



**Killearn Community Futures Company
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022**

Thursday 27th October at 8.00pm

Minutes

1. Welcome

As Convenor – Graeme Fraser thanked everyone for coming to the Annual General Meeting of KCFC, the first face to face meeting since 2019.

2. Attendees

Kenneth Alexander
Doug Ashworth
Nancy Bailey
Bob Ballantyne
Jennifer Barrett
Ann Beaty
Frances Bowie
John Bowie
Peter Bowness
Elizabeth Carruthers

Frank Deas
Sarah Deas
Andrew Donaldson
Graeme Fraser
Mike Gray
Nick Hawkins
Gavin Hunter
Jane Hunter
Norman McNab

Patricia Monaghan
Jim Ptolemy
Fiona Rennie
Euan Shaw
Brian Simmers
Kirstine Simpson
Peter Smith
Jenny Wilks
Peter Wilks

3. Apologies for Absence

Patricia Ashworth
Peter Bailey
Sharon Bowness
Joanna Donaldson
Marion Drummond
Gordon Gibson
Ros Gibson

Margaret Harrison
Jackie Hawkins
Ronnie Hayton
Nigel Kelly
Neil Metcalfe
Brenda Pell
Michael Pell

Ebeth Rennie
Sheila Robbie
Gillian Smith
Heather Wright
Ian Young
Jacky Young

4. In Attendance

Charlie Harris

Carol Murray

5. Adoption of Minutes of AGM of 21st October 2021

The minutes of the AGM in 2021 were adopted – proposed by Mike Gray and seconded by Nick Hawkins.

6. Convenor's Report

Meeting attendees were referred to the convenors report on the website.

Graeme stated that he had to remind himself not to get complacent about living in a great village. He had been heartened to see that it had been described recently in national news as being in the top 50th attractive villages in the UK. He also was pleased to see that a number of younger people had moved to the village over the last few years and hoped that they would all become fully involved in village life.

He reflected on the success of the celebrations around the Queens Platinum Jubilee in June, and thanked Frank Deas for his work in leading on and coordinating the various activities, which included the Beacon on the Glebe, and he thanked Euan Shaw for his involvement in the fireworks and for ensuring the Beacon could be seen in daylight.

7. Treasurer's Report

Bob Ballantyne offered his heartfelt thanks to all the people who put in effort to make things happen during the year and stated that despite the last two years of pandemic, KCFC were in a good financial position.

He took the meeting through the Report and Accounts as posted on the website, and reported a net surplus of £6,417, which was against the deficit of £21,025 the previous year. Reserves were up at £394,050.

He highlighted that further information on the individual groups could be found on page 12 in the published accounts.

The Report and Accounts were approved.

6. Election of Directors

It was noted that James Parker and Kenneth Alexander had stood down as Directors of KCFC and the Convenor thanked them for their long and valuable contributions.

Ronnie Hayton (proposed by Mike Gray and seconded by Fiona Rennie), Nick Hawkins (proposed by Ann Beaty and seconded by Mike Gray) and Peter Wilks (proposed by Frank Deas and seconded by Nancy Bailey) – were re-elected.

There were two new applications for Director and members at the meeting and after brief introductions to the attendees, Frank Deas (proposed by Nick Hawkins and seconded by

Nancy Bailey) and Euan Shaw (proposed by Ann Beaty and seconded by Bob Ballantyne) – were duly elected.

It was noted that Euan has and will be involved in helping KCFC in improving the website and provision of IT, and that Frank had been instrumental in organising and leading on the Jubilee celebrations in the village and is working alongside others to bring together a more cohesive approach to the sustainability agenda

Jim Ptolemy was mandated by both Killearn Trust and Killearn Community Council to act on their behalf as a Director of KCFC.

There are therefore 10 Member Directors and 2 Appointed Directors, leaving one vacancy on the Board.

8. Reports from Working Groups:

Thanks to the working group leads who referred the meeting to the full reports on the website and picked out some highlights as below.

- a. **Killearn Village Hall** - it was reported that there had been a lag in bookings of the Village Hall because of the pandemic, but that the future was looking brighter. It was promising to see a wide range of activities taking place in the hall from music, dance, exercise and sport, business, celebratory and community events which were for a range of age groups. It was highlighted that it was a team effort and thanks were extended to the full team that support the operations of the Village Hall.
- b. **All Killearn Archive (AKA)** – were pleased to have changed the display cabinets in the village hall, creating more space. It was highlighted that as well as the display there was a wide range of materials available to look at and read. There is a computer and bookcase downstairs in the Village Hall, alongside a large map and Killearn Hotel sign which was gifted by the former Black Bull, all of which were accessible to the public. Two embroideries had also been saved from disposal, one on display and one made by the school children when the new school was built. The group had also been gifted the archives from the former Inner Wheel, which was no longer operational, and that much work was still required to sort and archive what was in storage. Storage was an issue, and an appeal was made for anyone who could offer a warm, dry storage space for boxes of materials.

Nancy Bailey also thanked the AKA group for allowing the Strathendrick Stitchers to have a temporary exhibition of their work in the display cabinets, which had also attracted new members to their group.

