

**KILLEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 17 JUNE 2015**

Members present	Jim Allan, Margery Burdon, Andrew Donaldson, Margaret Harrison (Chair), Hilary McGregor, Jim Ptolomey, Heather Wright
Apologies	Pam Campbell, Janet Duncan, Cllr Ian Muirhead, Brenda Pell, K Robertson, David Scott
In attendance	13 members of the public, Christine Bauwens (Minute Secretary)

AGM1 – MINUTES OF LAST AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 18 June 2014 were accepted as a true record of the meeting, moved by Heather Wright and seconded by Margery Burdon.

AGM2 – CHAIR’S REPORT

The Chair outlined the substance of the Annual Report for the year 2014/2015. Acceptance of the report was moved by Jim Allan and seconded by Hilary McGregor. The Annual Report is attached to the minute.

AGM3 – TREASURER’S REPORT

Margaret Harrison presented the Audited Accounts for the year 2014/2015. Acceptance of the accounts was moved by Margery Burdon and seconded by Heather Wright. The Audited Accounts are attached to the minute.

AGM4 – ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The Officers of the Council were re-elected, proposed by Jane Stephenson and seconded by Gordon Bauwens.

AGM 5 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

KILLEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

Having begun the session with several vacancies, we were pleased to welcome several new members: Hilary McGregor from February 2015 and Jim Ptolomey, co-opted as Planning Correspondent from March 2015. In addition we were fortunate to have Kirstie Robertson join us as Youth member. Her advice on matters of interest to local young people has been invaluable, and we are one of the few Community Councils to have a Youth member. Membership of KCC during 2014-2015 thus comprised: Jim Allan (Roads Correspondent), Margery Burdon (Secretary), Andrew Donaldson (Webmaster), Janet Duncan, Margaret Harrison (Chair), Hilary McGregor, David Morley, Jim Ptolomey (Planning Correspondent), Kirstie Robertson (Youth Member), David Scott (Vice Chair and Treasurer) and Heather Wright (Health and Waste Management Correspondent). Christine Bauwens served very ably as Minutes Secretary.

Some important issues were discussed during 2014-2015:

- KCC responded to Stirling Council's consultation on Priority-based budgeting, one of only 9 out of 42 Community Councils to do so. Cuts in winter gritting of rural roads were rejected by SC but it is proposed to introduce road end bin collections on private roads. The latter will be assessed on a case by case basis. SC intends to form Citizen's Assemblies which could discuss such issues as PBB, social care, the new Police arrangements, schools, roads etc and provide an opportunity to discuss points with experts in these fields. Local residents are encouraged to attend and to suggest topics for discussion
- SC instituted an early review of the Local Development Plan last year with a call for sites for development. KCC responded that it was the clearly expressed wish of Killearn residents that no more large housing developments should be built in the village, the Blairessan site should be limited to the 30 houses allocated, and the former Killearn Hospital site should be developed before any further green field sites are allocated. The result of the call for sites will be published in Summer 2015
- There are several ongoing roads issues, such as relocating the 30 mph sign on Station Road from Napier to Lampson Road, and addressing speeding issues on Birch Road. A meeting was held with SC senior staff to discuss those issues and a commitment was given to create a 40 mph buffer zone on Station Road from Napier Road to a point below Lampson Road during 2015-2016 financial year. While this is an improvement on the present situation, it remains the view of KCC that a 30 mph speed limit is appropriate in this area. Speeding vehicles on Birch Road are a danger to local children as this is a route to Killearn Primary School. The Parent Council have given their support to a 20 mph speed limit on Beech Drive and all roads off, as this is a route to school. All other approaches to the Primary School are already 20 mph limits. Inconsiderate parking on pavements and at the school entrance remains a problem

- Superfast broadband is expected to reach Killearn in the period July-December 2015 although it may not cover all premises initially. A particular concern is the needs of local businesses outwith the village, such as the Oakwood Garden Centre, local farms and the various businesses located at Killearn Mill. Rural businesses are at a communications disadvantage compared with businesses nearer city centres and it is essential that they be upgraded as soon as possible. Stephen Chambers of Digital Scotland will give a presentation on superfast broadband at our June meeting and representatives of local businesses have been invited to attend
- KCC was unable to support the proposal for a Comfort Partnership between the Village Hall Committee and SC, replacing the existing public toilets which would have been closed and demolished. The Comfort Partnership would have been available from around 10am to 5 pm 7 days per week, whereas the public toilets, although offering basic facilities and no disabled access, are open 24 hours for 11 months of the year and are used by visitors, walkers, cyclists, tradesmen, bin men and grass cutters as well as local residents. Concern was expressed about conflict with weddings and other private functions, and security and safety issues especially during evening hire involving children and young people

In addition to our regular business of scrutinising planning applications and liaising with SC on matters of concern to residents of Killearn, we also discussed the following matters:

