

Minutes of KCDC AGM, Weds 6th December 2023, Duke of Gordon Hotel

Attendees:- 33 people signed the attendance list

Apologies:- Eileen Stewart, Jen Dunn, Ailsa Schofield, Russell Jones

Chair (IM) welcomed attendees

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved

Chair's report:-

THE KINGUSSIE COMMUNITY HYDRO

The Hydro continues to operate well despite floods and heavy rain. Some repair and improvement works have been successfully carried out, and that is an ongoing process. Thank you to Trustees Alistair Bell and Gilmour Strang.

THE KCDC HYDRO GRANTS FUND

Over the year, awards from the Hydro Fund totalled £18,929 with grants made to twelve Kingussie organisations, namely KVCC - Noticeboard, Church of Scotland - Warm Spaces, One Kingussie - Senior Citizens, Insh Community Holding - winch, Andrew Wilson (Caberfeidh) - Poetry, Allotment Association - legal fees, Kingussie Remembrance booklets, B S Therapy Gardens - gazebo, Caberfeidh Horizons - hoist, KVCC - PA system and gazebo, Christmas Lighting Fund - upgrades and KHS Biking - replacement bikes.

The limits for Grants were increased to £750 for Small Grants and €3,000 for Large Grants,

Thank you to the independent members of the Large Grants Committee, Ann Trail, Gregor Rimell and John Russell.

The total grants made by the Hydro Fund since it was established is £68,300, in response to 75 separate applications.

DONNIE GRANT MBE

During this year we lost our 'founding father' Donnie Grant. Without Donnie there would be no Hydro. He was involved from the very start and devoted 8 years to this project. Every time the grant or regulatory landscape changed, Donnie rose to the occasion and reorganised the Hydro project to fit in with the new requirements.

The Hydro structure, and the benefits to Kingussie since accrued, are a fitting memorial to Donnie.

COMMUNITY PATHS

The major event was the delivery by helicopter last summer, of 99 bags of path-making material to Creag Bheag. We thank the Scottish Mountaineering Trust and CNPA for their generous grants which facilitated this.

Those who have been over Creag Bheag will have seen and benefited from the major repairs to the paths. And the view from the top is as wonderful as ever. Of the bags, 70+ have now been emptied-

We have completed the purchase of the land across the Gynack from the Golf Course car park up to the entrance to Pitmain and have completed a new section of path thereon from the Hydro Bridge to Pitmain entrance and then on the other side of the road, giving access to Tom Baraidh Woods. Seats and benches have been placed to help walkers. There is always more work to do, and I encourage people to volunteer to help. The work is usually on a Thursday and, as well as being worthwhile, is good fun.

Thank you to trustee Sandy Maxwell for organising the volunteering and ensuring that the work is done properly.

COMMUNITY WOODLANDS

A great deal of work has been carried out on the Community Woodlands (both sides of the Gynack from the bridge at the Cross Restaurant to the Golf Course car park). Trees removed, bushes and undergrowth cut back so that the sun can get in. There is more to do but it is noticeable that more use is being made of the paths through the Community Woodlands, which is their purpose.

Thank you to trustee Gilmour Strang - and his wife Susan.

CYCLE FRIENDLY KINGUSSIE

CFK activities have continued this year, notably with the very successful introduction of Balance bike picnics in the Gynack gardens where, in addition, a new water drinking point has been installed. Tuesday evening rides remain as popular as in the past, with a regular group of hard core riders going through the winter months. The new format for the Bikeathon was well received; this event continues to raise useful funds for Kingussie High School. CFK purchased a cycle trailer. The Sustrans infrastructure projects continue with the work on Spey Street junction now being taken forwards by Highland Council and planning options still being considered for the extension of the Sustrans path from Newtonmore towards the centre of Kingussie. Bob Kinnaid has been the KCDC link with CFK for the past 10 years. This year he will stand down as a trustee and at the time of going to print a replacement trustee is to be confirmed.

SILVERFJORD JUNCTION

At last we believe that KCDC's extremely hard work will result in the road work being carried out by Highland Council, commencing January 2024. Thank you to trustees Bob Kinnaird and Kenny Deans, who have devoted themselves to bring this project to a successful conclusion.

NEWTONMORE ROAD PATH & CYCLEWAY

Trustees Bob Kinnaird & Kenny Deans are still trying to move this forward so that the Speyside Way has a better entrance to Kingussie from the west.

