



KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6th MAY 2014

Present: Councillors: Mr A Davidson, Mrs A Schofield, Mrs M Brown, Mr J Taylor, Mr J Patchett, Mrs V Emmett.

Highland Councillors Mr D Fallows and Mr B Lobban; Insp. K MacLeod (Police Scotland)

Apologies: Ms G Wright.

Visitors: NHS Highland: Mr K Rodgers, (Head of Finance); Ms M Thompson, (Head Public Relations & External Affairs); Dr Boyd Peters (Lead Medical Practitioner); Ms M. McIlwraith (Health Council Scotland).

Ms F Raw (Newtonmore CC); Ms L Dudgeon (Kincraig CC); Mr D Brown (Kincraig CC); Mrs S Slimon (Laggan); Mr T Ramage (Strathy).

NHS Health Care Service re-design in Badenoch and Strathspey.

The Chairman, Mr Davidson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Ms Thompson (NHS) gave a presentation.

Main points:

1. The current services are safe, but change is needed.
2. Both the current hospitals (Ian Charles in Grantown and St Vincent's in Kingussie) need major works and considerable expenditure on them to bring them up to standards required for the 21st century.
3. An increase in home and community services is required; delays need to be reduced; the poor conditions of the hospitals must be addressed; currently health care resources are split over three centres and hence are not as efficient as needed; and there is a need to improve joint working of services.
4. Care will continue to be delivered in a wide variety of settings.
5. The two existing care homes (The Wade Centre and Grant House) will be retained.
6. The NHS Dental Unit in Grantown will continue.
7. GP Practices, dental practices and pharmacies will continue unchanged.
8. The excellent culture of care in all aspects of NHS provision throughout the Strath will be maintained.
9. Six workshops have been held with local steering groups.
10. Three options have been considered: (i) make a minimum number of changes; (ii) set up a single community care resource centre, improve one of the current hospitals and scale down services at the other; (iii) build a new hospital with improved services including a community care resource centre. Ms Thompson set out the advantages and disadvantages of each of the options.

11. The outcomes from these workshops are agreement on the preferred model for future provision - a new hospital with provision for 20-25 inpatient beds and on-site resources centre.
12. The Aviemore GP Practice and Day Centre will relocate into premises at the new hospital site.
13. Potential sites for a new hospital have also been considered and the general consensus is that the new hospital should be located in Aviemore, more or less midway along the Strath.
14. NHS Highland is seeking a site of about three acres and several potential sites in Aviemore have also now been identified: Granish Farm, Milton, the Technology Park and the Pony Field.
15. A series of pre-consultation meetings is now taking place: with Community Councils, Highland Councillors, MSPs, and Friends of the hospitals, the District Partnership, GPs and Practice Managers.

A discussion followed, which included the range of possible clinics and other services.

Public Transport: There was unanimous agreement that a properly integrated and regular public transport service serving all the communities is paramount. This must include transport at appropriate times of day for the staff, who currently work in the existing hospitals, plus new staff who will be recruited for additional services.

Mr Rodgers and Ms Thompson responded to questions.

- (i) St Vincent's and Ian Charles hospitals will continue to provide the current ranges of health care services until the new hospital is built.
- (ii) The buildings are not owned by NHS Highland; they are owned by the Scottish Government, who will make decisions about the fate of the buildings.
- (iii) The optimistic timeline for the new hospital is 3-5 years.
- (iv) Following the round of public consultations on the different options, the officials will prepare a paper for a meeting of the Health Board in early October. The Board will then make a recommendation to go forward to the Cabinet Secretary, who will make the final decision on proposed changes in due course.

At the end of this part of the meeting, the Chairman Mr Davidson thanked Ms Thompson and Mr Rodgers for giving their time to brief community councillors and for representatives from other Badenoch communities for taking part. The visitors then left the meeting.

KVCC Business Meeting.

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st April 2014.

The minutes were approved as a correct record. (Prop. Mr Taylor; Sec. Mrs Schofield).

2. Matters Arising.

None.

3. Police Matters. (Insp. MacLeod.)

Insp. MacLeod reported that the southern end of the Strath saw a spate of incidents at the start of April, including thefts from vehicles and properties.

