



KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3rd JUNE 2014

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

Highland Councillor Mr B Lobban; Sgt J Crawford (Police Scotland)

Visitor: Ms A Howe (Community Networker RCOP Scotland)

Apologies: Ms G Wright.

Before the Business Meeting, Ms Howe spoke to councillors about the proposals to **Restructure Care for Older People (RCOP)** and her role in the consultation process.

The aim of the project is to look at ways in which older people (aged 65 and over) can continue to enjoy life, whether in their own homes or in a care setting and how to ensure they are able to engage with social and community services. The role of the team of community networkers is to consult local groups about the different types of provision that are currently available and how new opportunities might be encouraged and supported. The project is supported by the Community Initiative Fund and about £500K funding is available across the Highlands to foster the development of community provision. The community networkers are able to provide small grants of up to £200 directly for new and developmental projects, activities and events that are intended for older people. Funding could be made available for a community consultation to assess community needs. Where new activities are proposed they have to show they will be sustainable.

Ms Howe summarised the local groups she has already met: the Church of Scotland Lunch Club, an art and craft group for residents and others held at the Glebe, the Otago Mobility classes run at the Badenoch Centre. She gave examples of how small grants have been used to support some of them: for hire of a minibus to bring people living in outlying areas along to the Church Lunch Club; the purchase of a wall mounted projector screen in Talla Nan Ròs. Funds have also been used to support the Community Car scheme in order to transport elderly residents in Grantown on Spey to a lunch club in Aviemore. Students at the High School are also taking part in a "Walking in My Shoes" project involving students and residents at the Glebe in 1:1 conversations.

She spoke about "difficult to engage groups", principally elderly men. Women are more likely to be involved with community groups. She is shortly to visit an initiative in Aberdeen called "Men's Sheds", a social group providing DIY type "making" activities and likely to attract men.

At the end of the discussions the Chairman thanked Ms Howe for her presentation and she left the meeting at this point.

Business Meeting

1. Minutes of the previous Meeting (6th May 2014)

The minutes were amended as follows: Mr Taylor reported the correct sum in the reserve fund should be £1821.27, and the balance is £1552.86 in the Children's Party Fund.

The minutes were then approved as a correct record. (Prop. MB, sec. JT)

2. Matters Arising

None.

3. Police Matters (Sgt Crawford)

In response to a question about recent break-ins at the Star Hotel, the Rowan Tree Hotel and intruders in the grounds at Craiglynn, Sgt Crawford reported the police are following positive lines of enquiry. The previous month has been busy but there have been no other major incidents.

A discussion followed about the installation of average speed cameras along the A9. They are currently being tested along the Pitlochry stretch of the road. Councillors questioned if they will be effective in reducing road accidents, will motorists still be tempted to take risks and overtake unwisely when they become frustrated by having to follow a heavy vehicle travelling at only 40mph for several miles.

Mrs Brown asked if on dialling 111, she could request a connection to the local police station. Sgt Crawford commented that in a non-emergency situation, the operator will take details and allocate the first available officer to make a visit where needed. The Aviemore Police Station now has only three support staff to cover all the shifts.

Concerns that have been expressed about lack of knowledge of local areas by those operating the centralised emergency services should be negated by the use of up to date global locating systems which can pinpoint individual houses, locations, etc. Councillors pointed out the visitors may not be able to give precise enough details for services to locate remote places and concerns the benefits of local knowledge are likely to be lost.

At the conclusion of this item Sgt Crawford left the meeting.

4. Treasurer's Financial Report.

Cr. Taylor presented his monthly report for the period ending 231 May 2014. (appended)

He commented that there have been no lodgements or payments during the month.

5. Planning Matters

Cr Mrs Schofield reported no local planning applications have appeared on the weekly lists. The application for three houses on the ground beside Brookville, Gynack St. has been approved with conditions: all three houses must be built simultaneously and the external finishes have been specified.

The application to extend the dental premises in Gynack St. is still being considered, one objection has been lodged.

6. Highland Councillor's Report

Cr Lobban reported that consultations about the Highland Council's budget and future of local Service Points are underway. Significant ways have to be found to reduce Council spending in the financial year 2015-16. Service Points are vulnerable. The Ward Forum meeting in Aviemore on the 10th June will enable local people to take part in the consultation discussions.

