

KILLIECRANKIE FINCASTLE & TUMMEL

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF KFTCC MEETING MONDAY, 19 MAY 2025 AT 7PM KYNACHAN HALL, TUMMEL BRIDGE

1

PRESENT: Loretta McLaughlan - Chair (LM), Sandra Parkins (SP), Jennifer Macintyre (JM), Richard Moore (RM), Colin Stanfield (CS), Ronald Campbell (RC), Councillor John Duff (Cllr JD) and Provost Xander McDade (XM) and 22 Members of the Public (MOP).

APOLOGIES: Anthony Cuthbert

LM welcomed all attendees for the first meeting of the year at Kynachan Hall, including Sergeant Lindsay Brown and PC Amy Straiton from Police Scotland. Andrew Barbour* who was due to talk about the long term forestry plan for the Bonskeid estate gave his apologies that he is unable to attend. LM also noted that the plan for the estate is now on the KFT Community Council website (<https://www.killiecrankievillagehall.co.uk/community-council/planning.php>).

2

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (17 MARCH 2025): The Minutes were taken as read. Their approval was proposed by CS and seconded by SP.

3.

LM confirmed that Ronald Campbell had been co-opted to the Community Council.

4.

VISITOR MANAGEMENT UPDATE FOR TUMMEL 2025

LM explained that representatives of all partners of the Visitor Management team were in attendance and invited Sergeant Brown to open the update because her

information was the most pertinent and she would have to leave before the meeting closed.

Sergeant Brown explained the role of the neighbourhood police unit and welcomed an opportunity to talk to members of the public at community council meetings. In particular, she highlighted a disturbing incident that occurred recently when a member of the local community had been attacked. Sergeant Brown had not witnessed anything comparable in her 15 years' experience. It was not possible at this stage to go into detail as the incident is under investigation. All persons involved have been identified. The police are working to put a plan in place with the Visitor Management team and they will endeavour to patrol when resources allow. Two Special Constables will continue to be deployed from time to time. She stressed the importance of the public not engaging directly with visitors who are causing problems. Concerned members of the public should call 101 although sometimes this can have a long waiting time. It is often quicker to contact Police Scotland online via their website. In case of emergency always call 999. Jeannie Grant of FLS offered to provide a copy of Cairngorms National Park guidance on who to contact and when in the case of emergency. *See attached for details.*

CS pointed out that it was sometimes difficult to gauge the seriousness of the situation as the locals often get verbal abuse if they point out that a visitor is parking outside the designated areas. They would therefore welcome a greater police presence.

A MOP asked if people can be moved on if camping in a private field. The answer is that this is a complex area but it is important to note that only the police have the power to enforce the law. The Visitor Management team can interact with visitors and encourage responsible access but can not go any further than that. Local councils could make byelaws about camping and antisocial behaviour but this is a lengthy process. Cllr JD pointed out that the nub of the open access legislation passed in 2003 in Scotland relates to 'responsible' access and that it is this qualification which is sometimes forgotten. Indeed, camping beside cars parked on the immediate roadside was never envisaged as a right by those campaigning for more access to the countryside.

Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) representative, Jeannie Grant, pointed out that Tummel is squeezed between two national parks and is suffering from an overflow. The national park authorities have greater resources to deter antisocial behaviour. This has pushed more problem visitors to our area. However, without the action taken by PKC council and FLS in recent years to provide designated parking and the creation of clearways on the lochside road, backed by parking attendants, visitor rangers and the fire service, the situation would be a lot worse.

The meeting agreed that the CC should contact the local MSP to ask for a review of the 2003 access legislation.

PKC's Community Support and Enforcement Team Leader, Stewart Skene, provided an update on the plans for 2025. He noted that they were in the middle of combining two departments. The merger would enable a larger resource in terms of personnel with up to 25 parking attendants, 5 visitor rangers and 10 community wardens. The team is also responsible for a very large area stretching from Loch Leven to Loch Tay and Loch Rannoch. It is hoped that they will be at full strength by mid-summer. The situation is always at its worst when the weather is fine. Fortunately, they were able to deploy the portaloos earlier this year – just in time for the surge in lochside camping during the warm weather. Stewart pointed out that the Visitor Management team has limited enforcement powers. The parking attendants can and do give parking tickets but the rangers are restricted to advice and support. It is an educational role. The majority of people are responsible and understand the need to protect the environment. However, there have been problems with barbecues and campfires as many visitors are unaware of the current restrictions during a period of high risk.

