

KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the AGM and Council meeting held on Tuesday 26th May 2009 in Kingussie High School Library.

Present: Mr. K Reid, Mrs T Hyndman, Mr A Davidson, Mr T Wade, Mr N MacAulay, Mr M Stone, Mr J Taylor, Mr D Whyte, Ms G Wright, Mrs M Brown, Mrs V Emmett, Mrs A Schofield, Mr D Fallows.

Visitors: Mr P Schofield, Mr P Cook.

Councillor K. Reid took the chair.

Cr. Reid announced that in addition to the four earlier known vacancies for new councillors, Councillor D Grant had also decided to stand down from the Council. As a result there was no need for an election as the five vacancies had been matched by five nominations. He welcomed the new Councillors to the meeting: Mrs Brown, Mrs Emmett, Mrs Schofield, Mr Stone and Mr. Taylor.

1. Apologies for absence: Cr. Macrae.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th April 2009 were accepted as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING. None.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT (Cr. Wade)

Printed copies were provided of the annual financial statements for the Community Council 2008/9, Senior Citizens account and the Children's Party account. Cr. Wade briefly explained some of the entries. The Treasurer's report was agreed.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.(Cr. Reid)

Cr. Reid said that as he was retiring from the Council this was his last meeting. He thanked Cr. Grant for his hard work and contribution to the Council, especially as the Projects Liaison Officer, and said he would be missed. He also thanked the Council Secretary (Mrs Hyndman) and the other retiring councillors for their valued service over the years.

(a) Ruthven Barracks Events. In the Chairman's view, the earlier decision by the Council to discontinue the annual dance at Ruthven Barracks as a result of the behaviour of some young people, who had drunk too much alcohol, was the correct one. He regretted that it would result though in a significant loss of revenue income (usually about £2500). He felt that morally the Council could no longer organise the dance in the knowledge that the sale of alcohol as part of the refreshments could lead to under-age drinking and unacceptable behaviour by some young people.

(b) Projects. The erection of the new bridge over the River Gynack was a great success and could be attributed to the sustained hard work by Cr. Grant as the KVCC Project Officer and his colleagues on the Kingussie Community Development Company. A ceremony at the bridge would take place on Sat. 20th June as part of the Homecoming Event. Highland Piper, Sandy MacDonell has written a special piece of music for the event which he would play at the bridge and then he would lead the walkers down to Ardvonie Park to open the proceedings there. The Walks Group had also met with success during the year in resolving the route to Raitts Cave and agreeing a solution to the Speyside Way through Kingussie. The Group is still seeking to connect the walk from Loch Gynack with the Wild Cat Trail around Newtonmore and negotiations with the Estate owners are still in progress.

(c) The former Spar Shop at the junction of High Street and Gynack Road. The eyesore caused by continued lack of progress in repairing this building was a cause of great concern. Cr. Reid reported he had been assured by the Highland Council Planning Office that progress

towards resolution of the problem was being made.

(d) Kingussie Courthouse. Cr Reid reported that the building was no longer usable except for storage. Its future is still unresolved.

(e) Senior Citizens Christmas Party. The 2008 event was well attended and deemed to be a great success. On behalf of the Council Cr. Reid expressed his thanks to the Star Hotel for hosting the event and providing a good spread for the senior citizens at reasonable cost.

6. ELECTION OF NEW COUNCIL OFFICE BEARERS. Cr.Reid presiding.

The following councillors were elected to the offices below:

Chairman: Mr A Davidson

Vice Chairman: Ms G Wright

Secretary: Mrs V Emmett

Treasurer: Mr T Wade

Planning sub-committee: Mr A Davidson, Mrs A Schofield

Liaison Officer with Kingussie Business Forum: Ms G Wright

Liaison Officer Kingussie Walks Group: It was agreed to ask Mr D Grant to continue in this post ex-officio.

Projects sub-committee: Mrs M Brown, Mr J Taylor.

Assoc. Cairngorms National Park Communities representative: Mrs V Emmett

KCDC: Mr A Davidson.

Mr Davidson as the newly elected Chairman assumed the chair.

He thanked Mr Reid on behalf of the Council for his contribution to Council matters for many years and for steering the AGM through smoothly on this occasion.

7.PLANNING REPORT

No new planning matters for consideration.

Cr. Schofield commented that Highland Council offers training for Community Councillors in dealing with planning matters. She agreed to follow this up for the Council and report back.

