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You would not be reading this valuable community publication if it were not for the hard work and commitment of a few unsung heroes who volunteer their time to distribute and post the Crannog through everyone's letter boxes. This is a job for the community that is definitely best shared amongst as many as possible. If you want to be involved and could spare some time to help distribute Crannog, please contact Ken or Irene McColl on 831617. Thank You!

KIRKHILL SWRI

Meetings are now back in the Community Centre at 7.30 pm on the 1st Thursday in each month.

We have enjoyed hearing about Neonatal Nursing and an Illustrated talk on the Paddle Steamer Waverley. A Members' Night with Stovie Supper was a great success in spite of the snow falling that night.

Membership is increasing and more new members and visitors will be most warmly welcomed.

KIRKHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL



Kirkhill Primary School's mixed stage Community Links group undertook, as part of the School's three weekly school citizenship activities, were out in January, after lunch one day, with staff removing rubbish etc from around the Community Centre.

An excellent job was performed by all Pupils and Staff in giving the outside of the new Community Centre some much needed tender loving care. Well done to all who took part.

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Crannog

Spring 2013

Read it first online at www.kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk

KIRKHILL GALA

2013 - 18th - 25th May

This year's Kirkhill Gala is gearing up to be a week to remember as we strive to bring great music, entertainment, competitions, stalls, activities, food and so much more.

We want to make this year the best yet and we need everyone in the surrounding community to get involved, have some fun, and come along and join in.

It really is a week of exciting events for the whole family and the whole community with plenty to see and do throughout the Gala week.

The climax of the week is of course the Gala Day itself on Sat 25th May! One for the diaries!

Final details and dates of our events will be confirmed soon. Watch out for posters, Facebook and the community website. Full details will also be in the next issue of Crannog! We look forward to seeing you all there.

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**FIRST CHOICE
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Kirkhill and District Oil Club: Feb 2013 update

The Kirkhill and District Oil Club is now up and running with households making savings by purchasing heating oil collectively through the 'club'.

We made our first group purchase in January. Oil was purchased at 60.75p per litre + VAT compared to the best price available at that time of 63p per litre + VAT. This worked out as a saving of £22.50 on every 1000 litres purchased.

We are now looking to making our next purchase in March if there is enough demand locally. We will also be placing an order in the summer so we can top up our oil tanks in advance of next winter to benefit from traditionally lower summer oil prices. Our membership continues to grow and we now have over 30 members living in Kirkhill, Lentrane, Inchmore, Buncrew and surrounding areas.

So if you think you may need oil in March or during the summer and are not a member of the club why not join us? By being a member you have the

option of purchasing your heating oil through the club when we place a group order.

When a group order is placed no one is required to take oil and at all times members are free to purchase oil individually.

But please remember for the oil club to work households need to alert the club administrator that you need oil well before your tank is nearly empty.

Remember the more of us who join the oil club

- the greater the amount of oil we are likely to collectively order,
- this will give us the greatest savings,
- minimise heavy lorry traffic on our roads, and
- is likely to mean that orders are placed on a regular basis

If you are interested in joining the oil club, or would like more information contact Bob Pettitt by email bob.pettitt@hotmail.co.uk or by phone 831356.

Community Councillors

Chairman

Cameron Kemp, West Altnaceardaich ☎831552

Treasurer

Fred Geddes, Newtonhill ☎831324

Secretary

Jim Ogilvie, 22 Newton Park, Kirkhill ☎831316

Ian Weir, Groam Farm, Kirkhill ☎831750

Chris Heaton-Armstrong, Kirkhill ☎831779

Ally MacNeill, Tigh Cala, 4 Newtonhill ☎831339

Karen Young, Glen Rowan, Bunchrew ☎234128

Iain Urquhart, 58 Newton Park, Kirkhill ☎831278

Ian Cowan, Tigh-na-Beithe, Kirkhill ☎831344

Caroline Crawford, Gardener's Cottage, Kirkhill ☎831503

Judith Rumbold, Fearnna, Birchwood, Bunchrew ☎225073

Nikki Maclean, Eileantulloch House, Moniack, Kirkhill ☎831041

Crannog is published four times a year by Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council. All meetings of the community council are usually held in the Old North Inn on a Tuesday evening at 7.30_{pm} and are open to members of the public. If you have any concerns you would like raised please come along or alternatively speak to one of the councillors.

Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community website and facebook page

If you want to know what's going on in the community or want to share things with others then the community WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE is the place to go. Send your news and events to editorial@kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk and "Like" us at www.facebook.com/kirkhillbunchrew (yes that is how it's spelt). And if you'd like to promote your club or activity we can set up a page on the site for you at www.kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk

Crannog contact information

Get in touch with the Crannog for the next edition at the following email address as appropriate:

advertising@kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk

editorial@kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk

If you do not have email then please send your comments to: Crannog, 4 Newton Place, Kirkhill, IV5 7QE, or by phone to 01463 831546.

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Next issue of the Crannog: Summer 2013

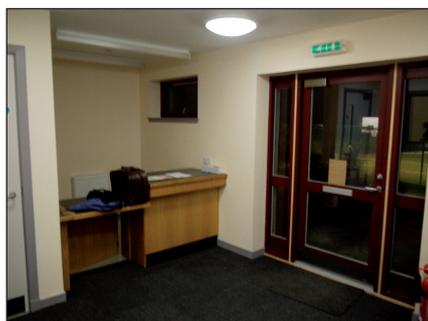
Contribution deadline: 17th April 2013

***no late submissions will be accepted**

KIRKHILL DISTRICT AMENITIES ASSOCIATION



Photographs of the newly refurbished and renovated Kirkhill Community Hall.



Visit the website <http://kirkhandbunchrew.org.uk> for more pictures and information

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Own transport to and from will be provided. £5 per hour.

References are available from previous clients.

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KIRKHILL DISTRICT AMENITIES ASSOCIATION

Community Centre extension and renovation complete

Well, it's been hard work but worth it. The new community centre extension and refurbishment work is all but complete bar some snagging issues. We began a staged re-possession in January and now all our regular users are back in and enjoying the new facilities.

We've got a new Post Office counter in the bright and airy vestibule, new toilet facilities, refurbished changing rooms and a fantastic fully equipped kitchen.

The Williamson Room

Best of all there's an additional meeting space which is ideal for smaller groups and activities and includes tea and coffee making facilities. We're calling this room the Williamson Room to celebrate the contribution over many years of Wilma and Norman Williamson towards the centre. Without their dedication we wouldn't have such a fantastic and well run facility. We're keen to attract new groups and activities to use this room so please get in touch if you have any ideas.

Energy Efficiency

We've installed a lot of energy saving measures in the community centre with help from funding from the Climate Challenge Fund. A lot of the measures can be done in your own home. We're happy to chat about what you can do and put you in touch with energy saving advice.

Community Centre official opening

All good things need to be celebrated and we'll be holding an official opening ceremony during Gala Week from the 18th to 25th May. Look out for further details.

Volunteers

The community centre relies on a happy band of people who volunteer their time to keep things running. We'd love to hear from people who'd also like to help out. Whatever your skills we'd like to hear from you. There are loads of jobs from maintenance to marketing and you can be sure you'd be appreciated and valued.

Bookings

If you'd like to make a booking for the centre or find out more about what we can offer please contact Wilma Williamson on 831737 or email kdaa@kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk. More details are at www.kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk. We'd be happy to arrange to show you round the facilities and discuss your needs.

Kirkhill MUGA

Kirkhill MUGA has reopened for floodlight sessions. Clubs and groups are welcome to book regular sessions for football, basketball, shinty etc. and tennis membership is still available. Contact Ken MacDonald on 01463 831479, email kdaa@kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk or see http://kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk/community_centre/kirkhill-muga/. Many thanks again to our funders - Highland LEADER, Climate Challenge Fund, Robertson Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation and Highland Council.

FIRST CHOICE DECORATIONS

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3-8 MILLIFEACH
KIRKHILL, INVERNESS IV5 7PH

KIRKHILL GALA 2013 - 18th - 25th May

**GALA STARTS SATURDAY
18th OF MAY – ENDS ON SAT-
URDAY 25th OF MAY**

Dates for your diary: Brand New for 2013 Gala week, we will kick off with a Race Night in the Community Centre. For any of you who haven't been to a race night before come along, it's great fun. This leads on to a busy Sunday with the Church Service, Gala Golf, Treasure Hunt and Family BBQ. On Monday we have everyone's favourite Kirkhill Bowling Clubs "Bingo Night". Other events throughout the week will include pets parade, a fun sing along night at the Movies, Junior Football & Shinty competitions, Quiz Night, pool competition and some more surprises.

