



KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7th October 2014

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

Highland Councillor Mr D Fallows

Visitors: Mr R Ormiston, PC A. Courts (Police Scotland), Ms C Tobin, Mr S MacNaughton and Mr J Walker from Fairhurst Engineers.

A9 Dualling

The Business Meeting was preceded with a discussion with the representatives of Fairhurst's about the proposed dualling of the A9, principally the section passing Kingussie.

The main points made were:

1. The alignment of the new road will be based on the existing road line in a 200m wide corridor.
2. The existing A9 and road junctions will be kept open at all times during the construction of the dual carriageway.
3. All junctions will be grade separated. The carriageways will be separated by a solid central island.
4. All junctions will be "left turns" only. "Turning right junctions" will not be allowed, so some small junctions will be closed off and new access routes will be constructed.
5. Over-bridges will be avoided as far as possible on landscape intrusion grounds; instead underpasses will be used instead to permit access to opposite sides of the land.
6. Community consultation is planned early in 2015, when the engineers will present different options, e.g. on alignment and junctions. (The representatives recently met with Dalwhinnie Distillery managers and a meeting is planned with Lee Haxton, Community Support Manager of the CNPA.)

In discussion, councillors raised the matter of the proposed multiuser path that will follow the route of the road. Concerns were expressed about its proximity to the carriageway and safety of the users- pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Assurance was given that if the path is less than 4.5m from the roadway a barrier will be installed.

Mr MacNaughton and Mr Walker stressed that they want to make sure community concerns are heard and they need "local intelligence" before decisions are made. They offered to meet councillors at three monthly intervals and this offer was readily taken up.

Mrs Brown suggested that the Badenoch Heritage group should meet them since there are important heritage sites along the A9; this was agreed. Mrs Brown to follow this up.

No further matters being raised, the visitors were thanked for giving their time to meet the Council and they left at this point.

Business Meeting.

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd September 2014

The minutes were approved as a correct record. (Prop. JT, Sec. AS)

2. Matters Arising

2. Bank of Scotland. JP reported continuing problems affecting the local branch of the Bank. Correspondence continues to go astray. The ATM cash machine has broken down on several occasions in the past month, including weekends when visitors as well as residents wish to use it and with the extended closures of the Branch now, repairs are not always prompt.

5.(iv) **Design of Houses.** In reply to a question, VE replied that no response had been received from the National Park to the letter from KVCC about design of new dwellings in the Park.

9.(iii) Consultation meeting about a Cycle park, outdoor gym and children's play area.

VE, MB, JP and JT had attended the meeting, which was also attended by neighbours and members of the Bowls Club. VE provided an oral report of the meeting.

The proposed location for the activities was on the area of land formerly used as a putting green, opposite the Badenoch Centre and bounded by Spey Street, the R. Gynack and the railway line. A large part of the site was adversely affected when the R. Gynack flooded this autumn and it is still covered in deep sandy debris. Concerns were expressed about nuisance noise for neighbours, potential adverse effects of such a development on the value of adjacent domestic properties, size and suitability of the site, road safety, and supervision of young people using the bike park, etc. It was also pointed out that part of the site does not belong to Highland Council as had been assumed by the proposers. After a free and frank discussion, those present agreed that although the provision of a bike park was laudable, the proposed location was not suitable. It was pointed out that there is already a children's play park within easy walking distance at Ardvonie Park, which is a safer site. Several of those present were not sure if an outdoor gym would be well used, given the somewhat harsh climate at times!

3. Police Matters (PC Andy Courts)

Staff changes: Sgt Crawford is taking up a new post with the Police Federation at the end of the month. As a result of other staff changes as well, they are currently two sergeants short.

Incidents in the past month: PC Courts provided a short resumé:

Road safety, mostly incidents on the A9, although there was a serious motor accident near to Dalraddy and two of the young people involved are still in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary;

two incidents of disorder in Kingussie;

the breakage of a shop window in the High Street, the person involved has come forward and is offering to pay for its replacement.

