

# Kilmaronock Community Council

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Steve Macken (Secretary)  
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## Minutes of the Meeting held in Kilmaronock Millennium Hall on 7th March 2011

Item	Action
<p><b>1. Present</b></p> <p>Willie Roxburgh (WR), Jock Scott-Park (J S-P), James Macrae (JM) and Fiona Wyllie (FW). The Community Council (KCC) welcomed Mr Alan Williamson and Mr Alistair Gemmell from West Dunbartonshire Council Planning Department (WDC PD) who had come to give a short presentation on current planning aspects. KCC also welcomed members of the public to the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>2. Apologies</b></p> <p>Irene Forrester, John Kelly, and Steve Macken.</p>	
<p><b>3. Presentation by West Dunbartonshire Council Planning Department</b></p> <p>Mr Alan Williamson from WDC PD gave a short power point presentation on current planning aspects of the WDC planning department, alluding to recent new planning requirements that necessitate early consultation depending on the planning proposal. They were also interested in local views on Dumbarton town centre, traffic and road issues, sustainable energy issues, and usage of Dumbarton as opposed to Stirling for general local needs eg shopping. Attendees provided feedback accordingly.</p> <p>KCC thanked WDC PD for providing their presentation, and they left the meeting at this point.</p>	
<p><b>4. Minutes of Last Meeting</b></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting held on 10th January 2011 were proposed by JM and seconded by FW.</p>	
<p><b>5. Matters Arising</b></p> <p><u>Roads &amp; Paths</u></p> <p>WR reported that the marked up plan had been issued to WDC Roads after the last meeting. A response had been received from this department effectively indicating that they were inundated with roads complaints, funds were stretched, the officer in charge of this section was retiring, and the new appointee would not be in place until the start of the new financial year. General dissatisfaction was expressed at the WDC efforts in respect of this. Church Road, at the corner, the back road to Ballagan and the footpath at Duncryne Terrace were again highlighted as particularly bad areas. Individuals were encouraged to complain to WDC via their website, or by phone or on <a href="http://www.fixmystreet.com">www.fixmystreet.com</a>. KCC would continue to list areas to WDC and persevere with this.</p> <p><u>Housing Issues re NP Local Plan</u></p> <p>It was reported that further to the issues raised at the last meeting re affordable and local housing KCC had written to the NP to indicate dissatisfaction that the KCC comments in response to the Local Plan consultation had been ignored, and to request feedback from the NP re sites for local housing. The NP had responded to this by letter of 31st January 2011 - key elements of this response from the NP were that ' we are unable to further comment on the concerns you have raised and await the outcome of the examination (by Scottish Ministers)'. The response also noted that ' your request for the Park Authority to seek guidance from the Reporter in identifying sites is therefore outside the scope of the examination.'</p> <p>It was further noted that KCC had received a letter from the Scottish Government inviting KCC to participate in a 'Hearing Session' on 6th April 2011 concerning 'Delivering the Housing Requirement'. Aspects of this were discussed - it was agreed that WR would contact the</p>	

WR

Scottish Government to determine if this meeting would be open to the public, and who might be available from KCC members to provide a representation.

#### 6. Treasurers Report

JM reported to the meeting that the Current Account balance stood at £804.50, and the Benevolent Fund balance at £1,276.42.

JM further noted that he had prepared draft accounts for the year end to February 2011, and these would be presented at the agm in May 2011.

#### 7. Planning Matters

Agricultural Shed – Ross Loan – (north of housing) - approved by the NP.

Blairlinnans Cottages - alterations - approved by the NP.

New applications received in the period since the last meeting :-

No1 Blairquhomrie Cottages -extension and alterations.

Details of the proposals were circulated. No adverse comments raised. No action required.

Ferniecleugh New Dwelling Renewal

Renewal of previous permission for erection of a dwelling. No action required.

Ballagan. Proposed Holiday Lodges.

Details of this proposal were circulated, and various aspects discussed. Notwithstanding that it was recognised that the proposal was intended to replace the existing commercial vehicle business on the site, observations received were that the proposal appeared large and out of scale to its environment, that there were too many units, extending significantly beyond the footprint of the existing structures on the site, that the appearance was more urban than rural in appearance, and that it was likely to be obtrusive against the skyline and not blend into the countryside and was likely to cause local light pollution. Additionally concern was expressed at the potential increase in traffic at the Ballagan Road junction with the A811, which is a tricky junction at present. After further discussion it was considered on balance, given the above, that KCC should object to this proposal.

WR

#### 8. Kilmaronock Community Trust

John Spens and Celia Burns, members of KCT and attending the meeting noted that KCT were looking at possible green energy possibilities. Outcome of the KCC questionnaire re Merkins wind farm acknowledged. Noted that a joint meeting KCT/KCC would be arranged shortly.

#### 9 National Park Issues and Association of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs Community Councils

Noted that Loch Lomond Area Network of the Community Partnership were holding a meeting on Wednesday 23rd March 2011, 7-9pm. Included on the agenda are a presentation from the NP Ranger service, which will include aspects related to the new bye-laws, and local community updates.

**10. Correspondence**

It was noted that the following correspondence had been received :-

- Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland - Winter 2010/2011 newsletter. AGM is on the 28th May 2011 at NP HQ Balloch.
- Letter from Glen Park Cottage (in Stirlingshire) re possibility of extending KCC boundary to include this dwelling. (WDC completed a review last year on boundaries generally.)
- Reminder email from Steve Macken, from 1 year ago, that his term of office as Secretary would end in May 2011, although he would continue as a KCC councillor.
- Letter and email respectively from H Leitch and S Page re adverse issues re wind farms.
- Anonymous letter re Lomond view had been handed into the post office. Normally such letters would be ignored, but due to potential health and safety issues the meeting resolved to send a copy of this to the NP.

- Reported results of the Merkins Wind Farm questionnaire :-

276 returns from 592 delivered Q1 181 for, 81 against, 14 don't know  
and re community participation Q2 183 for, 63 against, 30 don't know

The significant time and detail put into this exercise by James Macrae was noted with much appreciation, as were the efforts of James and Fiona Wyllie in delivering the forms.

- 12 questionnaire late returns had been received, Q1 8 for, 2 against, 2 don't know, and Q2 11 yes, 1 don't know.
- WDC letter dated 14th January 2011, headed 'The Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils', had been received by the Chair and was read out. Essentially this reported on allegations that KCC had held meetings 'behind closed doors' and that the Secretary (who has an interest in the potential Merkins wind farm) did not withdraw from meetings when the wind farm was being 'discussed'. Chair indicated that a 3 page detailed response, by letter of 20th January 2011, had been given and quoted partly from this - in brief, any suggestion of impropriety was strongly refuted, no 'decisions' had been taken with regard to the windfarm when the Secretary was present, and indeed the Secretary had made his interest known at the meeting when the issue was first aired in November 2009, had offered his resignation which had not been accepted. A further letter dated 16th February 2011 had been received from WDC which reiterated that no decisions could be taken at ad hoc KCC meetings, and that the Secretary should not take part in any future meeting when the wind farm was being 'discussed'.

The meeting resolved to give consideration to the use of sub-committees as appropriate to deal with consultations that might be required between meetings.

**11. AOCB**

It was noted that there was an anti-windfarm march in Edinburgh on the 16th March 2011.

**12. Dates of Forthcoming Meetings (2011)**

9<sup>th</sup> May (inc. AGM) 4<sup>th</sup> July, 5<sup>th</sup> September, 7<sup>th</sup> November