Gala Day will be a day to remember as we strive to bring great music, entertainment, stalls, activities, food and if you're like me a great opportunity to catch up with all the people you don't see the rest of the year. We plan to finish Gala Night with a great night of entertainment. Local favourites Sharp Exit make a return to the Gala after a successful showing on the day time stage, this time for the Gala Dance so be sure to get your tickets for one of the hottest events of the week.

Final details and dates of our events will be confirmed soon. Watch out for posters, Facebook and the community website.

BACK BY HUGE POP- ULAR DEMAND

– Scarecrow Competition
For 2013 the Scarecrow theme will be Disney. This gives endless opportunities to come up with some fantastic scarecrows and I can't wait to see them start to appear around the village. To enter this competition



you will need to complete an application form, so that we know where to send the judges. Further details of how this will be arranged will be advised in due course.

Contact Izzy Maclean 831554.

We always welcome your feedback and suggestions for your Gala. If you do have suggestions for an event or anything you would like to see happening during Gala Week please let us know, all ideas are welcome.

We are looking for craft stands on Gala Day. If you know anyone who would be interested please get in touch with: Izzy Maclean 831554, Wendi Forbes 831369, Lorraine MacLeod 831465, Amanda MacGillivray 831776 or Gregor MacCormack 831493.

Please note tickets will be available for sale from Lorraine on April 20th.

**Spring Dance 9th March to Vortex –
tickets available from Lorraine 831465
first come first served - BYOB - strictly
over 18's.**

KIRKHILL & BUNCHREW COMMUNITY TRUST

Spring Volunteering Day – 20th April 12 noon – Community Centre Car Park



Spring is almost here and the Trust is again keen to support the Kirkhill Village Market. We will be holding a Volunteering day on Saturday 20th April to coincide with the market in the school. There will be a litter pick around the village, meeting in the Community Centre car park at 12 Noon. We

will also be trimming the new growth on the willows in the Playpark at 10am. All helpers welcome and equipment will be provided.

We will also be running a Cycling Event in the school grounds alongside the market on Saturday 20th May. Children and parents will be invited to bring their bikes for a free maintenance check and take part in an obstacle race around the playing field. Just what you need to loosen up for a summer of cycling!

Woodland Group – Wood Carving – 23rd & 24th Feb. - Reelig



The group is holding a 2-day wood carving event in Reelig Wood on 23rd and 24th February, which is almost fully booked. They are also felling timber that will be used for a new building at the Moniack Mhor writing centre at Abriachan, a great use of a local resource.

Thinning work continues in the wood that provides firewood for sale. The hardwood has been sold for now but softwood logs will be available shortly. If you're interested in any of the activities do get in touch with our co-ordinator Anne Griffiths 01463 831600 or craggach@doctors.org.uk

Cycle Path

An application for funding of the construction of a cycle path from Lovat Bridge to the Kirkhill junction has just been submitted – fingers crossed! If successful, work could start this year.



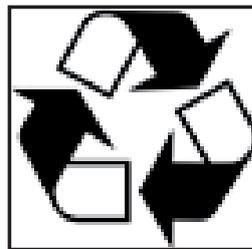
www.kirkhillandbunchrew.org.uk

We are keen to develop our Community Web Site and the community Facebook page. This is a great facility to keep in touch with what is happening in the community and for local groups to promote their activities. If you would like to put information on the site contact Archie Prentice on 831638.

Playpark

The fence is now finished and the willows will be trimmed shortly, ready for all the local children to make full use of the play equipment with the arrival of warmer spring weather. All we need is a few parents to come forward and help keep it in good shape.

Environmental Group



The Recycling Point in the Community Centre Car Park and has bins for clear, brown and green glass, steel/aluminium cans and textiles. It is well used and a great facility. Please put any bags/boxes

in the wheelie bin next to the glass bins and do not leave any other items next to the bin as someone else will have to remove them. Should any glass get broken please clean it up or inform the staff in the Community Centre.

