

# KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2012 IN TALLA NAN RÒS, KINGUSSIE

**Present:** Councillors Mr A Davidson (Chairman), Ms G Wright (Vice-Chair), Mr J Taylor (Treasurer), Mrs V Emmett (Secretary), Mrs M Brown, Mrs A Schofield.

**Visitors:** Ms H Graham, Mr P Schofield, Mr J Patchett.

**Apologies:** Highland Councillor Mr D Fallows.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 1. Minutes of the AGM held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

The minutes were agreed and approved as a correct record. (Proposed Mrs Brown, seconded Mrs Schofield.)

### 2. Matters Arising.

#### Chairman's 2011 Report

- (i) **Town Gateway Signs.** Cr Ms Wright commented that the old brown Kingussie sign at the SW entry (Newtonmore end) to the town on the A86 is in a very poor state. It was agreed that it either needs replacement or possibly removal in view of the successful erection in 2010 of the green Town Gateway welcoming sign close by. Cr Mrs Brown passed on comments made at a recent meeting of the Business Forum about the state of the brown sign on the B9152 near the Poor House and on the need for the sign to Waltzing Waters on the A9 to be removed since this establishment no longer exists. The Secretary agreed to look at all the signs and follow the matters up with Scotland Transerv and Highland Council.
- (ii) **KCDC's Mini-Hydro scheme for the R. Gynack.** Councillors expressed regrets that the proposed scheme has been unable to proceed as planned this year, due in part to time constraints. Equipment costs are much higher than originally envisaged and there is now a £50,000 shortfall in funding.

### 3. Chairman's Annual Report 2011-2012 (Cr Davidson)

The chairman thanked all his colleagues for their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment; the past year has been a busy and active one. He went on to review the year:

**New Procedures for Community Councils.** The Chairman expressed the view that Kingussie Community Council has fitted well in following the new procedures.

**Local Post Office.** The sustainability of Kingussie Post Office is important, but the Postmaster is unaware of its future prospects. The whole community values the services provided and it is well supported by everyone, but it is important to maintain high usage.

**Planning.** It has been a busy year. Maintaining an open mind has been a priority in commenting on planning proposals, and comments made have always focussed on benefits to the local community. The Council is still fighting to try to ensure the number of properties proposed for the large housing development is reduced to a more realistic number and the type of properties to be built there are

appropriate to the location and to the nature of Kingussie, and also suit its position in the heart of the National Park. It is still unclear what benefits will come to the community from the planning gain should the large development be built. In responding to the proposals for a wind farm at Allt Duine, the Council has maintained a balanced view. The revised proposals for the Waste Water Treatments Works have finally been approved by the National Park Board; many of the points of concern expressed by KVCC have been taken into account. It is regrettable that most of the large trees on the site have been felled. Once the new treatment works are up and running the community will need to be vigilant and to report any adverse effects, such as foul odour.

**Glebe Ponds.** A successful conclusion has been achieved with the formation of an active organising committee and well supported working parties carrying out tasks to improve the area for the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

**Tom Wade – Freeman of Kingussie.** Despite the inclement weather, the celebrations in June 2011 were very successful and enjoyed by all. Tom enjoyed the day and was pleased with the gift made on behalf of the Community Council.

**Floral decorations in the Town.** The floral scheme in the centre of town 2011 was successful with attractive hanging baskets along the High Street and in King Street and there had been few issues. The floral beds in Gynack Gardens were up to their usual high standard and were admired by all. The Chairman hoped the floral schemes would continue and fresh hanging baskets would be in place shortly.

**Am Fasgadh.** The chairman thanked Councillors Mr Taylor, Mrs Brown and Mrs Schofield for their hard work on this project. He hoped land at the site would be released shortly by Highland Council to enable the allotments project to go ahead in view of the high demand from many residents, who would like an allotment.

**Community Council Website.** The website is up and running; the Chairman thanked Cr. Mrs Schofield for initiating the idea, for overseeing it and in keeping the website up to date.

**Twenty's Plenty.** The Chairman hoped that better progress would be made in the coming year to enable the project to come to fruition in improving the safety on Kingussie's streets to the benefit of all pedestrians, but especially children and the elderly. He saw the need to keep up the pressure on Highland Council, parents and the schools.

**Town Trail.** The chairman thanked everyone involved in devising the town trail; he looked forward to the launch with publication of the leaflet later in the summer.

**The Senior Citizen's Party in December 2011** was a success as usual. On behalf of all the councillors he expressed his thanks to the staff of the Star Hotel for their support at the event. Despite criticisms about the clash of dates with Shopping Sunday, the party had been well attended and he had received comments from some of the senior citizens that the organisation of the party on the same day had enabled them to attend Shopping Sunday since they were already in the town.

**Station Adopters.** Good progress is being made and the planters should be installed by the Scotrail team shortly and then planted up by the team of volunteers.

**St Vincent's Hospital.** The chairman expressed his thanks to Dr. Boyd Peters for coming along to a council meeting to talk about its future.

**Thanks.** The Chairman extended his thanks on behalf of KVCC to (i) Cr Mr Taylor, treasurer, for his prudent management of the council's finances; (ii) to Cr Mrs. Schofield for her conscientious work in dealing with planning matters. Cr Schofield thanked the Chairman for his comments and said she has benefited from his detailed local knowledge in drafting responses on behalf of the Council.

**4. Treasurer's Report (Cr Mr Taylor)**

Cr Mr Taylor presented his Treasurer's annual report with copies of the statement of the audited accounts. The accounts have been audited by Peter Munro Chartered Accountants in the town, and once again they have made no charge for their work. Councillors expressed their thanks to Peter Munro and staff and asked Mr Taylor to pass on this message.

Cr Taylor then explained the accounts, which now have to be presented in the new format required by Highland Council. As well as the accounts for the Community Council, the new format also has to include the accounts of both the Senior Citizens Fund and the Kingussie Community Children's Party Funds. These two funds were formerly presented separately since they are not part of KVCC's funds and cannot be used by the Council, but they are administered by the KVCC Treasurer on their behalf. Cr. Taylor went on to explain certain entries. The Council successfully applied for a grant from the Ward Discretionary Funds for purchase of planters as part of the Station Adopter's project.

The financial statement was approved. (proposed Cr Ms Wright, seconded Cr Mrs Emmett)

**5. Co-option of new councillors**

Based on the new formula devised by Highland Council for all community councils, Kingussie Community Council is short of three councillors. Cr Taylor commented he saw the need to recruit these additional councillors and he felt there was a need to recruit people with good local knowledge and connections, but despite discussions with likely candidates nobody has come forward.

Visitors to the meeting, Mr Patchett and Mrs Graham were asked if they would be interested in being co-opted. Mrs Graham declined. Mr Patchett agreed to being co-opted and outlined his experience and interests that could bring an additional dimension to the council. His co-option was proposed by Cr Mrs Brown, seconded by Cr Mrs Schofield and received unanimous agreement. Mr Patchett was welcomed onto the council.

In the ensuing discussion, councillors agreed on the desirability to recruit additional councillors from a younger age group and a name was put forward. Crs Mr Taylor and Mrs Brown agreed to approach this person. The possibility of recruiting a senior Kingussie pupil was also suggested.

**6. Council Meeting Dates 2012-2103.**

It was agreed to continue to hold routine monthly council meetings on the first Tuesday in each month, with the exception of July and January. It was also agreed to continue to meet in the foyer of Talla Nan Ròs, since it is a well-known, central and pleasant venue with easy disabled access.

**7. AOCB**

No matters were raised.

The chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.