



# Kilmallie Community Company

## AGM 2011 – Minutes

Minutes of the Kilmallie Community Company which met on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011 at 7.30 pm at the Kilmallie Hall.

**1. Present:** Angus MacPhie, (chair), Ossie Veitch, Hugh Muir, Linda Taylor, Roddy Mainland(directors)

Paul Biggin (secretary), David Govan (treasurer)

Su Sen invited to represent Caol Regeneration Company

23 members who signed the record of attendance and others.

**Apologies,** Richard Grieve John Ireland, Paul & Helen Brian, Margaret Colquhoun Jillian Clark, Adrian & Lucy Hope, Ronnie & Nishie MacLean, Lee MacKenzie, Stuart & Sarah Hood,

### 2. Minutes of the last AGM.

Copies of the last AGM minutes were read. Proposed as accepted by Joy Biggin and seconded by Linda Taylor.

### 3. Progress Report.

Secretary read out a progress report – see attached. After which Roddy made a small presentation to Angus and Ossie who were the founding members and then directors right from the start and now had to take a break as determined by our memoranda and articles. Thanks are due also to Hugh Muir and Linda Taylor who have been several years on the board.

### 4. Treasurers Report

David Govan explained our accounts copies of which were circulated.

### 5. Election of directors

One third of our 6 elected directors must retire each year. Our longest serving directors Ossie Veitch and Angus MacPhie stood down. Hugh Muir also stood down. Our two co-opted directors Paul Brian and Linda Taylor as co-opted directors have to stand down. This left three vacancies for elected directors. Three nominations were received Chris Strong, Lee MacKenzie, and Paul Brian. As there were no other nominations these three were elected to serve for three years. The Community Council are permitted to have a director on the board and Jan MacLugash has been volunteered for this.

*(Note: The appointment of co-opted directors will to be considered by the elected directors at the first board meeting hereafter.)*

### 6. AOB.

A mention was made that we were trying to improve communication by establishing a new web site and also to assemble an email list by which we could put out information on events, etc

Allan Colquhoun gave a brief out line of his quest for information on the age and origin of the pine wood.

The meeting finished at 8:10 pm.



**After the AGM** Three short presentations were made of additional projects in which KCC could be involved. Su Sen presented information on the feasibility study for a Corpach Marina based at the end of the canal. Jan MacLuglash described the possibility of community involvement alongside the Caledonian Canal. Roddy Mainland described the rowan woodland above Lady Margaret Drive and suggested that we should try to protect it.

### **AGM 2011 – Progress Report**

We have owned the woods now since our date of entry in December 2009. But it was only a few weeks ago that we received the Land Certificates from The Registers of Scotland. This completes the legal process. I would like to thank all our directors for their efforts in getting this far.

Since our last AGM the board has met 7 times. Our first task was to get over the minor financial crisis of having no money. We have to thank Councillor Bill Clark for a discretionary grant from Highland Council. This has kept us afloat over the last year and should cover the coming year.

Membership is now just over 200. Over 50 have joined this year, most following the planning proposal at Neptune's Staircase which has since been withdrawn.

Within the board our main task has been to make a list of work needed in the woods. Copies of this list are with last year's minutes and the accounts. Jobs vary from clearing litter through to mending boundary fences. We have prioritised the list and costed it and assessed which jobs can be done by volunteers. Top of the list was to assess any safety issues and fix them. We have to thank John Ireland for being our safety advisor. Various hazards have been removed – e.g. dangerous tree houses and rope swings. Our aim is not to remove every last thing that kids make in the woods but simply to keep an eye open and remove those that are obviously dangerous. Any hazard which is reported is recorded, assessed and action decided. We also have public liability insurance which as you will see from our accounts is about £270 per annum.

An ongoing job has been litter picking. Hugh Muir has been the mainstay with this and over the year has made a great difference. Roddy (an appropriate name) chose to remove all the Rhododendron from the woods.

The boundary fences have caused some problems. We have a liability to maintain the fences and during the year we have done some temporary fence repairs around the pine wood. The plan in the coming year is to do a more substantial repair.

We have discussed various planning issues. We did object to the plan for a wind farm at Annat and we offered comments on the structure plan. In both cases we acted on the basis that these plans would affect our woods. We also discussed the plans at Neptune's Staircase but decided not to object as the plans had no bearing on anything we owned.

We are gradually finding out more about our woods. We had a visit from a group of botanists studying community woods. They listed all the different species they found. Alan & Margaret Colquhoun measured all the trees in the pine wood their aim is to find out more of the history about how old the woods are.



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Alan MacKenzie, our treasurer over the last few years had to leave because of pressure of work. (He works for the Forestry Commission union and on behalf of the union has been involved in trying to prevent the sell off of FC assets.) We have to thank him for his efforts. David Govan has since volunteered and is now our treasurer.

We finished the year with a work party at the bus stop near to the sawmill. Last Saturday in less than two hours we removed two trailer loads of rubbish and the remains of an old fence. This coming year we hope to involve more people in work parties.

We would like to finish with a big thank you to Ossie Veitch Angus MacPhie. They have been involved right from the start back in 2005 when the paper mill closed down. It was Ossie that got everyone going. Having been on the board ever since he has done a good stint. I'd like to ask Roddie to make a presentation. The pine wood is in community ownership but we have a little bit of pine that Ossie can keep all to himself! (A goblet made from a wind blown branch) and a bit of oak for Angus.

Finally it has become clear that we need to involve more people. Word of mouth is the best way and I urge all of you to spread the news that we do own these woods. Publicity is always a problem we hope to create a new web site within the near future. [www.kilmallie.com](http://www.kilmallie.com) It will have information about the woods, minutes of our meetings and details of any work parties. We are putting together an email list. It covers a quarter of the membership so far. So if you get a message you need to tell at least four other people!