Kirkhill Primary School Eco-School Committee – Dance Performance 27th Feb

In order to raise funds for UNICEF, the committee organised a 'dress up what you want to when you grow up' day on 8th February. On 27th February they are putting on a dance performance on the theme of 'renewable energy'.

Eden Court Theatre is helping with the choreography.

Please come along to watch if you are free. The group is also providing art work for a display at Highland Liliums – look out for it when you are buying your bedding plants!

The group is also experimenting with different varieties of carrots in the raised beds this year, after they have been dug over by a group from Scottish Hydro.

MP'S CORNER



Our roads are in a poor state. Decades of underin-
Wonderful Wildlife

It was fantastic to see our wonderful highland wildlife highlighted in the BBC's Winter Watch at the start of the year. The base at the Aigas Field Centre allowed viewers across the country to see a little of what we

are able to enjoy and the explanation of the mass migration of the waxwing was intriguing. I hope it encourages many more people to enjoy our countryside responsibly.

Delivering faster broadband to the Highlands

After years of campaigning to improve our broadband infrastructure in the Highlands I am delighted that we are now bringing those forward as a government. Many Crannog readers will know both the frustration of slow speeds at home, and the need for faster and better access to compete in business.

The UK Government has set aside £100 million to bring super fast broadband to Scotland, particularly targeting many of the worst affected areas in the Highlands. Late last year we were able to confirm that the plans have been approved by the European Commission.

The Crown Estate's decision to waive their fee for installing infrastructure for the project on their property will also be crucial to providing a competitive service to as many homes and businesses as possible.

As a Highland MP I am fully aware of the potential online services provide for our homes and communities. By making this investment now, and ensuring that the Scottish Government deliver on their end of the bargain, I am confident that we can attract new investment to the area – particularly in renewables – and strengthen our existing businesses.

The scheme, which will be delivered through High-

lands and Islands Enterprise, BT and the Scottish Government, aims to build on the existing network to develop world-class broadband infrastructure for the Highlands. New fibre optics and internet hubs will be built throughout the region that will be fit to cope with the growing demand for online services.

HIE will announce the plans for delivery of super-fast broadband to the Highlands in the first half of this year, and I hope to see improvements for Kirkhill and the surrounding communities before the end of 2014.

Kessock Bridge Resurfacing

Work is now underway to resurface the Kessock Bridge. While this will have an impact on the traffic passing by Bunchrew and Kirkhill I hope it will not cause too much disruption to residents along the A862 and surrounding area. For more information on the resurfacing works you can visit www.traffic-scotland.org for live journey updates. My office will also be happy to provide a copy of their leaflet.

If you have a problem you need help with, a question to ask or an issue which you would like to raise, please contact me on 01463 711280.

Write to: Danny Alexander MP

45 Huntly Street

Inverness

IV3 5HR

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Email: danny@highlandlibdems.org.uk

Web: www.dannyalexander.org.uk

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WARDLAW CHURCH NEWS

We have had a busy time at the church from November through to February. This was partly due to the closure of the Community Centre whilst its refurbishment was taking place, with various groups finding a temporary home with us. It was good to be able to welcome more folk of all ages into the church building, from the Tiny Tots to the S.W.R.I.

Wardlaw Church joined various landmark buildings in Inverness in being floodlit in red for World AIDS Day on 1 December. The Church of Scotland is the only religious denomination which has a dedicated HIV programme, providing care and support to those living with HIV, and helping ensure access to anti-retroviral drugs and food supplies.

Our Christmas services were all well attended, with the church being beautifully decorated with candles and Christmas – themed foliage arrangements. Kirkhill Primary School led the way with their annual Carol Service on the evening of Sunday, 16 December. Under the direction of Cris Ford and her team, the children gave a very good account of themselves with a splendid variety of Christmas songs. The following Sunday, it was our popular Candle and Carol service, with a selection of songs from the Celestial Choir. This, and our Watchnight Service late



on Christmas Eve, attracted a large congregation each time, with the church bell being rung at midnight to herald in Christmas Day.