Drugs Prevention: The Police team has been working with Kingussie High School with good support on all sides.

Commonwealth Games, Queen's Baton: Insp. MacLeod reported he is due to meet Liz Cowie, Ward Manager on the 8th May about arrangements. Sadly the chosen route is not going to have much impact locally.

Local road bridge restrictions: Councillors asked about anticipated impact on policing of the closure of the main Newtonmore to Ralia road bridge over the railway for one week in May. Councillors also raised the matter of likely problems arising from the sudden emergency imposition of a 3 tonne limit on the river bridge between Kingussie and Ruthven. Insp. MacLeod replied so far the Police team has not been notified formally about either matter.

There being no further matters for discussion, Insp MacLeod left the meeting at this point.

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

Councillor Taylor presented his regular monthly report (appended).

The account books and annual accounts for the financial year 2013-14 are with the auditors for checking.

The final amount of the grant for the "All Our Stories" project has been received from Leader; the project is complete and the account closed.

5. Planning Matters (Cr Mrs Schofield)

- (i) The appeal by Davall Developments against refusal for the planning permission for the construction of 55 houses and including the use of Dunbarry Road as access to the site has been upheld by the Government Reporter. However a number of conditions have been imposed. Mrs Schofield recommended that the community council should keep a watching eye on them to ensure the conditions are adhered to.

On behalf of all the councillors, the Chairman thanked Mrs Schofield for her hard work and perseverance on the matter.

- (ii) The weekly lists did not include any local planning applications needing comment by the Council.
- (iii) Cr. Fallows reported that the planning application for the Court House development is included on the agenda for the CNPA Planning committee meeting on Friday 9th May. Both Highland Councillors were confident permission will be granted.

6. Highland Councillor's Report (Mr Fallows)

Mr Fallows reported that the Highland Council is about to launch a new series of public consultations on (i) the Financial Budget and (ii) the future of Customer Service Points.

7. Date of the AGM.

Councillors agreed this should be held on Tuesday 3rd June at 7p.m. Mrs Emmett undertook to arrange for an advertisement in the Strathy and to prepare a poster for display in the Council's noticeboard. She also undertook to contact Ms Anne Roper, Community Networker at VABS to invite her to join the meeting after the AGM to discuss proposals for the Restructuring of Care for Older People as part of the NHS re-design. The routine monthly business meeting will follow.

8. AOCB.

Disabled Parking Spaces: Mrs Schofield agreed to pursue a request for a disabled parking space outside the pharmacy.

Blossom Trail: Mrs Brown reported the donation of eight fruit trees (six apples and two plums) by the CNPA as part of a “blossom trail” through communities in the National Park. The trees have been planted on the road side bank on the main Newtonmore Road at south end of Kingussie. She hoped that Kingussie Council will consider extending the blossom trail by donating several more fruit trees for planting in the autumn at the north end of the town near to the Glebe.

Town Trail: Mrs Brown reported that more copies of the Town Trail leaflet are needed. A quote of £739 has been received for printing a further 10,000 copies. It was agreed she should approach the Business Forum to enquire if they will donate half the cost, with the Town Trail budget paying for the other half.

Heritage Festival: Mrs Brown thanked the Community Council for agreeing to pay for the hire of Talla Nan Ròs for the Heritage Festival in April. The event has proved a success once again. RCAHMS, Historic Scotland and the Highland Council’s Archivist have agreed to take part in the event again in 2015, when the theme will focus on the 250th Anniversary of Ossian.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 3rd June 2014 at 7p.m. in Talla Nan Ròs.

Treasurer's Financial Report for May 2014.**Account Balances**

KVCC	£5196.60
Senior Citizens' Party fund	£2528.65
Children's Christmas Party Fund	£1552.26
Reserve Fund	£1819.53

Lodgements

Little Town of Festivals Project	£30.00
All Our Stories Project (CNPA)	£1094.05
Sale of DVDs (All Our Stories)	£80.00

Payments

Hire of Talla Nan Ròs	£49.00
Cairngorm Learning Partnership (for AOS goods)	£38.10

KVCC Account Balances

Station Adopters & Rail Anniversary	£575.17
Town Trail Project	£368.85
Heritage Project	£535.80
KVCC	£3716.78

Total	£5196.60
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