

# **KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009**

**Present:** KVCC Councillors Alan Davidson (Chairman), Gwyneth Wright (Vice Chair), Tom Wade (Treasurer), Neil MacAulay, Calum MacRae, Joe Taylor, Martin Stone, Derek Whyte, Ailsa Schofield (Temp Sec), Councillor David Fallows.

### **1. Apologies**

Councillors Val Emmett and Mairi Brown

### **2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 4.8.09**

The minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cr Wright, seconded by Cr MacAulay.

### **3. Matters Arising**

17 (f) Hanging baskets in the centre of town. There had been no feedback as yet from the Business forum regarding possible funding for someone to undertake the watering of the baskets. Cr Wright said that she would contact the Forums' Chairman Mr Roger Crawford re this.

17 (g) Saltire on the clock tower. Both the Saltire flag and the flag pole had been renewed.

17 (h) Putting Green. Cr Schofield had been in touch with Donna Reilly (Facilities Manager) who said that there would be a public consultation in Kingussie on 6.9.09 where representatives would be outside the Old Court House, to enable the public to ask questions about the recent questionnaire sent out to Kingussie households. As it had previously been thought that the date for this was 26.9.09, Cr Fallows said that he would check the date.

7 New Application for house plots in Gynack Road. Cr Schofield had made enquiries and ascertained that the difference between the latest plan and the one currently subject appeal, was an adjustment to boundaries in order to avoid Red Squirrels.

### **4. Chairman's Report (Cr Davidson)**

The Chairman said that as a report was usually only required for an AGM, he had not produced one on this occasion.

### **5. Treasurers Report (Cr Wade)**

The Treasurer said that he had received a letter from the Ward Manager Sue Palmer stating that Kingussie & VCC's annual grant of £1,831.84 would be paid directly into its account on 18.8.09. The reason for the delay from April, (when the grant was due) was as a result of Highland Council procedure, where its accounts are audited in May and no payments made until all accounts are in. Cr Fallows said that he had spoken to

William Gilfillan at the Highland Council to ask that this unacceptable procedure be cancelled next year. The Treasurer concluded by saying that there were £387.98 worth of outstanding payments to make from the £2,548.80 currently held in the bank (excludes the emergency fund).

## **6. Planning (Crs Davidson & Schofield)**

a) The Chairman went through the weekly list of planning applications relevant to the KVCC area. Discussion ensued regarding an application for part change of use of bakery shop, to café and takeaway food outlet at premises on Kingussie High Street. Due to concern regarding disabled access it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Planning Office, in order to clarify the situation.

### **Application for the formation of a new car park at St Vincent's Hospital**

Discussion ensued re this, but it was not thought necessary to make any representation.

### **b) Application for 4 plots on Gynack Road**

Discussion ensued re this. There were serious concerns regarding the ongoing sewage problems in the vicinity of this proposed development. It was agreed that a letter of objection should be sent, regarding the lack of capacity in the current drainage system, and concerns regarding proposed access for an indeterminate number of other houses.

### **c) Waste Water Response**

Attention was drawn to the letter attached to the agenda, which was a copy of the response sent to the Highland Council relating to the application for the new waste water treatment works.

## **7. Household Survey (Cr Taylor)**

Cr Taylor gave a resume of the recently distributed household survey and said that the Steering Group Committee had met on 25.8.09. All questionnaires had been distributed, but it had recently come to notice that not all households had received a copy, due to some of the more tucked away houses having been missed. He apologised for this, saying that he had spare copies of the survey should anyone require one.

He continued by saying that there would be drop in day on 26.9.09 outside the Old Court House, where various people, including Ron Mercer and Karen Derek would be available to answer queries from the public. There was a time line for the "action plan" and he felt that smaller proposals were more likely to proceed. The plan would then be put together and Community Councils asked which one they would like to proceed with. A further meeting was due in October.

## **8. Duck Food (Cr Whyte)**

A lively discussion ensued regarding the continued funding of duck food for the Glebe Ponds. As it was felt to be an inappropriate use of Community Council funds, it was decided that money should no longer be made available for this purpose. However, it

was decided that the Community Council would continue to fund squirrel food owing to the minimal cost (approx £60 per year for two bags), the fact that Red Squirrels are an endangered species, and that the feeding stations at St Vincent's Hospital gave both patients and visitors alike, a great deal of pleasure.

#### **9. Senior citizens Christmas Party**

Cr Davidson said that The Star Hotel had agreed to host the party again this year. A provisional date of 29<sup>th</sup> November 2009 had been set, and those wishing to attend would be able to collect a form from the Post Office.

#### **10.Children's' Christmas Party**

The only involvement of Kingussie VCC with this function related to the party organisers funds, held and administered by the KVCC Treasurer. Cr Wade said that the balance of this fund currently stood at £791.22 plus an additional £337 raised by the party organisers. It was believed that the organisers, Rachel Hewson, Tania Alliod and Gillian Robertson had everything well in hand for the party, to be held on 12.12.09.

#### **11.Ward Forum Meeting Laggan 19.8.09**

A brief resume of this meeting had been circulated to Councillors. Concerns were voiced relating to the proposed back dated increase of 50p, for pensioners using the Community Mini Bus for travel to day centres and lunch clubs. Councillor Fallows said that the increased charge should not be imposed prior to the date of any notification letter, and asked people to contact him if they were being charged before that. He went on to say that as a "Registered Bus Service" the dial a ride scheme should be eligible users of a bus pass. This option was currently being explored.

#### **12.Highland Councillors Report (Cr David Fallows)**

##### **a) Railway Footbridge**

Cr Fallows said that the Railway Footbridge survey had been carried out, and had concluded that the footbridge was beyond repair. However, it was to be replaced in its entirety, and tender documents were being prepared.

##### **b) Court House**

William Gilfillan, the Highland Councils' Corporate Manager, had indicated that he would like to attend the next session of the KVCC in order to give an update on the Old Court House.

Cr MacRae asked Cr Fallows whether anything further had been done with regard to the travelling people on the Market Stance (erection of barriers etc)? Cr Fallows responded by saying that he did not think so, and would pursue the matter.

### **13. Correspondence Received**

- a) The Chairman said that he had received an invitation to a meeting in Inverness on 23.9.09, with regard to starting a Neighbourhood Watch. After discussion, it was decided that this was not appropriate for Kingussie, as the Community already looked out for its neighbours.
- b) Action Planning Transparency. This was a letter from Highland Council advising of a 6 week consultation relating to the Strategic Plan, with an information day held sometime within the next 2 months.

### **14. AOCB**

- a) Cr Wright asked Cr Fallows why the pavement from the Wade Centre had not been done (the wrong side of the road had been resurfaced first). Cr Fallows responded by saying that area of pavement had not been scheduled for repair but the area on Spey Street where there was a step-out around one of the buildings was. Due to the width of the road at this point, it was not possible to lay a pavement around the building, but road markings were due to be put in place. Cr Fallows said that he would check when this had been completed.
- b) Cr Wright asked for her pleasure to be minuted, with regard to how successful “Thunder in The Glen” had been, in Kingussie on 30<sup>th</sup> August, giving particular thanks to Cr Taylor for his assistance.

### **15. Date and Venue of next meeting**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2009 in the library at Kingussie High School for 7pm.

Cr MacRae asked that his apologies be given at that meeting, as he would be unable to attend.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

A.Schofield (Temporary Secretary)