

KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2010 in Talla Nan Ròs Kingussie

Present: Councillors Mr A Davidson (Chairman), Ms G Wright (Vice-Chair) Mr J Taylor (Treasurer), Mrs V Emmett (Sec.), Mrs M Brown, Mrs A Schofield, Mr M Stone. Highland Councillor Mr D Fallows;

Visitors: Sgt Crawford (Northern Constabulary), Mr D Grant (Kingussie Community Development Company).

1. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (held on 5th October 2010)

The minutes were approved as a correct record; proposed JT, seconded AS.

2. **Matters Arising**

Item 9(viii) **Community Noticeboard.** Cr Schofield asked for clarification about the repairs to the noticeboard and suggested that if it was to be renewed perhaps the Shinty Club might like to consider a new one too. Cr Taylor agreed to raise it at a forthcoming Shinty Club meeting.

Item 2 (v) Cr Schofield asked if a reply had been received from the CNPA to the letter sent on behalf of KVCC after the October meeting. Cr Emmett replied she had received a telephone call the previous Friday from Mr Tait apologising for the delay and explaining there was no trace of receipt of the original letter. He said a reply was to follow shortly.

Item 9 (i) **Freedom of Kingussie for Mr. Wade.** Cr Brown said that Ms. Palmer, Ward Manager, had proposed Friday 3rd December for the presentation. Ms Brown was following this up with Mr Wade's family. Several councillors commented that 3rd clashed with preparations for the Kingussie Winter Festival Weekend event and they were committed to other activities that evening.

Item 8(v) **20 mph road signs.** Cr Brown reported that any signs would probably be financed from the "Safe Routes to School" programme, but she was unsure where they would be placed. She undertook to contact the Primary School about it. Cr Fallows said he would also raise it at the meeting of the Parent Council that he was due to attend on 4th November Privately bought signs cost £80 each. Sgt Crawford queried how many signs would qualify for funding under the "safer routes" scheme. It was suggested they would only be erected close to the schools. Cr Fallows commented that residents of Clune Terrace in Newtonmore had succeeded in getting signs at the end of their road even though it was remote from the primary school, but it had required much persistence on their part.

Cr Brown expressed concern that earth from the roadside banks plus debris from fallen leaves was accumulating on the sides of the unpaved Ardbroilach Road forcing pedestrians further rout into the roadway. Cr Emmett undertook to contact Mr Dyce at TECS to enquire when the roads would be cleaned and the gullies emptied. Previous information from Mr Dyce was that the vehicles were due to do this work in October.

3. **Police Matters** (Sgt Crawford)

The Superintendent of Police is hopeful of finding funding for one post of Traffic Warden for this area. The new Warden would be based in Aviemore, but would also have responsibility for wardening duties in Kingussie.

4. **Treasurer's report** (Cr Mr J Taylor)

The balance in the main account currently stands at £3162.01. The senior citizen's account has been swelled by a donation of £260.50 from the Star Hotel and £80 from Kingussie Golf club, the balance is now £5673.03. On the 6th October the balance in the account for the Kingussie Community Children's Party was £1796.38.

The treasurer has received a bill of £48 for the hire of Talla Nan Ròs for Council meetings, which covers hire until the end of December.

5. **Planning Matters** (Cr Mrs A Schofield)

Cr Schofield reported briefly on recent planning applications:

- (i) A boat house/garage at Tulloch Head in West Terrace fronting directly onto the road. Precedents have already been set for this type of development. The CNPA is not going to call in the application. It was agreed no objections should be made.
- (ii) A house and garage at Torcroy – application in principle for a development on a piece of disused garden ground. The water supply will be private, foul drainage will be to a septic tank and to SUDS for rainwater. The application has not been called in yet by the CNPA. Councillors questioned if the application is outside the designated areas for development. Cr Fallows commented on the regulations governing additional housing in rural areas - additions to existing housing groups must be no more than 25% in five years.

Planning Gain: Offer by Davall Developments to the community of the green space above Croila View (old shinty pitch).

