

KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th August 2009

Present: KVCC Councillors Mr A Davidson (Chairman) Mrs M Brown, Mrs V Emmett (Sec.), Mr N MacAulay, Mr M MacRae, Mrs A Schofield, Mr M Stone, Mr J Taylor, Mr T Wade, Mr D Whyte. Highland Councillor Mr D Fallows.

1. Apologies: Councillor Ms G Wright.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th July 2009. The minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cr Whyte, seconded Cr Stone.

3. Matters Arising:

7(c) Appeal against refusal of Gynack Road Housing Development.

The Secretary reported receipt of a letter about an accompanied inspection site visit on 28 July by the Scottish Government Reporter, but this was subsequently cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. No revised date was given for the inspection.

17(f) Hanging Baskets in the Centre of Town.

Cr. Taylor expressed his thanks to former Cr Reid and Crs MacRae and MacAulay for erecting the hanging baskets; he felt it made the town look smarter for the summer. The Chairman confirmed that he had already sent a letter of thanks on behalf of the whole Council to Mr Reid for his work in this respect.

Cr Taylor then reported his disappointment that some businesses, despite giving an undertaking to look after the hanging baskets outside their premises, were already failing to do so and the plants were wilting badly; several businesses were named. The Chairman said that the Co-operative Stores, which he managed, was one of the culprits because a health and safety issue had arisen - his staff was not allowed to climb a ladder in order to water their basket.

After discussion, the Secretary undertook to contact Mr Crawford, chairman of the Kingussie Business Forum to ask if he would raise this at the next meeting of the Forum. The Council suggested that, since local businesses benefit directly from a smart High Street, the businesses might contribute to a fund to enable someone or a small team to be paid to undertake the regular watering of the hanging baskets. Businesses in Aviemore and Grantown, for example, are known to pay an annual fee for such a service.

17(g) Saltire on the Clock Tower

The Secretary has received copies of email exchanges between the Ward Manager and another member of the Highland Council about the torn flags and need for a new flagpole. Councillors reiterated the need for a new flagpole, stressing it should be hinged at the bottom, so that it can be lowered and enable someone standing on the flat roof of the Clock Tower to attach the flag and hoist it safely.

Councillor Fallows asked for copies of the emails to enable him to pursue the matter.

17(h) Missing Putting Green in Spey Street

Cr Schofield reported she had tracked down responsibility for the former putting green area in Spey Street and had finally been able to contact Ms Donna Riley, Leisure Manager of the Badenoch Centre, who is in charge of the green area.

Ms Riley had said that reinstatement of the putting green had not taken place because the Council was waiting for the land to dry out and settle after the Gynack Burn floods. Councillors expressed their surprise at the delay since the floods occurred two years ago and they felt the land should be dry and well settled by now.

Ms Riley had then gone on to say the Council was undertaking a public consultation starting on 8th August, about the future use of the piece of land to see if alternative activities might be provided on it. Cr Schofield was asked to keep in touch with the development and report back at the next meeting.

4. Chairman's Business (Cr Davidson)

Nothing to report.

5. Treasurer's Business (Cr. Wade)

Cr Wade reported the Council still has not received the annual grant from the Highland Council, although a letter dated 7 July 2009, had been received notifying KVCC that this year's grant was to be £1831.34. Cr Wade said he had sent a copy of the audited accounts, as required, to the Highland Council in May.

The Secretary said she had enquired about the insurance paid on behalf of KVCC - it is for public liability. She had also enquired the basis of the annual grant and was told it was based on a per capita sum of 50p per elector in 2002. It has not been reviewed since, but has been rolled on year on year with an inflationary unit. The Highland Council is undertaking a review of the scheme, starting in the autumn.

Cr Fallows asked for copies of this correspondence so he can follow up the matter of late payment with HC managers.

6. Highland Council - Guidance for Community Councils

Councillors considered the papers circulated in advance of the meeting. Cr Wade confirmed that he already followed the recommended financial procedures. It was noted that the annual grant included a sum of £250 as a secretarial grant and if this was underused it should be returned to the Highland Council.

7. Planning Matters (Cr Davidson)

(a) The Chairman went through the weekly list of planning applications relevant to the KVCC area.

There was a brief discussion about the location of one property, which was not clearly identified and was not known to councillors. It was agreed that there was no need to respond to the application.