Vehicle Parking on the High Street: Councillors raised the continuing problems caused by vehicles parking along the High Street in other than designated parking bays. This is a recurrent problem and has been reported to Sgt Crawford on several occasions, but no solution is being found. The Chairman commented that most of the problems are caused by vehicles parking in a "no waiting" area on the opposite side of the road to the Co-Op store. He cited an incident recently where due to the illegal parking, the road was virtually gridlocked for a while when a large lorry was unable to pass through a small gap between the parked vehicles. PC Courts noted councillors' concerns and undertook to pass the matter on.

4. Treasurer's Financial Report (Joe Taylor)

The Treasurer presented his monthly report (appended).

A donation of £150 was received at the meeting from the Kingussie Business Forum for the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party fund. Councillors expressed their gratitude and Mr Taylor agreed to thank Mr Cook, the KBF chairman for the members' generosity.

5. Planning Matters (Ailsa Schofield)

AS reported on recent planning applications:

14/03545/FUL Alterations to shop front and re-fit of existing food store at 24 High Street (Murchies/Co-Op). Suggested neutral response: "K&VCC has no objections to this application and welcomes the investment in the High Street".

14/03605/FUL Replacement garage Laurels Cottage Newtonmore Road, Kingussie. The CNPA will not be calling this in. Suggested neutral response: "K&VCC has no objection to this application and is pleased to see that the proposal is for a quality replacement garage, to be built in the local vernacular style".

14/03642/FUL Installation for a new PCP type green cabinet Land 15M East of Skigersta, Spey Street, Kingussie. Suggested supportive response: "K&VCC supports this application as we believe it relates to the provision of high speed broadband which will be of incalculable benefit to the town".

Previous applications on which we have commented:

4/02978/FUL Change of use from private dwelling to guest house, Braeside, Old Distillery Road, Kingussie. Our response was neutral, K&VCC did not have a problem with it and did not believe that it would be detrimental to adjacent properties. Permission granted using delegated powers. One condition: Parking to be kept for the use of guests.

2014/0219/DET Formation of hill tracks to connect with existing routes on Pitmain Estate.

K&VCC's response was no objections regarding this application, that the applicants had been working closely with representatives from the CNPA and KCDC to arrive at a mutually agreeable solution to the proposed change of route on this section of the core path network, and that we understood the proposed changes would improve the path rather than detract from it. Called in by CNPA and APPROVED.

Meeting with Dochfour Estate

AD, AS, JT and VE met the owner, Mr Alexander Baillie and the Factor, Mr Townsend Rose on the 6th October on site to discuss their plans re the piece of land they own on Dunbarry Road. It is currently used for informal garaging/business/private parking by nearby residents. They are very keen to tidy it up and do not want to leave it derelict. They are considering a small scale housing development of no more than six houses, and wished to seek the Council's views.

Apparently Highland Council and the CNPA have no issue with it, even though the permission which was granted on appeal to use Dunbarry Road for the first phase of the proposed "Up to 300 houses" development already exceeds Highland Council's own maximum guideline figure of 200 properties. The Government Reporter, however, placed restrictions on the use of Dunbarry Rd by construction vehicles for this first phase.

Councillors suggested that affordable accommodation for local people (for rent or shared ownership) is needed, and that a courtyard style layout would fit within the site and dwellings of exceptional design would be welcome, since the site is within the National Park. Councillors also commented that if they chose to develop the site, it would be better carried out well before the larger development commenced, to avoid

confusion as to whose construction vehicles were whose. Mr Baillie and Mr Townsend Rose indicated they are keen to keep the Community Council involved in the planning process and that they would make some preparatory sketches to show to the Council.

6. Highland Councillor's Report (Dave Fallows)

The Court House: The work on the refurbishment of the Court House is progressing.

Community Services: This is a new department and William Gilfillan is its director. A series of public consultation meetings is being organised about the range of services to be provided in local areas.

