

KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2nd MARCH 2010 in Talla Nan Ros.

Present: KVCC Councillors: Ms G. Wright, Mrs V Emmett, Mr T Wade, Mrs M Brown, Mrs A Schofield, Mr C MacRae, Mr M Stone, Mr J Taylor, Mr D Whyte. Highland Councillor Mr D Fallows.

Apologies: Cr. Mr A Davidson

Absent: Cr Mr N MacAulay

Visitors: Mr R Grant (CNPA), Mr R Mercer (OCAWF), Sgt Crawford (Northern Constabulary), Mr K Tait (The Trading Post)

Cr Wright (Vice-Chairman) took the chair, opened the meeting and welcomed the visitors.

Preliminary item: Speyside Way - extension update (Mr R Grant CNPA)

Mr Grant reported the progress in extending the long distance path from Aviemore to Newtonmore and beyond, and its legal status as only one of four long distance official routes in Scotland with Ministerial approval. He provided maps showing the route of the section from Aviemore to the end of Kingussie. Agreement has been reached for the section from Dalraddy to Newtonmore, but difficulties over the section across part of the Kinrara Estate are not resolved. The landowners are still unwilling to allow the path to cross their land. SNH has surveyed the proposed section and reported to the Minister, who approved their report and proposals in May 2009. The route through Kingussie from the RSPB car-park at Croftroy has to follow the road into Kingussie because there is no alternative crossing of the R. Spey; it will then join the A86 and run along the Sustrans cycle/pedestrian path beside the A86 as far as Newtonmore. In answer to questions, Mr Grant said work is in progress around Lock Gynack to provide a path to join up with the Wild Cat Trail above Strone. This will then provide an alternative high level route from Kingussie to Newtonmore. The current route however, will bring walkers into both Kingussie and Newtonmore, the communities would thus not be bypassed and walkers would be able to seek rest and refreshment in the town! The Speyside Way website will be kept up to date with developments as they take place.

1. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 2nd Feb. 2010** were approved and signed. (Prop. MB, Sec. AS)

2. Matters arising:

Road Clearance: Councillors reported continuing problems re insufficient snow clearance on roads and footpaths. Difficulties for residents in the sheltered housing at the Glebe were especially worrying. Further discussion dealt with under item 11 of the agenda.

3. Proposed Alcohol Bye-Law - Progress report (VE)

The proposed bye-law with details of the exemptions is now being finalised by the Highland Council Solicitor. The Secretary read out the list of inclusions and exemptions. Once again Councillors confirmed they wished the bye-law to go ahead as agreed by the previous Council. There was discussion about inclusion of the Bikeathon event in the exemptions and the Secretary undertook to contact the organisers for their views. *(This event now to be added to the list of exemptions)*

Cr Fallows reported that Newtonmore is still to hold its community consultation. The Newtonmore and Vicinity Community Council reserves the right to decide on whether or not to implement a byelaw based on the consultation.

4. Police Matters (Sgt Crawford)

(a) *House entry in Kingussie.* Sgt Crawford reported a house had been entered recently by an unlocked door and a basket containing keys had been stolen. The keys were later found strewn around the town. He stressed that residents should take the precaution of locking their external doors to prevent such unlawful entry.

(b) *Roads.* He reported 18 accidents in a week on local roads, most as a result of the bad weather. He urged motorists to take better account of the road conditions by driving more slowly.

(c) *Speeding and 20 mph limits.* A discussion was held about the effectiveness of illuminated speed warning devices. Sgt Crawford said there had been a survey in Kingussie and he was not aware that it was a significant problem through the town. He undertook to bring the speed detection results to the next meeting. He reported that Highland Council has given the green light to the extension of the current 20 mph limits for priority areas; Kingussie is regarded as a priority area.