New application for house plots in Gynack Road. This site appears to be the same as one for which planning application was refused by the CNPA and is subject to an appeal by the developers (see ref in 3 above) Cr Schofield undertook to ask the Planning Office at the CNPA about the differences between the refused application and the new application and to report back at the next meeting.

(b) **Licensing Applications** Councillors noted receipt of notification of two licensing applications: for the Cooperative Stores and the Duke of Gordon. No response needed.

(c) **Consultation about renewal of a temporary permission by RWE for two anemometry masts on land adjacent to Meall A'Chocaire, Balavil, Kingussie.** After a discussion and consideration of the site plans, the Council agreed there was no need to raise an objection since the masts are already in place and the permission is only temporary. It was noted however, that one of the masts is very close to the boundary between Balavil and Pitmain. The Secretary agreed to draft a letter, which the Chairman would send to the Planning Office on behalf of the Council.

(d) **Planning and Development Pre-Application Guidance** (held over from the previous meeting) Papers previously circulated. Councillors agreed there was no need for discussion.

8. Quality Awards for the Employees of the Year (held over from the Previous Meeting)

Councillors noted that last year they had nominated Charlie Young for a personal award for his excellent work with the Gynack Gardens. Crs MacAulay and MacRae commented that the KVCC nomination had gone in before the Gynack Gardens had received the Best Garden in Scotland award, and that the Highland Council judges might not have been able to take this into consideration when judging nominations in 2008.

After a full discussion Councillors agreed to submit two nominations this year: for the employee of the year and for the team of the year. Nominations were unanimously agreed. The Secretary undertook to submit the nominations.

9. Highland Councillor's Report (Cr Mr Fallows)

Cr. Fallows commented he had no new matters to report.

(a) In response to a question he said he had no further news about the missing inscription on the War Memorial, but the matter was in hand at Highland Council level.

(b) **Need for Repair of Pavements:** On behalf of Cr. Wright, Cr Brown raised the matter of the lack of progress in the promised repair of pavements in Spey Street and need for road markings outside properties whose buildings bordered the edge of the road. After a full discussion, Cr Fallows recommended the KVCC should direct their concerns to Mr A Mciver of HC and enquire about the plans for repairs; he also suggested the Council should contact MSP Fergus Ewing to seek his support in seeking improvements to pavements and lamp-posts along the High Street, since maintenance of this road is the responsibility of Transerve and not Highland Council.

(c) **Travellers:** In response to a question from Cr MaCrae, Cr Fallows said he had not been able to pursue the matter of Travellers using the Market Stance since the appropriate officials were away on annual leave.

10. Community Projects (Cr Taylor)

Cr Taylor provided a verbal report. The Community Initiative team had met on two occasions since the last Council meeting. The questionnaires are now finalised. There will be five different questionnaires:

(a) A Household Survey seeking residents' views about future housing needs and suggestions for improvements to Kingussie.

(b) A Stakeholder Survey

- (c) An Employer Survey
- (d) A Survey of views of Young People between 14 and 25 years of age.
- (e) A Survey about Daily Commuting Habits, both into and out of Kingussie.

The local Girl Guides are to deliver the Household Survey during the latter part of August or early September; they will be distributed to the 550 households in the Kingussie Community Council area. All questionnaires will include a postage pre-paid envelope for responses.

The surveys are to be advertised in the local newspaper and through posters.

A Drop-In Event is to be held on 26 September. A marquee is to be erected in front of the Court House where residents can go in, meet the team and to give their views on their vision for the future of Kingussie and ideas for other community projects.

11. Correspondence received.

The Secretary informed Councillors of recent correspondence received:

An acknowledgement of the KVCC's letter to the Reporter about the Appeal against planning refusal for the Gynack Road housing development.

A newsletter from the NHS. Cr Brown agreed to read this and provide a summary for the Council.

Notification of the next Ward Forum meeting on Wed. 19th August in Laggan Village Hall where the topic is Transport.

12. AOCS

Cr. Whyte asked for an item to be included on the agenda for the next meeting: the provision of duck feed at the Pond near to the Hanover Housing Complex. This item generated some preliminary discussion with a variety of views being expressed.

13. Date and venue of the next meeting.

Tuesday 1st September in the School Library at Kingussie High School, starting time 7 p.m.

Crs Brown and Emmett tendered their apologies in advance; they will be on leave and out of the country at this time. The Chairman said he would also be away in the week running up to the meeting.

Cr. Schofield agreed to liaise with the Chairman in good time, to draw up and circulate the agenda in advance of the meeting. She also agreed to take the minutes.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.