



KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1st OCTOBER 2013 IN TALLA NAN RÒS

Present: Councillors Ms G Wright (in the chair), Mrs A Schofield, Mrs M Brown, Mr J Taylor, Mr J Patchett, Mrs V Emmett. **Highland Councillors** Mr D Fallows, Mr W Lobban.

Apologies: Mr A Davidson.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting Held on 3rd September 2013.

Corrections: Treasurer's Financial Statement – the reserve fund stands at £1819.53.

Mrs A Schofield's name was added to the list of councillors present.

The minutes were then approved as a correct record, Prop. Mr Patchett, sec. Mrs Brown.

2. Matters Arising

Mr Patchett commented that amendments to the opening times at the Police Station had not been made. (See September meeting minutes)

3. Police Matters

In the absence of an officer this item was not taken.

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

Cr Taylor presented his monthly financial report (appended.) He commented that ScotRail provided a donation of £2000 towards the costs of the very successful 150 year Rail Anniversary celebrations event; this was much appreciated by the organising committee.

5. Planning Matters (Cr Mrs Schofield)

Mrs Schofield reported that she and the Chairman had discussed recent local planning applications in the weekly list and she outlined the action taken:

- (i) For a farm building at Pitmain Cottage – no comment needed from KVCC.
- (ii) Extensions to a house in Kerrow Drive – positive response.
- (iii) Erection of a biomass cabinet for a wood pellet heating system at St Vincent's hospital: the proposed site for the building is behind the car park. Squirrel surveys have been carried out to ensure minimal disturbance to their habitat, the number of mature trees that will need to be removed has been kept to a minimum and there will be replacement plantings. KVCC has supported the development, but expressed some concerns about the frequency and number of vehicles that will need to use Gynack Road to bring in fuel supplies.

- (iv) Application to build a house west of Caledon on West Terrace. Planning permission was refused in 2012, but a fresh application was made early in 2013. KVCC objected because of concerns about flooding of the road and lack of adequate arrangements for the disposal of waste water and sewage. Mr McCracken, the planning officer has dealt with the new application under delegated powers and planning permission in principle was given in late July with a condition about connection to the public sewer. KVCC still has concerns since there is no public sewer nearby. Mrs Schofield then read a letter from one of the West Terrace residents describing on-going major problems of flooding of his land by overflow of raw sewage as a consequence of connections made by other existing properties to his own domestic sewer, and his proposed actions if attempts are made to connect the new property to it.

A discussion followed. Highland Councillors commented since the application was dealt with under delegated powers, the local planning committee had not been given an opportunity to consider the application. Mrs Schofield agreed to provide a copy of the resident's letter to the Councillors. It was agreed she should write on behalf of KVCC to the Head of Planning at THC expressing concerns that KVCC's objection as a statutory consultee had not been processed correctly and that there are serious outstanding concerns about the permission. She also agreed to inform the resident of KVCC's action.

6. Highland Councillor's report.(Mr Lobban and Mr Fallows)

Councillors commented they had nothing to report.

Area Committee: Mrs Brown asked about meetings of the Area Committee. Mr Lobban confirmed that members of the public can attend meetings as observers. He undertook to ask the Ward Manager, Ms Cowie to inform community councils of the dates and venues of these meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for 10th December in Talla Nan Ròs. It is also possible to watch the meetings on a webcast. In response to a further question, Mr Fallows informed councillors that minutes of meeting of the CNPA Board are not posted on line until they have been approved by Board members.

7. AOCB.

(i) **Court House:** Mrs Emmett read out a letter from Ms Cowie in response to a letter sent to Mr Gilfillan of THC by KVCC in early July about the fate of listed items in the Court House. Ms Cowie gave reassurances about KVCC's concerns and that they would be drawn to the attention of the project leader; the items would either be retained or offered to the Highland Folk Museum, as appropriate. Highland Councillors confirmed that purchase of an adjoining existing building to facilitate part for the new office complex is in the hands of solicitors of both parties involved.

(ii) **Asbestos Management Survey.** Ms Wright asked about a letter she had received purporting to be from consultants carrying out asbestos surveys of local buildings on behalf of Highland Council. The letter appeared spurious since it had no address or contact details. It was not clear if the buildings to be surveyed were Talla Nan Ròs or her salon. Cr Mr Lobban asked for a copy of the letter so he could try to find out from Highland Council if it is genuine or a scam, Mrs Emmett agreed to make copies for him. It was agreed that Talla Nan Ròs was unlikely to contain asbestos since its refurbishment took place after current legislation was passed.

