



# KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4th JUNE 2013

Present: Community Councillors: Alan Davidson (Chair), Gwynneth Wright (Vice-Chair), Joe Taylor (Treasurer), Valerie Emmett (Secretary). Ailsa Schofield, Mairi Brown, John Patchett.

Highland Councillors: David Fallows, Bill Lobban.

Visitor: Ken Tait.

### 1. Minutes of the Previous AGM held on 12 June 2012.

The minutes (previously circulated) were approved as a correct record. Proposed AS; Seconded JT.

### 2. Matters Arising

Cr Mrs Brown commented on the poor state of "brown road signs" on the approaches to Kingussie, at the Newtonmore end of town on the A86 and near to the Poor House on the B9152. Mrs Emmett agreed to contact Scotland Transerve about them.

### 3. Chairman's report

Cr Mr. Davidson presented an oral report of the work of the Community Council in the past twelve months. He began by thanking each of the councillors for their hard work during another busy year and for their willingness to go beyond the call of duty on very many matters and for attending many meetings to ensure Kingussie's voice was heard.

He went on to review the progress made in several projects that have been initiated by or involve councillors and he thanked the councillors who are involved:

**Am Fasgadh Regeneration Co. (Kingussie) Ltd.**, (ARC). He thanked the four councillors who are directors for their persistence and tenacity in acquiring the site for allotments and growing spaces for the community. He also thanked the four Highland councillors for their support in this project. He felt the whole project to acquire all the buildings and land for economic regeneration for the community is encouraging to the town. He regretted the decision by the Highland Folk Museum to use the name of Am Fasgadh for their new store, since it was the name long used to describe the Kingussie site. He hoped it would not cause confusion.

**Station Adopters.** The plants make a colourful addition to station. He hoped a satisfactory solution has been found to overcome the predation by rabbits, who he was sure had appreciated the free meals! He hoped this year's plants would survive and continue to liven up the platforms.

**Town Trail Project.** He praised the team for taking this initiative and their hard work in devising the town trail, and in producing the leaflet and interpretation boards. He felt it was sure to benefit the whole community in different ways. He hoped that visitors would rest awhile in Kingussie and enjoy the many interesting places that the town has to offer by following the trail.

**Little Town of Festivals.** He thanked all the individuals and local organisations involved in this new and exciting initiative. He felt it was bringing the town together, fostering the concept of "Team Kingussie" and helping to portray Kingussie as a lively place in which to live and to visit, and was bound to benefit the whole community. He wished everyone success with the application for the Creative Place award.

**Pavements.** Although Councillors had assiduously chased up complaints about the poor state of the pavements with Transport Scotland and Highland Council, he regretted that too little had been done to repair and improve them properly. Too many of the pavements are still in a dangerous state, especially for elderly residents; he cited those along the High Street from Manse Road to Gynack Road and the paths from the Wade Centre into town along Spey Street and King Street especially. He considered that the Council should continue to make this issue a priority for the coming year.

**St Vincent's Hospital.** He expressed the view that while everyone appreciated that the NHS is seeking a site for a new hospital with up to date facilities to replace St Vincent's and the Ian Charles Hospital in Grantown, a watching brief needs to be kept with regard to the current and future hospital provision and the fate of the St Vincent's buildings when they are no longer to be used as a hospital.

Mrs. Brown commented at this point that she, Mr Lobban and Mr Fallows are members of the hospital development group. The NHS is looking for a site of about three acres for the new hospital and they have appointed a project manager. The Scottish Government is encouraging the NHS to consider two new hospitals: one for the Isle of Skye and one for Badenoch and Strathspey. An integrated transport system will also be needed.

**The Senior Citizens' Christmas Party.** Mr. Davidson commented on the success of the 2012 party, held shortly before Christmas at the customary venue: the Star Hotel. He thanked the staff of the hotel and also everyone who had helped on the day. The number of senior citizens attending the party had increased - about 80 had attended and this had stretched the budget somewhat. There is still enough money in the funds for the next couple of years, but after that fundraising will probably be needed.

In conclusion he urged councillors to consider how much work they are doing on behalf of the community and not to overdue things. He ended by thanking everyone for their support during the difficult family circumstances that had affected him during the year.

#### **4. Treasurer's Financial Report.**

Cr. Mr Taylor distributed copies of the annual audited financial report. He expressed thanks on behalf of all the councillors to the auditors for this work. He commented that the accounts have to be presented in a format prescribed by Highland Council.

He then spoke about some aspects of the accounts.

(i) Although the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party Fund and the Children's Party Fund are administered by KVCC they are not part of KVCC's own funds.

The Senior Citizens' Fund has received donations from the Kingussie Golf Club and the Star Hotel.

The organisers of the Children's party have changed; they only took over the organisation late in the year. They plan to do some fund raising before the next party in December 2013.

(ii) KVCC is also acting as banker for several community projects, but these, too, are not part of KVCC's own funds. All the grants received for the projects are for specific purposes.

(iii) Station Adopters: KVCC had received a grant of £250 from the Ward Discretionary Fund to set up this project. ScotRail had then reimbursed the Council for their expenditure so the fund still has money to buy new plants for this year.

Councillor Mr Fallows asked if the team knew about the free offer of a "model train made from half whisky barrels" to use as planters. Cr. Mrs Schofield replied that the team is aware of the offer, but the rabbit problem prevented acceptance, since the fixture would have to be placed behind a rabbit proof fence and this would lessen its impact.

(iv) Donation from the Pitmain Estate: The annual donation from sale of fishing permits was £1215 this year. After discussion the Council had decided to donate the money to two community projects: £600 to the Heritage "All Our Stories" Project and £615 to community events to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the main railway line through Kingussie.

Councillors thanked Mr. Taylor for his work over the year. The financial report was approved by everyone (proposed VE, seconded MB).

#### **5. Dates of Council Meetings.**

Councillors agreed to maintain the existing pattern of meetings :

Meetings will take place on a minimum of ten occasions each year; councillors will meet monthly on the first Tuesday of each month apart from January and August (or July depending on business). The meetings will start at 7 p.m. and the venue will continue to be Talla Nan Ròs.

#### **6. AOCB**

There being no other matters the meeting closed and was followed by the monthly business meeting.