Emergency repairs to the parapets of the road bridge over the railway at Newtonmore, which necessitated a week's road closure, have been completed.

The road bridge over the R. Spey near to the Dell, Kingussie has to be completely rebuilt and Highland Council has to find the means of funding it. No date for the reconstruction or temporary replacement by a Bailey bridge has been fixed. The Forestry Commission pays an annual levy into a national fund for its use of local roads and bridges to repair any damage that might be caused by the timber lorries, and Highland Council receives a proportion of this to repair the local roads.

The imposition of a 3 tonne limit is already impacting on local businesses, farmers and the Forestry Commission. The latter organisation has been felling large quantities of timber from Inshriach Forest and the weight limit on the bridge is causing problems of removing the cut timber. As far as it is possible they are having to use their system of forest roads as an alternative to re-route the lorries via Aviemore. There are worries about the impact of a new pathogen infecting Scots Pine if it spreads into the forest and how to remove the affected trees promptly while the bridge is out of action.

7. Notices and Correspondence.

(i) Electoral Boundaries Commission.

Cr Mrs Emmett reported the recent communication from the Commission. (papers already circulated.) Cr Lobban commented that at the first stage the overall total number of councillors in each council (e.g. Highland Council) will be adjusted to take account of population changes across Scotland. At the second stage, Ward boundaries and hence the number of councillors for each Ward will be amended.

(i) Proposals to set up a Rural Parliament (information previously circulated)

Councillors questioned where the drive to set up such an organisation is coming from, its proper purpose, the value of such an organisation, and its function and effectiveness. Cr Mrs Brown commented that the Islands are very vocal and if a rural parliament was set up they could pull resources away from mainland areas.

8. AOCB

(i) Association of Cairngorm Communities

Mrs Emmett reported back on the recent meeting that she and Mrs Schofield had attended.

Community Broadband Scotland. The Scottish Government has allocated £450 millions to bring high speed broadband across Scotland. BT has been given the contract to provide fibre broadband and the accompanying infrastructure. Not all communities will be connected.

Kingussie will be connected, although some outlying properties may only have partial cover, good speeds will be achieved within 3km of a cabinet (control centre). The fibre connection will be made to existing cabinets (the box outside the PO in Kingussie?) and then properties will be connected by the copper wire system used now. BT will carry out their survey of Kingussie later this year and the town should be connected by the end of 2015.

The task of the Community Broadband team is to advise communities that will not be connected to the BT system and help to organise funding for them to install an alternative system – up to 100% funding will be available for such installations

(b) The CNPA has just launched a new project “**Environmental Volunteering**”. Mr Alan Smith is the manager. The plan is to recruit and train teams of volunteer rangers (including junior rangers).

There are already 25 organisations and 2000 people engaged in environmental activities in the Park. The CNPA wants to involve more people, working in a voluntary capacity however, rather than being employed. The project is based on the premise that there is a large untapped resource of willing people prepared to give their time for free. The plan is that the volunteer rangers will work with communities on local environmental and conservation projects and activities. The CNPA will also appoint a volunteer coordinator to oversee the programmes and build good relationships with landowners.

(ii) Grass Cutting

A local resident has complained that when the new cemetery is mowed the grass cuttings are not being removed and some of the gravestones are left covered in the cuttings. Mrs Emmett agreed to contact Highland Council (Mr Finney) to enquire about the contracts for cutting grass in the district.

(iii) Fire Safety

Mrs Brown drew the attention of the councillors to the free fire safety checks of domestic properties organised by the local Fire Service personnel.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 1st July 2014 at 7 p.m. in Talla Nan Ròs.

Treasurer’s Monthly Financial Report for period ending 31 May 2014.

Balances in the accounts:

KVCC	£5196.60
Senior Citizens’ Party Fund	£2528.65
Children’s Christmas Party Fund	£1552.26
Reserve Fund	£1821.27

Projects

Station Adopters Railway Fund	£575.17
Town Trail Project	£368.85
Heritage Project	£535.80
KVCC funds	£3716.78

Total £5196.60