Cr Schofield reported that Kingussie Community Development Company has finally responded to her emails. Doubts have been expressed by one of the KCDC committee members over the issue of maintenance even though Highland Council has given the Planning Gain Team reassurance about the long term maintenance. Cr Schofield was concerned that if the offer of this land was refused it would not come again. It is amenity land, so cannot be built on, it will become the inalienable property of the community in perpetuity, but should the community ever wish to dispose of the land then Davall Developments would need to be consulted and have to agree to its disposal. At the conclusion of discussions, councillors agreed that Cr Schofield should draft a letter accepting the land, providing KCDC agrees to take ownership on behalf of the community.

6. **Highland Councillor's Report** (Cr Mr D Fallows)

Cr Fallows commented he was pleased to see the wall of the property on the corner of Gynack Street has been rebuilt and the scaffolding removed, but he asked if there was a date for completion of the repairs.

Planning Permission for the garden shed at **Therapy Garden at St Vincent's Hospital**: his enquiries have revealed that the proposed building for the Therapy Garden will require planning permission and full fees are due; only the Community Council is eligible for a 50% discount of the planning fees.

The Highland Folk Museum. Visitor numbers are up by 20% this year and reached almost 50 thousand. There may be some slippage on the building of the museum store at the Newtonmore site, which will delay the removal of the collections from Am Fasgadh.

The Court House. The plans for the proposed refurbishment of the Court House is still included in the capital budget, but it will only be funded if a higher priority project falls.

7. **Ward Forum Report - Winter Preparations (Cr Mrs A Schofield)**

Emergency Contact: The Highland Council has set up a dedicated telephone line in Alness as an emergency contact for the public if there are problems due to adverse weather this winter. The number is to be publicised in a Press Release on Mon. 8th November. It was suggested that flyers giving the emergency contact phone number be placed in shops and on noticeboards.

Snow Clearance and Public Liability: The Highland Council has sought legal advice about the clearance of snow in front of properties and owners' liability. There is no case history of anyone being sued if they clear the pavements in front of their properties and someone else has a fall. The legal advice is that legal action was unlikely to be successful. The Councillors and officials hope that everyone will show community goodwill this year by clearing the snow in front of their houses and shops and by keeping them clear.

TECS Management Team: this winter members of the TECS management will be on duty over Christmas and New Year so as to be able to authorise emergency action requiring additional payment if it is needed. TECS and Social Services have also agreed to collaborate on road and pavement clearance to ensure access for vulnerable residents and also access to addresses of care workers. Social Services will provide a list of addresses and TECS will do the clearance.

Winter Arrangements for Trunk Roads: Cr Schofield commented that all those present at the meeting were concerned that representatives of Scotland Transerv and BEAR were not present to hear the views and present information about their plans for road clearance, etc. The Council and the public felt the two organisations had snubbed the meeting by their failure to attend.

It was agreed to contact Ms Palmer, Ward Manager to request copies of the notes of Ward Forum meetings as soon as possible after the meetings so that councillors and public were kept up to date promptly with the discussions and conclusions. At present the minutes, etc are received shortly before the next meeting.

8. **Our Community A Way Forward (Cr Mrs M Brown)**

Mrs Brown provided an oral report of the actions taken since the last meeting.

The consultation day was deemed a success, so far 120 completed questionnaires have been returned and others are still in the pipeline. The "Big Question" survey provided an opportunity to gauge support for the project and also ask residents what they would like to see developed at the site and if they could help in any way. Responses are still awaited from residents of Hanover House and also the pupils at the Primary school so that the survey covers all age groups.

The team met with Ms Derrick and Ms MacDonald to consider the articles of memorandum and other requirements for the formation of a company limited by guarantee. A public meeting will be needed after registration with the organisation that deals with Community Buy Outs.

9. AOCB

(i) Post Code Lottery Dream Fund. (Mr D Grant, KCDC)

Mr D Grant of KCDC contributed to this part of the meeting, bringing councillors up to date with developments.