- (iii) **Letter from local resident.** Ms Wright read out a letter from a local resident about problems affecting his property. It was agreed that his concerns are purely a matter between him and the owner of the adjoining property and not a matter for either KVCC or THC.
- (iv) **Safer Routes to School.** Mrs Brown asked about recent publicity for installation of 20mph limits on roads in Kingussie as part of potential improvements to the road junction between Dunbarry Road and the main A86. She had met several parents of young children at the primary school and they are concerned about road safety along routes their children take to the primary school. Mr Lobban reminded councillors that the primary school has responsibility for producing their safer routes to school plan and, if accepted, Highland Council would fund installation of 20mph signs on “dangerous” routes. Mrs Emmett reminded councillors that a letter and invitation to meet with the school about this sometime ago failed to result in a positive response. Mrs Brown undertook to provide contact details of the current Parent Council, so that a fresh invitation to meet with them could be sent from KVCC.
- (v) **CNPA Orchards.** Cr Mr Fallows informed councillors that as part of its tenth anniversary, the CNPA is launching a project to establish small fruit orchards across the National Park by providing community organisations with a gift of a small number of fruit trees. The project is being led by Mrs Glynis Ross, the new Food for Life Project officer at the Park. The first event is to be held on Monday 7th October at the Highland Folk Museum. He asked if the Am Fasgadh Regeneration Co. (ARC) had been approached by the CNPA about provision of fruit trees for the start of an orchard at the former museum site in Kingussie. Mrs Brown and Mrs Emmett confirmed they had been approached. ARC is already in the process of establishing a substantial fruit orchard on the site. ARC already has six apple trees, currently being looked after at the Highland Aspen Group’s nursery, and a further forty apple, plum and damson trees are on order for delivery this autumn. They felt there was no need to take up one of the CNPA’s offers. Mrs Emmett commented she had communicated with Mrs Ross and Ms Major at the CNPA informing them of ARC’s plans for the substantial orchard and names of the varieties of trees chosen, which will include some Scottish heritage apples.
- (vi) **Annual Christmas events in Kingussie:** Ms Wright informed councillors of dates: **Senior Citizens Annual Christmas Lunch** - this year’s event will be held on Sunday 24th November and a booking has been made with the Star Hotel as the venue. **Children’s Christmas Workshop.** This annual event will take place on Sunday 10th November in Talla Nan Ròs. **Shopping Sunday** is the 1st December and as usual many local organisations, as well as the shops are taking part.
- (vii) **All Our Stories Project.** Mrs Brown informed councillors that an exhibition starting on the 14th December, will be held in Talla Nan Ròs showing the outcomes of the project.
- (viii) **Glebe Ponds.** Ms Wright reported that Ms Cowie is willing to meet with the Glebe Ponds Group to discuss the future of the area and possible ownership or a lease of the area by the group. The results of a water survey have highlighted several major problems. The water quality is very poor as a result of contamination by the large number of ducks living there as well as rotting food remains thrown into the water as food for these ducks. The public is urged not to throw bread, etc. into the ponds and removal of all the ducks is urgent. The slow turnover of the water is an added problem since there is no clear inlet or outfall. If the quality is to be improved it might be necessary to commission work to provide an obvious inlet and outlet.

After discussion, Ms Wright was urged to contact VABS in Grantown to discuss options and potential sources of funding.

- (ix) **Non-functioning Street Light.** Ms Wright drew councillors' attention to a street light beside the footpath connecting King Street and the High Street by her salon and Murchies grocers. Part of the route provides access for residents of properties over the shops. She did not know if the land is publicly or privately owned. The light is not working, however, the route is very dark at night and since the ground is very uneven, it presents a safety hazard. After discussion, she undertook to speak to Mr Nield at Murchies in the first instance and then contact the Highland Council TECS department.

The meeting closed at 2025 hours.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 5th November at 7 p.m. in Talla Nan Ròs.

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TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT – OCTOBER 2013

Bank Balances	
KVCC	£11406.90
Senior Citizens' Christmas Party fund	£4148.35
Children's Christmas Party Fund	£1776.85
Reserve Fund	£1819.53
Cheques Issued	
All Our Stories Project	£1182.70
Web Site	£23.76
Lodgements	
ScotRail Donation	£2000.00
Projects	
All Our Stories	£3724.15
Railway Adopters and Anniversary Project	£2845.70
Town Trail	£368.85
Heritage	£615.00
KVCC	£3853.20
Total	£11406.90