- Under the new policing arrangements we receive police reports in a new format, with provision for feedback of comment from the community. The Smartwater anti-theft system launched in Killearn last year appears to have reduced the number of burglaries in the village. Police distributed packs to residents in vulnerable areas and the packs can be bought at reasonable cost direct from Smartwater.
- Creation of wildflower meadows to encourage biodiversity and reduce grass cutting - a small area of the turnip field backing on to Crosshead Road, the grassy area on Beech Drive near The Oaks, and the Blane Smithy Roundabout have been suggested to Stirling Council as suitable areas for wildflower planting. It is important that wildflower meadows are properly maintained and not allowed to revert to weeds. SC have been asked to restore the surface of the turnip field, which was left in a poor state following the building of the bungalows
- Killearn Winter Resilience plan is in abeyance as the plan was out of date. It is hoped to revise the plan in time for next winter
- We supported proposals by Killearn Primary School Parent Council for a footpath from Beech Drive to the school, and a petition to SC by Strathblane Community Council about the safety of the Stockiemuir Road, especially at the junction with Cuilt Road
- KCC noted the publication of Killearn Community Council area profile from the 2011 census, a very useful source of statistical information on the village

We welcomed external speakers to some of our meetings. We heard an interesting presentation by Neighbourhood Watch Scotland at KCC January meeting, and would like to revive a scheme in Killearn if there is sufficient interest from local residents. Brenda Pell and colleagues from KCFC informed us at our March meeting of the analysis of responses to the Killearn Community Action Plan Survey which will be used to determine what facilities residents want in the future. Green Aspirations, a community interest company based at Tir na nOg described their proposed project in Killearn Glen to research the history and use of the glen and provide educational and volunteering opportunities. It is hoped to bid for Heritage Lottery funding.

There were some successes – the long-awaited repair to the dangerous footpath between Killearn and Boquhan was completed in June 2015 and the new footpath is much safer, with raised kerbing and an excellent surface. KCC supported the application, but its success is a tribute to the Petitioners who convinced SC of the need for this improvement. KCC also paid tribute to Killearn Paths Group and volunteers from Scottish Water for resurfacing the path from Endrick Road to the playpark, and to SC for supplying the materials to enable the work to be carried out.

The Community Council will be in abeyance during July and August. When we resume in September priority items of business are likely to be monitoring the implementation of superfast broadband in the village, including arranging a public drop in session where people will be able to discuss their particular needs, seeking views on any new development sites for housing proposed by SC and monitoring any developments at the Blaressan and former Killearn Hospital sites. We are also likely to be involved, along with Strathblane and Balfron CCs, in a Community Empowerment test site, but at the time of writing we have very few details on this project.

I offer thanks to all KCC members for their hard work throughout the year, and to the members of the public who have attended our meetings and contributed to our discussions. I should like to thank also our elected Councillors, Alistair Berrill, Graham Lambie and Ian Muirhead, who work tirelessly on our behalf. Unfortunately we are losing David Morley, who has had to resign owing to work commitments. We have two vacancies for Community Councillors, so please consider joining KCC for the duration of this Council, until October 2017.

Margaret Harrison, Chair, June 2015

**KILLEARN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
For the YEAR ended 31 MARCH**

	2015	2014
	£	£
INCOME		
Stirling Council Grants:		
Administration	375.85	375.85
Minutes	270.00	-
Retiral Collections	472.40	-
Killearn Hoolie	-	185.00
Interest	0.51	0.02
	<u>1,118.76</u>	<u>560.87</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Retiral Gifts	<u>459.00</u>	<u>-</u>
Administration		
Room Hire	30.00	-
Postage	-	-
Website & Telephone	107.06	-
Data Protection ICO	35.00	35.00
Photocopying	29.90	14.00
Mileage	16.80	-
Minute Secretary	348.00	81.00
Audit Fee	18.00	-
	<u>584.76</u>	<u>130.00</u>
KCC Expenditure		
Notice Board Repairs	-	-
Thursday Club	-	-
Abbeyfield	-	-
Killearn Hoolie	-	-
School Janitor	18.00	21.00
Rights of Way	20.00	20.00
Gates for Village Hall	-	-
	<u>38.00</u>	<u>41.00</u>
	<u>1,081.76</u>	<u>171.00</u>
Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	37.00	389.87
Funds brought Forward	1,113.31	723.44
Funds Carried Forward	<u>1,150.31</u>	<u>1,113.31</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
Bank Balance at 31 March	1,150.31	1,113.31
less Accruals	-	-
	<u>1,150.31</u>	<u>1,113.31</u>

Signed by KCC Treasurer


David Scott
29th April 2015

Report by Independent Examiner

I confirm that I have inspected the above accounts and found them to be in accordance with the records maintained by the Treasurer and have received all necessary information and explanations.

Iain Somerville LLB.CA, Killearn
29th April 2015