8. 2009 - THE YEAR OF HOMECOMING (GW)

Cr. Wright reported that the celebrations will take place on Sat. 20th June in Ardvonie Park to coincide with the date of the mass exodus of Kingussie people in the 19th century when landlords raised their rents at the Midsummer Quarter Day. In addition to many good demonstrations and activities in Ardvonie Park there will be a parade to the new Gynack footbridge led by the Highland Pipe Band and a short ceremony there. A Hill Race up Creag Bheag has been organised by Stuart Malcolm. Later in the day the plan is to light a bonfire at the top of the Creag as there had been when the population said farewell to Kingussie in the 19th century.

9. COMMUNITY COUNCIL TENTS

In the absence of Cr. Macrae, this item was not taken.

10. HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR'S REPORT (Cr. D Fallows)

(a) Kingussie Pavements. DF reported it had already been agreed by Highland Council that additional pavements, other than those already completed on one side of King Street, were included in the schedule for repair and resurfacing. He did not have a start date for further work.

(b) Former Spar Shop in Gynack Street.

DF reported on discussions with the HC Planning Dept. with regard to an enforcement order being issued to the owners to expedite repairs. Mr.P. Cook, the owner of the flat above the shop, being present at the meeting, was invited to speak to the Council. He informed Councillors about shared responsibility for the repairs between the owners of the properties and the lessee of the former shop. He is frustrated at the continued lack of progress and obstruction he is encountering, since the state of the building seriously affects his residency and the value of his property. At the end of a lengthy and informative discussion, Cr. Fallows agreed to follow up Mr. Cook's verbal report with the HC Planning Dept. in an effort to seek progress in effecting repair.

(c) Kingussie Court House

DF said it had been hoped that the report on the future use of the building would be complete by the end of May, but it was not yet done. HC Manager, Mr W Gilfillan has been asked to make further financial enquiries into the possibility and viability of extending the building to accommodate all the local council staff, and to report as soon as possible. There was a brief discussion about possible uses of the Court House as a community facility if it is not to be used for Council offices. DF undertook to report back when he has further information.

(d) Railway Footbridge.

The rail organisation responsible for repair and upkeep of the railway track has looked again at the possibility of repairing rather than removing the unsafe footbridge over the tracks near to the station. They are now of the view it can be repaired in situ and reinstated. A "track possession order" has been placed for the weekend 11/12 July for overnight closure of the rail line, when rail engineers will inspect the bridge deck. Several more "possession orders" have been placed for overnight closures at weekends to enable engineers to repair the bridge. It is hoped the task will be complete before the end of the year 2009. Cr. MacAulay expressed much concern about disturbance at night to many Kingussie residents because of the nature of the construction of the bridge. The noise of the work to the steel framework and decking is likely to be considerable. He hoped the rail company would take appropriate steps to warn residents and keep disturbance to a minimum.

(e) Iona Gallery

The HC Education, Culture and Sport committee at their recent meeting had unanimously agreed to lease the Iona Gallery to the Society of Badenoch and Strathspey Artists to enable them to seek grants to refurbish and upgrade the building. Cr. Emmett reported the SBSA will run the gallery as a community facility. While it will be maintained as a public art gallery, they hope to extend its use and develop it into an arts centre and make it a year round facility for the arts. They are already working in partnership with the HC Exhibitions Unit in managing this year's touring exhibitions.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs Hyndman presented correspondence received since the last meeting.

Letter from David Stewart MSP seeking support for a proposal to go before the Scottish Parliament for Victim Support. The secretary undertook to obtain copies of the publication for councillors.

12. AOCB

(i) Boundary Commission Proposals for Electoral Constituencies to the Scottish Parliament.

Cr. Fallows alerted councillors to proposals by the Boundaries Commission for Scotland to the electoral boundaries; these proposals seriously affect Badenoch and Strathspey. They were recommending that three Highland Constituencies be reorganised.

They propose Aviemore and Badenoch be part of a new single large constituency along with Lochaber, Skye, Dingwall and the Black Isle and electing one MSP.

Boat of Garten, Grantown and other Strathspey constituencies would be part of a larger constituency with Inverness and Nairn. Strathspey would in effect disappear.

He urged everyone to look at the report in the Strathspey and Badenoch Herald newspaper the following day, or to log onto the Boundaries Commission website, to consider the proposals and to send in their objections promptly since the closing date is 21" June.