KCDC is making good progress with the plans to install a mini-hydro scheme on the River Gynack above the town. Several councillors and members of KCDC recently met representatives of the Pitmain Estate to be briefed about the Estate's plans for two hydro schemes higher up the Gynack. These would not conflict KCDC's scheme, but would in fact help to ensure a constant steady flow of water down the river to the KCDC's installation.

Davall Developments is conveying all the land from the boundary of the Golf Course car park south to the new bridge across the Gynack to KCDC. The triangle of land near the upper bridge – just below the Golf Course car park will provide an interpretative site and members of the public will be able to view the hydro scheme from the upper bridge.

Prospects for the KCDC mini-hydro scheme look brighter with new feed-in tariffs announced recently. The scheme will provide 75 thousand kwh per annum, yielding an income of about £15 thousand a year, and relieve the equivalent of 36 tonnes of CO₂ per annum as well.

Unfortunately two major funders have now closed applications, which is a blow. The delay in making applications for funding was due to the need to gain permissions and support for the scheme from SEPA, SNH and the Highland Council. Planning is moving on steadily.

The cost of the project is of the order of £160 thousand plus VAT and grants from one funding body could provide as much as 50% of the costs.

The People's Post Code Lottery Fund has recently announced new grant opportunities and the KCDC project appears to meet all the requirements. The application requires two organisations to work in partnership. He requested that KVCC becomes one of the partners with KCDC, a registered charity, acting as the major partner. Councillors gave their unanimous support and agreement. The secretary undertook to provide the necessary documentation to Mr Grant: a copy of the Council's constitution, audited accounts and letter of support signed by the Chairman.

If the grant application is successful then construction can begin in April 2011.

(ii) Kingussie High Street

Planting of the Crocus Bulbs donated by the Rotary Club. The recent weather had defeated earlier plans and so new potential dates were agreed among councillors. Cr Emmett suggested the bulbs are planted in the planters outside the Court House, where they would be very visible and help to cheer up the High Street and Court House frontage. She undertook to contact Mr Porteous of TECs for permission to use the planters.

Cr Brown reported she had recently had a complaint from a resident that the High Street looks very shabby. The hanging baskets have been removed for the winter. Cr Schofield reported that sadly the repainting of the heritage lamp posts is not now in Scotland Transerv's budget.

It was agreed that the empty and closed up shops do not help to give the impression of the High Street as a vibrant place to shop. It was agreed that several of the owners should be approached to enquire about the future of their premises.

(iii) **Community Vehicle.**

Cr Taylor reported he had received a request about the ownership of the pickup vehicle acquired in the former Chairman's time and used by the Lighting Committee. It is unclear who owns it: the Community Council or the Lighting Group. The vehicle needs taxing and the registration documents cannot be found among the former chairman's papers. Cr Davidson confirmed it is not owned by the Council, but by the Lighting Committee. It was agreed to provide a letter confirming this ownership to enable the secretary of the Lighting Committee to contact the DVLA for new documents and then tax it.

(iv) **Home Insulation Funds:** The secretary reported receipt of a letter from the Energy Savings Trust about a universal home insulation scheme. The offer of help is time limited starting on 1st November and it will be promoted by a direct mail campaign.

(v) **Your Community – Your Plan -Living in Kingussie.** Copies of the draft document for the National Park Plan were provided and considered. Councillors offered suggestions for additions and amendments. The secretary agreed to make the necessary changes and then email it to Ms Karen Derrick and Ms Mairi MacDonald at VABS.

(vi) **Old Folks Christmas Party at the Star Hotel.**

Cr Davidson reminded councillors of the date – 28th November. He asked if councillors could attend from 1130 onwards. There was a brief discussion about availability of cars and drivers to collect elderly folk who need transport. Several councillors expressed willingness to do this duty.

(vii) **Council meeting dates for 2011**

The secretary provided councillors with copies of the proposed council meeting dates for 2011.

The meeting closed at 2150 hrs.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 7th December 2010 at 7 p.m. in Talla Nan Ròs Foyer.