5. Town Gateways

Crs. Emmett, Brown, Schofield and Taylor reported on the meeting held earlier in the day with Ms S Palmer (Ward Manager THC), Ms M Malone (THC Planning) Mr R Mitchell (Transport Scotland) and Mr K Hossack (Scotland TranServe), Mr K Tait (The Trading Post).

Main points from the meeting:

The meeting had been set up following councillors' disappointment with the designs for the new town gateway signs provided in February by TranServe and the refusal of Transport Scotland to allow the name of Kingussie in Gaelic to be included.

Councillors presented the case for the wording on signs: in English and Gaelic, inclusion of the town crest and they provided illustrations of signs manufactured by the company that has provided the planters outside the Court House.

Discussions included size, shape, background colour and lettering. of the new signs, means of mounting them and safety concerns. The group also visited the sites at each end of the town to review the existing locations.

At the end of the discussions the following points were agreed:

1. The inclusion of the Gaelic name for Kingussie and the town logo if the latter was permitted by the Lord Lyons Office. VE undertook to write to the Lord Lyons office for clarification.
2. The new signs will have to conform in size and shape to permitted road signs. Mr Mitchell suggested dark green background with white lettering - which is more visible rather than dark letters on a white background.
3. The signs at each end of the town will be relocated to new positions, which will make them more visible but not affect sight lines for motorists. He also undertook to arrange for the removal of a sign giving mileage to Spean Bridge etc at the NE end of the town, and the new gateway sign will be relocated near to this position.
4. On safety grounds he advised against placing planters or flower tubs beneath the new signs. It was agreed that new flower beds could be constructed to give a floral entrance near to the new signs.

5. Mr Mitchell also suggested that if TranServe is asked to design and make the new signs in consultation with the Council, then they would also erect them and take responsibility for their maintenance and eventual replacement.
6. If the Council chose to have the signs manufactured by another company then the Council would be responsible for erection of the new signs and their long term maintenance.
7. Ms Malone (THC planning) later confirmed that if TranServe was the contractor then there would be no need to apply for planning permission since the land is owned by Highland Council.

Councillors were pleased with the outcomes and agreed the secretary should take the project further. She undertook to complete the grant application forms post haste, write to the Lord Lyons office about the town logo and then arrange to meet Mr Hossack and the TranServe designer. They agreed she should ask TranServe to act as the contractor.

6. Town Floral Decoration Scheme (Mr Tait)

Mr Tait reported he had revised prices for the hanging baskets - now only £27 each. He visited a local horticulturalist: Greens of Ferness, who is very helpful and cooperative. Greens will supply the baskets ready planted up. KT plans to acquire 50 - 75 units. They will be fixed on brackets onto buildings at a uniform height. He took the opportunity to discuss the project with the Transport Scotland official that morning and has the OK. He raised the issue of the maintenance of the Glebe Ponds. Nobody has direct responsibility for their maintenance although one or two local residents have an emotional attachment! He plans to call a meeting in a couple of weeks time to discuss safety of the pathways and proper maintenance of the area. He is also to meet the CNPA Biodiversity Officer and the RSPB Manager of the Insh Marshes NNR. Several organisations have indicated they would like to be involved in the care and maintenance of the ponds: the High School, the Guides and Caberfeidh. He undertook to report back.

7. Planning Matters (Cr Schofield)

Notice has been served to implement a "No Waiting Order" in the Manse Road area, to take in short lengths of roadway at the exit of Manse Road and around onto the High Street. No objections were raised, the plan was said to be overdue and welcomed.

8. Our Community A Way Forward Project (Mr R Mercer)

A meeting will take place in Boat of Garten Hall on Saturday 13th March, members of the communities that have already taken part in the project from Grantown-on-Spey, Dulnain Bridge, Advie & Cromdale, and Ballater will join with members of the current projects in Kingussie, Newtonmore, Laggan and Dalwhinnie to review progress, exchange experiences and look at emerging issues. Kingussie reps will be Crs Mrs Emmett and Mrs Schofield because Mrs Brown and Mr Taylor are unable to take part on the 13th.