Finally, the Visitor Management group is hoping to establish a 24-hour hotline for members of the public to use if they spot potential trouble. This is to report issues to the new Visitor Management group in addition to contacting the police. It is still a work in progress but he hoped to introduce the hotline within the next few weeks. JM and CS will distribute all relevant numbers when they are available.

CS wished to congratulate the various partners of the Visitor Management team on the work they do. The local community recognises the difference they make, sometimes in trying circumstances. This sentiment was echoed by all attendees at the meeting.

There being no further question for the police representatives, they left the meeting. Sergeant Brown said they would be pleased to attend future meetings if asked and available.

5.

PLANNING

- i) Andrew Barbour* had sent his apologies.
- ii) LM invited Murray Trail of Highland Fling to address the meeting about his planning application for a new visitor hub at Killiecrankie.
(<https://www.killiecrankievillagehall.co.uk/community-council/planning.php>)

Murray Trail explained that planning permission has been submitted for a new building within the NTS car park at Killiecrankie. The idea is to improve the visitor experience as the current building is no longer fit for purpose. It is part of a re-brand for the business which has been growing but perhaps was looking a little stale. The proposed building is approximately 40ft square, clad in larch and set at the back of the car park in an area currently used for storage and waste bins. The existing buildings will be used as a staff room and operations room. The consultation period ends on 23 May 2025 and a decision might be expected a few weeks later. SP raised concerns about the parking at the busy visitor centre and asked if spaces would be lost. SP also noted that overflow cars are sometimes parked on the verge in front of the visitor centre. When they reverse on to the road, there is a risk of an accident. Murray Trail replied that only two spaces would be lost as the proposed building was largely on ground not currently used for parking. He added that NTS is looking to improve parking at the visitor centre. A MOP asked if the plans would disturb wildlife. Murray Trail replied that the aim is not to interfere with nature as the business values the natural environment and is doing as much as it can to be eco-friendly. RC pointed out that Highland Fling had felled trees to install the zipwire. Murray Trail answered that no trees would be felled for the proposed building and it was important to note that even for the zipwire installation no trees were felled which were not part of the NTS programme to reduce alien species.

- iii) LM reported that all planning is up to date on the Planning page. Alterations to Loch Tummel House have been approved. A new boathouse is planned at Bruach Bhan, Strathtummel.

6.

CONSULTATIONS

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) is launching a consultation for businesses affected by the proposed Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme. Background for the consultation is on Links page of the CC website: <https://www.killiecrankievillagehall.co.uk/community-council/links.php>

To make your views known, see the link (above).

The consultation closes on 30 June 2025.

7.

SEPA has also published new surface water maps which incorporate smaller watercourses for the first time. This will be of interest to anyone concerned with flooding in their vicinity. <https://www.killiecrankievillagehall.co.uk/community-council/links.php>

8.

ROADS

- i) B8019 Strathtummel to be closed for one day on 26 June 2025 to allow BT to complete pole replacement works. The closure affects about 294 metres between access to a property called Chamberbane and another called Balnauld. (See map at end of Minutes.)
- ii) C450 is to be closed for 2 days at some stage between 23 June 2025 and 7 July 2025 to facilitate filming. The exact dates will be confirmed in due course. (See map at end of Minutes.) The diversion will be via the B846
- iii) LM reported that work was done last week to patch parts of the B8079 along the Pass of Killiecrankie, through the village and on towards Blair Atholl. It involved a lorry spreading chips across the road. The contractor did not fill potholes nor resurface with the exception of the bus stop area in Killiecrankie. It has been improved. The traffic management was poor when the contractor was spreading the chips and signage was non-existent on the first day but caught up days later. There are now 10mph signs with 'risk of skidding' all along the road. A MOP complained that the contractor gave no warning to owners of vehicles parked near where they were spraying. As a result, she has two vehicles now covered in specks of bitumen. She asked to be given early warning if this work is to resume near her property. Cllr JD explained that the contractor was re-dressing the road surface and this type of treatment has been used for 20 years.

Cllr JD to check if the contractor has finished or will return to do the southbound side of the road and to request another inspection especially of the junction of the B8079 with the Quarry Road.

Cllr JD also to ask for signs for Etape Caledonia closures to be removed from roadsides.

