

# KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2012 IN TALLA NAN RÒS KINGUSSIE

**Present:** Crs Mr A Davidson (Chairman), Ms G Wright (Vice-chairman), Mr J Taylor (Treasurer), Mrs V Emmett (Sec), Mrs M Brown, Mrs A Schofield

**Apologies:** Mr D Fallows (Highland Council), Sgt J Crawford (Northern Constabulary).

### 1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012

The minutes were approved as a correct record, Prop Cr Mr Taylor, Seconded Cr Mrs Schofield.

### 2. Matters Arising None.

### 3. Police Matters

In the absence of Sgt Crawford, this item was not taken.

### 4. KVCC Treasurer's Monthly Financial Report

Cr Taylor presented his report:

(i) KVCC Current Account balance - £9546.65

Cr Taylor explained that only £2846.65 of this total is KVCC funds for running Council affairs. In the past month he has paid bills for the hire of Talla Nan Ròs for Council meetings and the secretary's honorarium. He has also received a donation from the secretary towards some of the KVCC projects.

Most of the money in the account results from grants for specific designated projects:

(a) £6450 in grants from the Ward Discretionary Fund and the Cairngorms National Park and a donation from the Business Forum for the Town Trail project,

(b) £250 from the Ward Discretionary Fund towards the provision of planters and plants as part of the Kingussie Station adopters' project.

KVCC Reserve fund, balance unchanged at £1816.67

(ii) The balances in the other two funds administered by the Treasurer remain unchanged:

Senior Citizens' Party Fund £4654.97

Children's Christmas Party Fund £1954.44

### 5. Planning Matters

Cr Mrs Schofield reported applications for planning permission in the weekly lists for Kingussie:

Subdivision of a house in Middle Terrace for short term letting.

Formation of a board walk near the Golf Course – application by COAT.

Installation of a service connector in an unused room and satellite type receiver on the chimney stack at the listed buildings at Kingussie railway station on behalf of Laggan Community Association. This installation will enable Laggan residents to receive Broadband at long last. Letter of support sent on behalf of KVCC.

Conversion of a workshop building to a bothy at Greystones, Acres Road. After discussion, it was agreed to comment that, if permission is given, it will not result in the longer term in use as a permanent separate dwelling.

Replacement of a conservatory at Edingrene, Middle Terrace.

Installation of two-storey Portacabins at Kingussie High School on a temporary basis while existing huts are demolished and new modular classrooms are installed. After discussion, it was agreed to comment that KVCC would prefer a time limit be set for the Portacabins, so they do not end up being part of the “permanent temporary provision” for the school, as had happened with the existing huts.

Notification by the CNPA of permission to build a new farmhouse at Laggan No. 1 Croft, Kingussie. Councillors expressed some dismay that a Section 75 restriction is attached to the permission, since there have been previous instances of crofters encountering problems in raising mortgages to build their new homes when there is a section 75 notice. It was agreed a letter should be sent in this vein to the CNPA.

## **6. Highland Councillor’s Report**

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

## **7. Plans for Floral Displays in the Town.**

Cr Wright reported she had spoken to Mr and Mrs Tait at the Trading Post. They confirmed there is still £300 in the fund for restocking the hanging baskets, but they needed more money to complete the task. They do not plan to order compost or plants until they receive sufficient donations. A discussion ensued.

Councillors thanked Mr and Mrs Tait for offering to run the scheme again, but they asked what plans there are to raise the funds; they expressed some concerns about the lack of clarity about the organisation for fund raising. They asked what role the Business Forum is taking and if Forum members have been asked for donations. Some traders apparently paid for baskets last year and either did not receive them or had not received the number they had paid for. Councillors also asked if the sponsorship scheme is to be resurrected and properly organised this year; they commented that the sponsorship scheme had been badly publicised last year and they knew of several residents who would be more than willing to sponsor a basket if only they were made aware of the scheme.

The treasurer reminded councillors that they had not sought a grant to help fund the High Street floral scheme and that the KVCC budget from Highland Council will be further reduced in future years, making it less easy for KVCC to provide donations to community causes.

After further discussion Councillors agreed to donate £50.

Cr Wright then reported a conversation with Mr Richard Porteous of Highland Council. Mr Porteous confirmed they will be planting up the large planters along the Newtonmore Road and outside the Court House, hopefully at the beginning of June, and he was looking at ways of providing the plantings at no cost to KVCC. Councillors expressed their pleasure at this news.

## 8. Updates

### (i) Town Trail

Cr Mrs Brown reported good progress with the Town Trail leaflet and interpretation boards. Printing of the leaflet is imminent. On the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> June, Mr Simon Green of the RCAHMS is bringing a group to Kingussie for a two day course on recording old buildings. In the evening of the 19<sup>th</sup> he will give a public lecture on the "Architecture of Kingussie". The aim is then to set up a project group to produce an architectural trail around Kingussie.

