

EKCC – 1 July 2026

Minutes from the meeting at Carradale Village Hall 01/07/2026.

Abbreviated names: Ian Brodie(IB), Robert Strang(RS), José MacKinnon(JM), Anne Horn (AH), Trish Collins (TC), Elinor Prince (EP), Alastair Redman (AR).

Welcome

Trish Collins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present

Trish Collins, Ian Brodie, Robert Strang, José MacKinnon, Elinor Prince. Councillor Anne Horn. Councillor Alastair Redman (AR) via Zoom. Members of the CCT and many members of the community.

Apologies

Audrey Willan, Niall Macalister Hall

Treasurers Report

Bank balance - £888.55

Matters Arising

- Torrisdale bay – TC – still at planning. Will public note out when new reference is available for people to log objections or support.
- B842 grass cutting – AR to take up lack of cutting with the council.
- Torm Hor car park – AH asked council & ACHA – no-one has got back yet. It was raised that people may be parking there as they think it is the beach car park. TC will ask about making beach parking clearer.

Correspondence

- A83 maintenance updates – A single lane closure will be in place at A83 Butterbridge on 1st July 2026 between the hours of 7am and 7pm to facilitate the excavation of trial pits to locate utilities apparatus.
- Greenspace Scotland funding opportunities now open. Details available from EKCC sec ekccsec@gmail.com on request.

Harbour

- Nothing – waiting on council funding.

Wellpark

Nothing – just working on goalposts to see if they can be fixed or need replaced.

CCT Update

- Digital Local Development Plan copies have gone out. If anyone has not got one and would like one please ask.
- Culvert at Network Centre – looks like insurance are likely to cover. Scale of works means it wont start until winter.
- Seneval had to close for several days to deal with an invasive species that had been dumped. Please take care not to dump invasive species at the site.

AOCB – Semples Garage

- An outline of the position with respect to Semples garage was given. It was acknowledged that other businesses are for sale in the area – the garage has come up given its use as the de facto shop car park. Keeping going as a garage looks to be unviable. Other ideas for its use are encouraged so long as they don't compete with other businesses in the area. The idea is to discuss the garage and potential uses then vote on whether the community wants it purchased and gather ideas on its use (voting slips provided indicated yes/no for purchase and an ideas section).
- The argument was made that it is important to secure the site as it is important to the village shop – village shop has only 3 parking spaces should the remaining land be lost.
- Q – has valuation been done? A – Yes. This and purchase price will not be shared as property is still for sale commercially and these details need to stay confidential to protect that. Any offer would be on the basis of the valuation.
- Q – is there funding for it? A – not directly but lots of funding available. CCT would purchase if so desired. CCT don't have the funds so grants would be needed. Noted that grant applications would need to be accompanied by plan for use.
- Q – Why was the parking not dealt with at the time the shop was done? A – no further land was available at the time the shop was purchased.
- Q – what generated interest? A – questions about it from the community.
- Noted that preservation of parking would not be sufficient to get a grant. Agreed – the issue is does the community want to buy it and develop it?
- Suggestions as to possible uses received to date:
 - Bunkhouse
 - Micro brewery
 - Bike rental
 - EV charging
 - Mens Shed
 - Storage

- Industrial units

- Q – has seller been asked if he would split the plot? A – yes – they won't.
- It was suggested that as this would negatively impact the shop the community should find a use for it.
- Q – if obtained could we get fuel there? A – could be revisited but previously written off. Complex and low profit if any.
- It was noted that the land is a major asset to the community. Lots of major uses multiple things could be done with the site at once. Noted that it is a strong asset the community should buy or we will come to regret it.
- Q – can we engage consultants to help work this out? Similar has been done elsewhere can we learn from others? A – can't keep sellers waiting indefinitely. Owners don't mind waiting for funding if sale agreed but want to know where they stand. CCT could potentially give a deposit but this commits CCT funds so there would need to be a CCT meeting.
- Suggestion – divide into industrial units and rent for peppercorn rent to attract young people to the village. Could also do a housing plot.
- Suggestion – storage .
- Counter argument to storage – young people won't want this use it to provide something for young people.
- Teaching kitchen idea raised. Noted that one was already for sale (Glen Bar). Noted unlikely to get funding for anything that would compete with local businesses and village hall has a kitchen that could be used for teaching.
- Suggestion – use with UHI. Noted UHI offered space and MACC and declined.
- Q – chanced of getting funding? A – probably with mixed uses we can pitch at the criteria of multiple funds.
- Suggestion – gym
- Suggestion – buy the Glen instead. Easier and can be used for most of the same things. Suggested to move Blackbird tearoom up there. Nothing off the table but noted Blackbird owners happy with where it is.
- Comment – this has pulled LDP off on a tangent. Energy and funding needed for this. A – we have an offer and an answer is needed. A lot of the issues at the Network centre are held up while we try to get 100% ownership and the culvert sorted in any case. Once done the plan is to develop the centre. Garage does not have to be at cost of other projects. It is for the community to decide if it wants to obtain the site.
- Q – why the interest now? A – it wasn't offered previously.
- Q – seem confident if uses are right could get funding? A – yes
- Q – what costs are there from day 1? A – CCT is charity so unlikely to pay rates. There may be unknown costs from where it was previously a fuel retailer – still to be explored.

- Comment – need to encourage people to come to Carradale. Tourism is an important part of the community and this could be used for additional facilities.

Votes were cast by paper ballot. Following the meeting the votes were counted and the outcome to progress with the potential purchase of the garage site was YES - 42 votes and NO -18 votes. This was split between attendees at the meeting YES - 38 votes and NO -17 votes. Further votes received by email from those who were unable to attend the meeting were YES - 4 votes and NO - 1 votes. As facilitators of the meeting the EKCC councillors and the CCT trustees abstained from voting and the total abstentions were 9.

The next meeting is 7pm on Thursday 6 August at Carradale Village Hall.