9.

NETWORK RAIL

LM reported that at least a couple of residents still have issues outstanding with Network Rail. They are pursuing these themselves but are keeping the CC updated. One of them thinks that Network Rail has given up on the snagging problems.

10.

LITTER

LM reported that Killiecrankie is now on Keep Scotland Beautiful's Hub database as a place where kit for litter-picking can be borrowed.

Killiecrankie was featured in a long blog that Keep Scotland Beautiful published at the end of March 2025. Contributors to the piece include: the JacoBite Café, National Trust for Scotland, Killiecrankie House, Soldiers of Killiecrankie, Riders of the Storm Equestrian Academy and KFT Community Council. The blog is on our Links page <https://www.killiecrankievillagehall.co.uk/community-council/links.php>

PKC Roadside Intervention data is due to be released shortly. It is hoped that it contains info on the litter survey that PKC did in Killiecrankie. When we get it, it will be added to the Litter section on the Links page.

The focus in this area and the country has been on intervention and clean up. Our Links page has an item on the Japanese approach which is to prevent littering in the first place. Thanks to Matilda of Killiecrankie House for providing the link.

It was agreed that the Tummel litter pick will be held in October and **we now propose Sunday, 5 October 2025. Meet at Kynachan Hall.**

11.

GROW WILD

PKC is extending its new approach to grassland management over the next 2 years. The idea is to encourage wildlife and biodiversity in parks and open spaces. It also helps with efforts to reduce maintenance costs.

This is almost entirely irrelevant to our CC area as there are few sites owned by PKC. There are two churchyards that they maintain, land around the car park at Garry Bridge and some land beside the former primary school in Killiecrankie. Access to this is difficult but, in any case, the land appears in the PKC asset map as "private gardens or grounds".

Cllr JD to clarify the status.

12.

NATURE RESTORATION FUND

Minimum funding threshold is £1,000. Those who can apply are:

- Constituted organisations (e.g. charities and community groups)
- Private individuals and companies (where public benefit is demonstrated)
- Partnerships and collaborative projects

Details are on: <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/naturefund>

Applications close at 5pm on Monday 2nd June 2025 and all projects must be delivered by 31st March 2026 (unless otherwise arranged).

13.

TREASURER'S REPORT

SP reported a balance of £407.85, having paid £35 for hire of the hall for the last meeting. She also noted that monthly bank charges have been introduced on the CC accounts. Cllr JD said this new charge affects all community councils. A MOP suggested the CC should enquire at the Coop Bank as an alternative to the Bank of Scotland.

14.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Loch Tummel Sailing Club, Open Day, 31 May 2025 from noon till 4pm
- Killiecrankie Village Hall committee invites volunteers to help in a Hall Clean Up on Saturday, 7 June 2025 at 1pm
- Summer Quiz on Saturday, 14 June 2025 at 7.30pm.
- Anniversary of Battle of Killiecrankie BBQ on Saturday, 26 July 2025

15.

AOCB

- i) LM reported that the CC had received a last minute notice about Local History Hubs being set up in PKC libraries. Groups who are interested in creating a local history project are invited to attend a virtual meeting on Friday, 23 May, 10.30am. Join here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81982845871?pwd=aDhSE6AeZ86PkZASfbTeGKNy7XxmQv.1> passcode snQi8c

or on Saturday, 24 May, 2.30pm. Join here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85104834354?pwd=n58sS7mPtn5J85bBgAvFesMsrG1bWF.1> passcode bt12sx

More details are available from Craig Statham, Local History Officer, cstatham@culturepk.org.uk or phone 01738 477026.

- ii) Cllr JD wanted to highlight the phasing out of the 'economy 7' or off-peak electric metering system. Anyone who thinks they might be affected should contact their energy supplier ASAP to install a 'smart' meter otherwise they could face expensive utility charges.
- iii) Cllr JD continued that the phasing out of the standard fixed line telephone means that in future your landline phone will not work if there is a power cut. Those considered 'vulnerable' can apply for a battery back up for their broadband modem which should alleviate the problem. Those who don't qualify but would like the extra security will need to pay about £80 although some providers are supplying them free of charge. If you think you might be affected, contact your telephone supplier.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.22pm.

The next CC meeting is to be held at 7pm on Monday, 21 July 2025 in Killiecrankie Hall

ATTACHMENTS

VISITOR MANAGEMENT

Who to contact if there are Roadside Camping concerns.