COMMUNICATIONS

The KCDC website and our communications generally have been greatly improved and will continue to be improved. Thank you to trustee Gus Mitchell.

FINANCE

Our treasurer Len Cruickshank continues professionally and without fuss to make sense of our finances, together with those of our many projects. Warm thanks to Len.

MARKET STANCE

We are led to believe the Market Stance will no longer be used for marts. As the Market Stance forms part of the Kingussie Common Good Fund, KCDC are investigating the possibility of a Community Housing development. This is at an early stage but KCDC consider this a project well worth investigating. We see our role as incubating the possibility of getting the project off the ground. We will keep the community advised on progress.

In conclusion, we have on the go and I thank all our trustees and volunteers for their hard work, in the sure and certain knowledge that it will be repeated going forward.

Finance report (Len Cruickshank)

Len gave an explanation of the draft accounts, a copy of which can be found on the KCDC website. Accounts approved. Goldwells reappointed as our accountants.

Election of directors

Alastair Bell, Len Cruickshank, Eileen Stewart & Ian Moffatt are up for re-election and have agreed to continue as directors. There are also 3 co-opted directors – Sandy Maxwell, Gus Mitchell & Catriona Morrison – who have agreed to continue. An attendee asked who the other directors are; they are Kenny Deans, Bob Kinnaird, Jan Morse & Gilmour Strang.

Annual subscription

This has remained at £2 for several year, although people often add a donation. Proposed to keep subscription at £2, which was unanimously agreed.

Hydro report (Alastair Bell)

The Hydro has now been in operation for almost 9 years.

- More than £70,000 of income generated since 2015
- No failures this year
- Damaged spare Coanda screen repaired by Davie Cameron
- One big spate on October 8th that caused minor damage
- Otherwise, a relatively dry year
- Usual frequent cleaning required during the autumn.

Woodlands report (Gilmour Strang)

- New path completed behind tennis courts, ironing out the steep bits.
- A lot of time spent removing sycamore trees. Ongoing removal of sycamore saplings.
- Time spent clearing fallen trees, as far as safely possible.
- All possible with help of volunteers (and, in some cases, their heavy equipment).
- GS also thanks KCDC for their support with Kingussie Remembers.

Paths report (Sandy Maxwell)

- Some work has been done on the Golf Course Circular, replacing railings & steps. More work to be done.
- Gynack community woodland paths upgraded & repaired.

- Update on progress on Creag Bheag path. A lot has been completed, remainder is ongoing but we're getting there & the difference already is amazing.

Cycle Friendly Kingussie (Bob Kinnaird)

- Bikeathon continues to be successful & popular. A new route was used this year, with positive feedback.
- Ride-outs continue to be popular. All welcome, any ability.
- Balance bike picnics in Gynack Gardens are very popular & it's great to see youngsters playing on their bikes in the gardens, or going through on their way to school.
- Spey St junction – as reported by Ian, this project is now progressing under Highland Council & work is due to commence in January 2024.
- Newtonmore road – still trying to make progress on upgrading approach to Kingussie from Newtonmore, in particular thinking of ways of avoiding the current route of cyclists having to survive the final bit which is on the fast road.
- Xmas ride-out (from Cairngorm to Kingussie) is on again this year, culminating in a curry. All welcome, all abilities – bring a torch & some money for food.

Communications report (Gus Mitchell)

- Online membership form has been updated & is much more user-friendly.
- There is now also the facility for online payments & donations including gift aid.
- Objectives – improve & simplify hydro grant application form; overhaul paths pages to match updated map leaflet.
- We also provide hosting & support to KVCC, Kingussie Remembers & Caberfeidh websites.

Grants reports

Recipients of hydro grants gave reports on what the grants have been used for.

- Kingussie Camanachd Club – floodlights – John Robertson
- Kingussie Parish Church – warm places – Eppie McKay
- Kingussie & Vicinity Community Council – gazebos & PA system - Martin
- Badenoch and Strathspey Therapy Gardens – marquee at allotments – Jinty Moffatt
- Caberfeidh Horizons – hoist for bathroom – Patsy Rimmell
- Kingussie Allotment Association – legal fees for purchase – Simon Leiper
- Insh Community Holdings – winch for forestry work – Ian Moffatt per Willie Anderson
- Xmas lights
- Kingussie town clock tower – replace windows & vandal-proof – Malcolm Thain

AOCB

None

Ian thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting ended at 20:20.