At the end of February, our Interim Moderator, Rev. Edgar Ogston, and his wife Jean, will move from Beauly to Mallaig, to take up a new ministry. Our new Interim Moderator is Rev. Dr. Peter Donald from Crown Church in Inverness; Peter will be looking after us while we seek our new Minister. The vacancy is now being advertised in Church of Scotland publications and listings, and the Nominating Committee is also looking at other ways of raising awareness of the opportunity for a Minister to lead the linked congregations of Kirkhill and Kiltarlity. Have you been to our weekly Tuesday coffee mornings yet? These take place at Wardlaw Church every Tuesday morning between 10 a.m. and 12

noon. This is an open invitation to everyone from the parish and beyond, from any Church and none, to come along and enjoy excellent home baking and the craic even more so! The picture shows Mary, Anne and Maris serving Wilma and Elma from Kirkhill, and Ellenor and Winnie from Beauly at one of the recent Coffee Mornings. Come along and join us!

Kirkhill Guild has hosted a variety of guest speakers over recent months: Keith McClelland with his excellent photographs of the Highlands, Anne Lyle with a demonstration of Christmas flower arranging, Liz Syred speaking on the work of her charity “Women Influencing Change,” and as one of their last commitments before moving, a presentation by Edgar and Jean Ogston of the widely varying places where they have taken their ministry (Leven to Mallaig via the Cayman Islands).

At the end of January, Wardlaw Church achieved the status of Fairtrade Church, using Fairtrade products whenever possible. The Fairtrade Foundation works to ensure better prices and working conditions for farmers and workers in the developing world. The church has achieved this in advance of an initiative by Inverness Presbytery to become a Fairtrade presbytery, to complement the status of Inverness itself as a Fairtrade city.

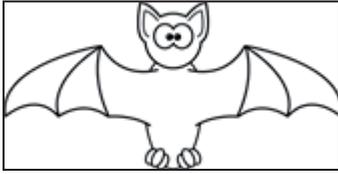
A reminder of our service times – Sunday morning traditional worship service at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday, followed by tea, coffee and biscuits. Our Third Sunday service at 6:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month leans more towards the newer hymns and songs accompanied by guitar and keyboard, with tea, coffee and home baking to follow. Both services give an excellent opportunity for folk to meet up for a chat afterwards. The joint Easter Sunday service on 31 March takes place at Kiltarlity Church this year.

Watch out for a very special event on Saturday, 27 April 2013, between 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon, at Kirkhill Primary School. A group from the church and local community go into the school each week to give dramatic presentations of Bible stories to the children of P1 through to P3. The event is a coffee morning to raise funds for this “Open the Book” initiative – but a coffee morning with a difference, as there will not only be coffee, tea and cakes, but also a bucking bronco and an assault course! Please do join us for any or all of these events – you will be very welcome!

KIRKHILL & BUNCHREW COMMUNITY TRUST

Bats in the Community Hall

No, not live ones flying around the lovely new building but the subject of the talk at our AGM to be held in the new meeting room in the Hall on Monday 25th March at 7.30pm. I see



them flying around Wardlaw Road so come along and find out about these fascinating little creatures and the other work of the Trust.

If you have any queries or would like to get involved with Trust activities, call Erik Lundberg on 831742 or email erik.lundberg@btinternet.com.

Kirkhill Playpark

The Playpark is well used by the children who live locally and those that attend Kirkhill Primary School. All the play equipment was replaced a few years ago and soft play surfaces laid so that it should give many more years of good service. You may have noticed that the perimeter fence has just been replaced and new gates fitted so that children can safely run around inside it but not run out onto the 2 roads that surround it.

It is also included in the Spring and Autumn Litter Picks to keep it tidy and safe for the children to use and enjoy.

The grass is cut over the summer by Highland Council staff.

The refurbishment was organised by Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Trust, who also hold the lease for the Playpark. We are looking for a few parents of children who use the park to come forward and assist with looking after it. This would not involve much effort as it is now in fairly good condition. They would help to keep it tidy and report any damaged play equipment to Highland Council who maintain it. Any damage to the fence would be reported to the Trust.

There are several willow structures at the end of the park that provide play spaces and help to drain the ground in this part of the park. They need trimming each year to keep them in shape and the Trust Woodland Group would help the parents with

this task.

This has recently been done as part of a Spring and Autumn Volunteering Day alongside the litter picks and it is hoped this will continue.