- c. **Colourful Killearn** – continued to maintain 5 patches of wildflower spaces and tubs around the village. They are in the process now of clearing the tubs and planting for the spring. The tubs on the walls at the Village Hall and across from the Outdoor Classroom had been received well from residents. The summer had been so dry that frequent watering of the tubs was required. All the Colourful Killearn helpers were

thanked for their efforts throughout the year, Ros Gibson was thanked for the tubs on the walls at the Village Hall and Wellgreen, and KCFC extended their thanks for the kind donation of a Christmas Tree for 2022 from Edenmill

- d. **Killearn Heritage Trail (KHT)** – while most of the work was completed some time ago, it was highlighted that one strong point of interest was that the second phase of the dig had established that the ‘Lairds’ house was probably 15th Century and was certainly the oldest building in the area. All information is on the Killearn Heritage Trail website.

Members of the KHT group had mostly concentrated their effort throughout the year on maintaining the trail display boards and keeping them clean. A leaflet had also been produced, promoting the trail, and had been delivered to a number of local businesses.

As an extension of project, several oral history profiles of long-time Killearn residents have been undertaken for the Courier – these are also posted on the website; together with additional information or archive photos that come to light.

The next development will be to create a space on the website for Natural History, involving the schools to get younger people involved.

- e. **Killearn E-bike Loan Project (KELP)** – the bike project had been a great success – and now that it was nearing the end of the project life, the hire management and maintenance would be passed to a group of volunteers who will review, refresh, and take forward the management of the four e-bikes. It was highlighted that they would start to cost more to maintain and that finding the funds required needed to be planned.

The statistics on their use was in the full report, but the bikes had done around 3000 miles per annum, helping to get people out and about. More than half the people who had borrowed an e-bike had gone on to buy their own.

Mike was thanked for his management and storage of them over the last few years.

- f. **Hoolie** – it was reported that support for the Hoolie had dwindled out, but a new proposal to reinvent the ‘hoolie committee’ into a more general events committee for one off community focussed events had been approved by the Board. The first event that KCFC were supporting will be the Burns Supper in early 2023. A second person had agreed to act as bank signatory for that and for future events.

- g. **Killearn Courier** – a huge success of KCFC is the Killearn Courier which was about to publish its 54th edition. While advertising fees had not increased, the demand by local business for advertising had gone up, so funding had not been an issue for some time. The magazine is now in full colour and tends to range from c.40-48 pages. The Courier also now give small donations towards other groups and had helped fund the Killearn Heritage Trail project. The Killearn Courier group and the

small army of volunteers who helped deliver it to every household in Killearn were thanked.

- h. **Paths Group** – during the year the Killearn to Balfron project group had held meetings with members of Boquhan and Balfron communities to gather their views about the bridge over Endrick Water and approaches to Balfron. Their concerns will be considered when options for that part of the route are presented to the wider communities. The group have agreed a revised route with one landowner and hope to set a meeting with an additional landowner during November 2022. A representative from Drymen got in touch to find out more information on our proposed new paths. They would also like to establish an off-road link to Balfron.

Kenneth Alexander was stepping down as the groups convenor and a new person will be appointed in due course. Kenneth will stay involved in leading the development of the path from Killearn to Balfron.

Another path was being proposed from the Killearn Hospital site up to the village, and efforts to progress that were being co-ordinated by another resident of Killearn in conjunction with KCFC and Killearn Community Council.

- i. **Fireworks** – all arrangements were in place to hold the fireworks for the first time after a two-year break because of the pandemic. This year's event will take place on Friday 4th of November.

Several people had enquired about whether or not the fireworks would be quiet / silent ones and consideration would be given to this in the future. However, KCFC had already committed to normal fireworks, as this booking was brought forward from 2019.

It was highlighted that the fireworks depend on donations from the community, especially on the night and that a wet day can make the difference of c.£1,000. 'Bring cash for the collection on the night' is a clear message being promoted to residents. The members were invited to volunteer for fundraising and marshalling duties on the night and anyone interested should email members@kcfc.co.uk for more information.

- j. **Sustainable Killearn** – it was reported that a number of different types of sustainable groups already existed, but there was a job to do in bringing them together for different activities and raising awareness. The main areas of interest around which more co-ordination would be focussed had been identified as:

Food : *[G63, Neighbourhood Food, seed library]*

Ecological : *[Colourful Killearn, On the Verge, Bug Life, schools]*

Energy : *[Car charging points, energy saving grant, e-bikes]*

Resources : *[Swish events, book borrowing library, etc]*

Wellbeing : *[Working as a community]*

It was reported that Killearn Primary School had achieved Green Flag status 11 years ago and Balfron High School 5 years ago, so there was much to learn from our children and we involve young people on these issues.

Pat Monaghan asked that consideration is given to educating people about the detrimental effect on wildlife, and unnecessary use of electricity, of lighting buildings at night.

- k. **Woodlands Cemetery** - the Woodlands Cemetery is managed by Stirling Council. The group are currently negotiating with the Council to plant a hedge along the road front and to increase the wildflower area.
- l. **The Woodlands Group** – continue to maintain the path and other areas of the wooded Kingdom and continue to liaise with Stirling Council to fix gates and resolve other hazards. It is hoped that this group can grow in members and link with others in the community.

9. AOB

It was noted that Kirstine Simpson would step away from the role of KCFC Secretary as soon as a replacement was appointed but would continue on the Board as a Director and would take on membership administration. The members were invited to help seek a replacement and anyone interested should email members@kfc.co.uk for more information.

Peter Wilks welcomed the forthcoming redesign of the KCFC website and highlighted that the two biggest 'hits' on the website were for the Woodlands Cemetery and the Killearn Courier, which is accessed online from across the world. A lot of time is spent passing on enquiries to Stirling Council who manage the Woodlands Cemetery.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

The next AGM of Killearn Community Futures Company will be held in October 2023 – details tbc.