VE commented that although information about the new arrangements and dates for the first three meetings was circulated within Highland Council earlier, community councils only received notice of it by email on Tuesday 30th September - two days before the consultation meeting in Kingussie. She had forwarded it to the councillors immediately and MB and JT were able to attend the Kingussie meeting on 2nd October evening held at the High School. They provided an oral report.

Due to the lack of publicity, the meeting was very poorly attended, with only five members of the public present. MB provided copies of the questionnaire from the meeting and encouraged councillors to complete it and return it to Highland Council.

Councillors were critical of the short notice about this important meeting and the need for better communication and longer lead times about such meetings.

In reply to a question from Councillor Taylor about the education department, DF commented that it is now part of a larger grouping with children's services.

7. AOCB

(i) Problem of debris under the railway bridge where it passes over the R. Gynack.

Councillors expressed concerns that the debris has not been cleared. MB reported she had emailed the Ward Manager about it and had received a response from Andrew Mciver, Community Services. Responsibility for clearing under the bridge lies with Network Rail, and they have to do it. Andrew has contacted them to see if the clearance can be expedited before another period of heavy rain and potential flooding.

(ii) Vodafone 3G.

VE reported an email received that day from Highland Council urging communities not to miss out on Vodafone 3G mobile access. The Highland Council is highlighting a mobile phone access programme to communities in the region who currently have no 3G mobile reception. Vodafone UK has teamed up with the National Association of Local Councils and Countryside Alliance to encourage more communities to apply to its Rural Open Sure Signal programme. The programme is a community led initiative, which is giving 100 rural communities, in poor mobile coverage locations across the UK, the opportunity to receive 3G mobile access for the first time.

Sadly the national programme closes for applications on 14th October 2014.

DF commented that Highland Council had only just learned of the programme and Stuart Black, THC's Director of Development and Infrastructure, has requested an extension as THC was only informed about

this initiative at the end of last week – there is no guarantee that Vodaphone will grant this so any expressions of interest would have to be submitted quickly.

(iii) Heritage Festival 2015.

MB asked if the Community Council is willing to act as the “banker” for the festival again. JT expressed his willingness to manage the account and the proposal was agreed.

(iv) Children’s Christmas workshop

GW said that she was planning to hold the annual children’s workshop in Talla Nan Ròs on the 16th November.

(v) Senior Citizens’ Christmas Party.

AD reported he has provisionally booked two party dates: Sunday 14th and Monday 15th December, from 12.30 to 5 p.m. on each day. The venue is the Topsy Laird. Their capacity is only 60 partygoers, hence the need for two dates if applicants exceed 60. He is waiting for quotes of costs and is also making arrangements for entertainment. Councillors agreed that it will be appropriate to invite donations from the partygoers in order to ensure the parties can be continued in future years.

There is only one donation bottle now – at the Star Hotel, no longer in the Silverfjord Hotel or at the Golf Club.

(vi) Healthcare. MB reported that plans for the new hospital have been approved by the NHS Board and will now go before the Scottish Government. NHS Highland is also recruiting six new health care workers; there were 18 applicants and, with their agreement, the NHS is passing on their details to private providers.

There being no other items for discussion the meeting closed at 2130hrs.

Date of Next meeting: Tuesday 4th November at 7p.m.

KVCC TREASURER'S MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT, OCTOBER 2014 (to accompany the minutes of the meeting)

BALANCES

KVCC account	£5971.00
SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTY FUND	£2528.65
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY FUND	£1552.26
RESERVE FUND	£1821.27

PAYMENTS

TALLA NAN RÒS (for room hire)	£22.00
WEB SITE	£27.36

LODGEMENTS - NIL

PROJECTS

STATION ADOPTERS	£575.17
TOWN TRAIL	£368.85
HERITAGE	£484.66
KVCC	£4542.32

Total **£5971.00**

J Taylor KVCC Treasurer.