If you would like to help with looking after the park please contact Erik Lundberg, KBCT Chairman on 831742 or email erik.lundberg@btinternet.com



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KIRKHILL & BUNCHREW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Bog Roy Inn

On Tuesday 11th December 2012 at 7.30pm.

Chairperson Mr Cameron Kemp
Present.

C.C. Chris Heaton-Armstrong, Karen Young, Judith Rumbold, Nikki Maclean, Ally MacNeill, Fred Geddes, Ian Cowan and Jim Ogilvie (Secretary). Police Constable Lloyd also attended

1). Apologies.

Caroline Crawford, Margaret Davidson and Drew Hendry.

2). Minutes of Meeting

held on Tuesday 6th November were read and approved Fred Geddes proposed and Ally MacNeill seconded.

3). Traffic Speeding through Inchmore.

After the last meeting this matter was reported to the police and after investigation I received the following report from PC Billy MacDonald.

Thank you for your E-mail regarding the complaint(s) of speeding vehicles through Inchmore.

I have to report that the police have been carrying out speed checks with pro laser, in both marked and unmarked vehicles with very few vehicles found to have been speeding, these checks however continue to be carried out.

I discussed the matter with Sergeant Hay, who thought that it might be beneficial if the Community Council could write to the council requesting that speed strips be put in place, to assess the speed/time of traffic etc, going through Inchmore. Highland Council road management have been made aware of this report and the resident's concerns and have been asked to put in the speed strips.

4). Flooding Issues.

No progress has been made at Wardlaw Road apart from ditch and drain cleaning which will not help the problem at West Lodge.

The work requiring to be done on the Moniack burn is still awaiting on the full scoping report from SEBEC eco engineers funded by SEPA which will outline options on improving the situation. After the report is received funding will have to be found to carry out the preferred option.

5). Inverness Area Community Council Forum.

The next meeting of the above Committee will be held in February on TUESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY, 2013 in the Town House, Inverness at 7 pm

A G E N D A

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Meeting held on 20 November, 2012.
4. Matters arising.
5. Role of Community Councils – David Haas.
6. Further discussion of West Link, Inshes Roundabout, East Link and A9 Duelling – Mr. Sam MacNaughton.
7. Broadband Provision
8. Questions for Fergus Ewing.
9. any other competent business.

6). West Link Road.

There is still opposition to the council chosen route for this road option 6. Although this is the cheapest option it will damage playing fields and other amenities which will have to be replaced. After discussion it was agreed to join with other Community Councils in trying to make Highland Council reconsider the whole plan. These are the options for discussion at the Inverness Area Community Council Forum (options over on next page)

7). Post Office and Royal Mail

The Post Office will relocate in January to the Community Hall but efforts to have increased hours have failed on the grounds that it is not commercially viable.

Royal Mail have agreed to provide a new larger post box for the village situated near to the bus stop.

8). Polling Stations Review.

The area uses the Community Hall as a polling station and as this is an eminently suitable location no change is necessary.

9). Boundary changes.

This item had been discussed before and was about Cabrich, some houses at present are in the Kiltarlity Community Council area and some in our own. Kiltarlity boundaries are going to change due to the Boundary Commis-

KIRKHILL & BUNCHREW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

sions changes to incorporating Kilmorack, Beaully and Kiltarlity into the Caithness, Sutherland, Ross and Cromarty Constituency and moving Cabrich back into the Inverness and Skye Constituency.

The meeting agreed to abide by the boundary changes.

10) Scottish Water Consultation.

The Secretary gave out details of this Consultation and asked if there were any views on this matter it could be discussed at our next meeting.

11). AOB

The police constable gave us views on the local scene and reiterated the findings of the recent traffic survey in Inchmore.

He went on to discuss harassment by neighbours and the removal of field fencing which has occurred at a nearby farm.

a). A loose step near to the school is causing concern to local residents.

b). The bridge on the Reelig Glen walk is in poor repair and had been reported 6 months ago.

These two items have been reported to TEC services.

c). the ditches at Lentrán and at Green Acres have been cleared out.

Thanks received for donation to the R.B.L. which was four times last year's donation.

12). Planning Issues.

There were no planning issues this time. But it was suggested that advertising could be included within the planning website and this would offset the cost of operating the planning process.

Meeting was then closed.

Date of next meeting January 29th.