Agencies and individual contacts have now been identified against each theme on the Kingussie action plan, so the Kingussie team can begin to work on its course of action for each priority area.

9. The Court House - no further news of progress.

10. Highland Councillor's Matters (Cr D Fallows)

(a) TECS Highland Council is reviewing and reorganising its TEC Services, the main servicing team will be based in Inverness and there will be a mobile force. The Kingussie site will close and the office will be based in Aviemore. Scotland TranServe will take over the Kingussie site as a base for their operations. Highland Council will have an agreement with TranServe for grit supplies. The workforce and equipment will still be based in Kingussie however and work from here.

Cr MacRae commented that both the depot and its budget have been cut back repeatedly and the services this winter were unacceptable. Councillors agreed and voiced their concern about the future levels of service for Badenoch.

Cr Fallows commented that he and Cr Stuart Black had warned Highland Council of the consequences of not building up sufficient stocks of road salt well in advance if there was a severe winter as we have just experienced. The purchasing policy over recent milder winters has resulted in lower stocks than are really needed to do even the basic clearing task. Stocks of road salt in GB have been exhausted this year.

(b) Scottish Air Ambulance Service. The recent event in Aviemore was a well attended and useful meeting. New contracts are due in 2010 and tenders are being finalised this year. There is no threat to the future service and the meeting provided a very good guide to the level of support it has here. The designation of a helicopter landing place was discussed, especially for night emergencies. Councillors did not know if we have one locally. Cr Fallows agreed to pursue this matter.

(c) Road Sign to the former Highland Folk Museum Car Park. Cr Taylor asked what progress has been made, Cr. Fallows reported he did not know but would pursue the matter.

(d) Travellers: Cr MacRae reported a group of Travellers was parked illegally at the Market Stance and he had received a complaint from one nearby resident about the noise from the Travellers' generator. Cr Fallows replied he had already had a meeting with Highland Council Housing Department on this matter. The site at Newtonmore was not open as had been previously agreed, and would not be open until Easter. Apparently there is currently no warden appointed and the Inverness and Lochaber sites are already full. He had suggested they open the gates and allow the families in. He said he wants the Housing Dept to apply for planning permission to run the Newtonmore site as a year round facility.

11. Review of Community Councils - revision of CC boundaries. (Cr Emmett)

Cr Emmett reported the boundaries have now been revised and she has been provided with a copy of the new Community Boundaries map.

12. Correspondence

(i) Notification of Impending Road Closures -overnight for about 8 weeks, Mon-Fri from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. on the A86 between Newtonmore and Spean Bridge for major road works in the Laggan and Creag Dubh areas.

(ii) A Pilot Bus Project for disabled passengers - a new trial service with specially modified bus stops and low entry platform buses from Grantown to Aviemore. Cr Fallows spoke to the item and said if it was successful it was likely to be extended to other routes.

13. Recent Ward Forum Cr Mrs Emmett gave a brief verbal report. Full minutes of the meeting will be available later.

14. This item dealt with under item 10.

15. This item reported under item 12.

16. Request from Laggan Community Association.

Cr Mrs Emmett reported a request for an informal joint meeting between the Badenoch Community Councils to discuss matters of common concern about mobile phone, Broad Band and TV reception in the area. She has undertaken to circulate other Community Councils and if there was sufficient interest she would arrange a meeting.

17. AOCB

(i) It was noted that the Tourist Office is currently closed whilst major building works are taking place at the Caberfeidh Bookshop. Cr Wright confirmed, on behalf of the Business Forum, that the Tourist Office will be located there for at least one more year and more people will be trained to run it.

(ii) The Secretary asked about fixing a date for the AGM and the election of councillors. It was agreed the AGM is usually held before the May meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 6th April at 7 p.m. in Talla Nan Ros

The meeting closed at 2130hrs.