### (ii) Adopt a Station scheme.

Crs Mrs Brown and Mrs Schofield reported back about the First ScotRail "Station Adopters" lunch they had attended in Glasgow. It had been a pleasant meeting and they made some useful contacts. Amongst other conversations, they had discussed the plans for the planting scheme for Kingussie station with Mr Yellowlees of First ScotRail.

Cr Mrs Schofield reported back on discussions with the Heather Centre about the cost of making some large planters similar to those she had seen at the MacDonald Resort in Aviemore. First estimates put the cost about £1000 each. Councillors decided this was too expensive to contemplate. Chairman Mr Davidson suggested asking the High School to make the planters as a school project; the grant could be used to pay them. It was agreed this was a splendid idea since it extended community involvement in the station project. Cr Davidson undertook to contact Mr Stewart or Mr Wink to enquire about this idea and if it could be undertaken in time to allow installation and planting for the summer season. Cr Mrs Emmett agreed to visit Russwood again about suitable timber.

A brief discussion about the problems of accessing the trains from platform 2 at the station took place and Cr Mrs Schofield undertook to pass on the name of a Network Rail contact so that the secretary could write to Network Rail on behalf of KVCC about the difficulties encountered by passengers and also enquire about repainting of the foot bridge over the line before the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 2013.

### (iii) Am Fasgadh

Cr Mr Taylor reported on a meeting he had attended about community ownership at Highland Hospice in Inverness, run by Community Ownership Scotland. It had proved a useful meeting with professional advice by a firm of architects on refurbishing old buildings. He had good discussions with one of the architects, who offered their services to survey Am Fasgadh at no cost, and give advice what should be done to refurbish both Pitmain Lodge and McRobert House. Cr Mr Taylor undertook to contact Bob Powell, Museum curator about the possibility of entry to enable such a survey to take place.

## 9. AOCB

(a) **Correspondence:** Cr Mrs Emmett circulated copies of recent correspondence:

- (i) Email from Mr Powell about the timing of the removal, stone by stone, of the Black House from Am Fasgadh in 2013 and its transfer to the Folk Park site at Newtonmore, where it will be rebuilt close to the Loom Shed as part of a croft interpretation exhibit.
- (ii) Reply from Keith Brown, Minister for Housing and Transport to MSP Dave Thompson's letter sent on our behalf about the allocation of social housing.

(iii) Cr Mrs Emmett reported a reply from Transport Scotland to Mr Thompson's letter about introduction of reduced speed limits between Kingussie and Newtonmore. Mr Middleton, Transport Scotland's Chief Exec, indicated this will be included as part of a wider survey of speed limits being undertaken by Scotland Transerv.

(iv)

**(b) Creative Scotland project: A Creative Place**

Cr Mrs Emmett reported a meeting with Mrs Brown and Mrs Helen Graham (Food on Film) about the latter's idea for a Kingussie community festivals project. With Councillors' agreement, Mrs Emmett had sent information about the idea to organisers of community activities in Kingussie. She has already received some positive responses.

**(c) Meeting with G Johnston Consultants to Davall Developments.**

Cr Mrs Emmett reported an email message that afternoon from the consultants about their intentions to hold a community consultation and public exhibition of their new master plan for the building of up to 300 houses at the north eastern end of Kingussie, for which Davall Developments have permission. This follows the recent meeting at their request, between Johnston Consultants and KVCC to discuss the planning conditions imposed by the CNPA and the requirement to hold further community consultation.

**The public meeting and exhibition of the new master plan is to be held on Wed. 9<sup>th</sup> May in Talla Nan Ròs from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

**(d) Meeting with Mr Di Alexander, the Affordable Housing Officer CNPA.**

Cr Mrs Emmett reported she has been able to arrange a meeting for councillors with Mr Alexander on Wed. 11<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30 a.m. to discuss affordable housing and assessment of the demand for local needs housing. (This topic is also included in the CNPA's list of planning conditions for the housing development.) Cr Mr Taylor confirmed the group can meet in the Church Hall.

Cr Mrs Schofield reported that, following a suggestion from Mr. Alexander, she contacted Ms Lyn Kilpatrick at Highland Council about the common housing register and procedures for allocations of social housing. She circulated a paper showing the latest demands for housing and the supply and turnover in Kingussie. The data is due for update shortly. A discussion followed.

**(e)** Before the council meeting, Mr Ralph Thompson and Mr Bill Turvo from Aberdeen University met councillors as part of their research in relation to the re-use of vernacular buildings in the National Park.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 in Talla Nan Ròs at 7 p.m.