The secretary undertook to read the proposals and draft a letter on behalf of the Council for the Chairman to consider. Copies would be circulated to the whole Council.

(ii) Duck Pond adjacent to the Hanover Housing

Cr Wright reported that Mr Ken Tait, the owner of the Trading Post, is willing help the group, who maintains the Duck Pond and surrounding natural area. Mr Reid commented that it is not the responsibility of the Community Council although Mr Bennett, the late Chairman had taken a keen interest in it.

(iii) Transport.

In response to a question, Mr Reid reported that the Community vehicle is still in running order and is used well.

(iv) Hanging Baskets in the Town Centre.

Cr. MacAulay reported that he and Cr. Macrae were not going to continue with the watering regime of all the baskets on a regular basis.

They had found it very time consuming and constraining to do this each summer evening. Mr Reid said that the hanging baskets would be made up by Kingussie High School as usual, but he would only provide them to shops, businesses and households in the Town Centre who would guarantee to look after them properly.

(v) Town Centre Regeneration Fund.

Cr Wright showed Council members a booklet about a funded initiative intended to help communities regenerate and improve their town centres. Cr Fallows commented that the deadlines for application for grants were very short and he doubted there was time for a project to be proposed.

Cr Emmett asked what had been proposed for Kingussie as part of a new initiative "Our Community. .. The Way Forward" funded by Highland Council, the National Park and HIE. Councillors were apparently not aware of this, so VE undertook to contact the project officers and set up a meeting for MB, JT and herself to find out more and then report back.

(vi) Memorial Seat in the memory of Alexander Bennett

Cr Wade reported the Christmas Lights Committee had asked if the Council was willing to contribute towards a memorial seat at the Duck Pond in memory of former Council chairman, Alexander Bennett. Agreement was given in principle and TW was asked to investigate likely costs.

(vii) Removal of Telephone Box

Cr Taylor reported the telephone box has already been removed from its site at the entrance to Manse Road.

(viii) Community Council Boundary between Kingussie and Newtonmore

Cr Fallows drew the Council's attention to the inaccurate designation of the administrative and electoral boundaries between Kingussie and Newtonmore; the issue needs to be sorted out, Highland Council is to take this forward and Ms Palmer, the Ward Manager should shortly set up a meeting between representatives of both Councils to resolve the problem.

13. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

None were put forward.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 7th July 2009 at 7 p.m.

Mr Reid said he hoped the school library would be available for the meeting as usual, although the meeting date is during the school holidays and there is to be major building works while the school is closed. The library windows are amongst those due to be replaced and it is possible the library will not be available for the Council to use.

Councillors agreed that if the school library was unavailable the meeting should be convened in Talla Nan Ros.

KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY
COUNCIL BALANCE SHEET 2008/2009

INCOME

INTEREST	5.75
GRANTS	922.12
BALANCE 30.4.08	3535.53

4463.40

EXPENDITURE

TAX	1.10
HONORARIA	755.00
FUEL	60.00
HOSPITALITY	111.34
DUCK AND SQUIRREL FOOD	318.00
ADVERTISING	131.68
POST TELEPHONE	118.06
STATIONERY PRINTING	10.21
SUNDRY PETTY EXPENSES	<u>450.05</u>
	1955.44
<u>BALANCE 6.5.09</u>	<u>2507.96</u>
	<u>4463.40</u>

KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
SENIOR CITIZEN'S XMAS PARTY FUND
BALANCE SHEET 2008/2009

INCOME		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
BALANCE 15.5.08	3327.05	TAX	5.37
INTEREST	27.07	XMAS PARTY	740.98
BONUS BALL	247.60	BALANCE 30.4.09	<u>5547.48</u>
FUND RAISING	279.20		
BOTTLE COLLECTION	692.91		
DONATIONS	<u>1720.00</u>		
	6293.83		6293.83

CHILDRENS XMAS PARTY FUND BALANCE SHEET
2008/2009

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
BALANCE 30.4.08	831.34	TAX	.68
FUND RAISING	453.75	XMAS PARTY	497.09
INTEREST	<u>3.67</u>	BALANCE	<u>790.99</u>
	1288.76		1288.76

EMERGENCY RESERVE FUND SCOTTISH BUILDING
SOCIETY

CAPITAL BALANCE 30.4.08	1797.97
INTEREST 31.10.08	12.06
" 30.4.09	<u>3.32</u>
	<u>1813.35</u>