If there are roadside camping concerns, please do contact Visitormanagementgroup@pkc.gov.uk or you can also call 01738 477998 for parking matters. However, there are issues that are associated with breach of responsible access as detailed in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code or incidents of anti-social behaviour.

There are two ways you can escalate to police Scotland; dialling **999** in emergencies and **101** for the reporting of incidents.

Calling 999

999 should always be called immediately for

- Fights and physical harm
- Domestic violence
- Drink / drug driving
- If your safety feels threatened

Calling 101

Logging incidents on 101 is vital to help the police and other agencies to build an accurate picture of where issues are occurring and the types of issues that are taking place. This helps resources to be prioritised in those areas most needing them.

101 should be called for:

- Evidence of drug taking – including smoking cannabis
- Dangerous parking – including causing an obstruction of parking more than 15 yds off the verge where not permitted to do so.
- Wildlife crime – disturbance of protected species or habitats
 - Poaching
 - Illegal hunting activities
 - Hare coursing
- Anti-social behaviour – noise, behaviour, large groups in unsuitable locations
- Repetitive breach of SOAC – fire lighting, camping, dogs of lead etc.

Note on calling 101:

Calling the 101 call centre can take some time and you'll need to have some information ready such as locations, vehicle description and registrations associated with the incident you are reporting.

You can also fill in a "Contact Us Form" online here:

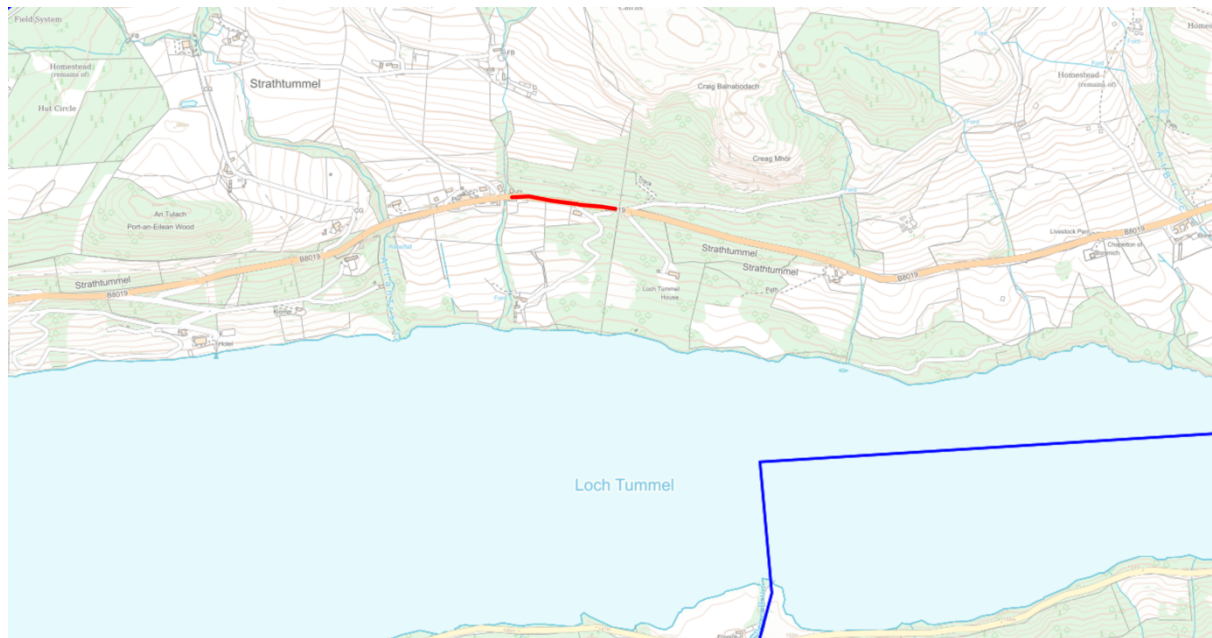
<https://www.scotland.police.uk/secureforms/contact/> this is transferred to the same portal as a phone call into 101.

If an issue has been called into 101 but is ongoing please call it in again as this will escalate it within the police system.

Please call 101 as close to the time of the incident as possible so accurate records can be made. You can also ask for a police incident number that can then be recorded on your incident report form.

ROADS

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