list of documents and (4th from bottom), clicking on “Environmental, Non-technical Summary” and scrolling through to the last page but one.
 - iii. **EARRAGHAIL** – Scottish Power Renewables has also submitted its planning application for this wind farm to the Energy Consents Unit (formal notice also published in the Argyll Advertiser on 25/02’22. Its deadline for comments from the public is 3rd April 2022. The ECU reference number is ECU00003421, and the planning application can be accessed, section by section, as described in the Rowan paragraph above.
- b. Chairman proposed an extension of 6 weeks. Treasurer seconded the motion.

11. Kilberry Church progress report

- a. Peter reiterated that following consultation with the community, four locals had taken on the preparatory liability of Kilberry Church by setting up and becoming

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Trustees of a Scottish Charitable Incorporate Organisation (SCIO) named Kilberry 1821 Charitable Trust. The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) approved the establishment of the Trust on 21st October 2021. The main objective of the new Trust – to be known as Kilberry 1821 – is to ‘preserve the future of the former Kilberry Church for community benefit’. The intention will be for members of the community to organise themselves and form groups of interest to make use of the building as a village hall.

- b. Following negotiations, between the Trust and the Church of Scotland, the transfer of the building to the Trust is progressing and the date of transfer rests in the hands of the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland.
- c. The Treasurer, thanked Peter Minshall for leading on this project, which was seconded by the Chairman.

12. Update on land purchase at Torinturk

- a. Interest shown in this land for four years. There is a requirement for an asset transfer either directly to the Council or through a Trust.
- b. Peter suggested that if the latter became applicable, the newly formed SCIO might be worth approaching but he also reminded the meeting that his earlier investigations revealed that the Local Authority can act specifically for this purpose on behalf of Community Councils.
- c. The community council has a public liability certificate and could be used for the Torinturk land.
- d. David had issued an email to Forestry Land Scotland to purchase the land at a reasonable value instead of the high valuation. The high valuation was with the assumption that there are no evasive species and on public water supply which are both false.
- e. Forestry declined the Chairman’s offer.
- f. As it currently stands a new evaluation needs to be made and then needs to be considered by the Forestry Trustees.
- g. Iain re- summarised the benefits of having the land of Torinturk for communal events, gardens and also as firebreak to prevent further expansion.

13. Update on broadband/mobile initiative

- a. Openreach and BT are stopping the service over copper wires which includes broadband and phone; this is due to happen between 2023 and end of 2025.
- b. All residents will have to consider alternative options such as EE or satellite.
- c. The best options would be full fibre to all resident houses but this does not seem to be economically viable.
- d. The R100 should have the intention of connecting us but doubt was expressed about this materialising.

14. Overgrown trees/hedges obscuring passing place signs and causing concern regarding road safety on B8024

- a. The Chairman has passed on the pictures and emails expressing the dissatisfaction of not keeping up with regular maintenance but more pressing is not committing to promises made by Argyll and Bute.

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- b. Alastair asked to receive a copy of the pictures to put some extra weight behind the issue.

15. Any other business

- a. HM Platinum Jubilee – Sunday June 5th will be open 12 to 4 in Kilberry Village.
- b. The pipe band has been invited to play.
- c. John is open to request any other individuals who want to organise anything.
- d. Barr na Criche has registered an official beacon.
- e. Peter proposed the register of a domain name for South Knapdale Community Council with to ensure alignment of email communications.
- f. Peter raised the idea of re-introducing the telephone alert area signs on passing places. It was suggested that since their original introduction, social media has evolved and may be an additional useful tool for monitoring any suspicious activity along the Kilberry Road.
- g. David mentioned the Mile Markers have been approved and require time to be installed.

Iain McKinlay specifically asked that the following be minuted:

At the last Community Council meeting it was suggested, as an aside by someone present, that they knew and had been speaking to the owner of Force 9. It was claimed that the owner had said that our negotiations were too aggressive and would not achieve anything for the Community. At the meeting with F9 Iain McKinlay asked David Butterworth the owner of F9 if this was true. He responded clearly that this was not the case, and he was quite satisfied with the tone of the negotiations both in the past and at this meeting.

It was also claimed at the last SKCC meeting that F9 had been told to make sure that no benefit was to be made available through the Community Council. This claim was denied also at the Luss meeting with F9 and it was confirmed that F9 are happy to work with SKCC to achieve the best outcome for the South Knapdale Community.