



KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2014 IN TALLA NAN RÒS AT 7 p.m.

Present: Councillors: Mr A Davidson (Chairman), Mrs A Schofield (Vice Chair), Ms G Wright, Mr J Taylor (Treasurer), Mrs V Emmett (Secretary). Highland Councillor Mr D Fallows.

Apologies: Mrs M Brown, Mr J Patchett.

Visitors: PC A. Courts (Police Scotland), Mr M Dolan, Ms M Walker.

Refurbishment of the Wade Centre.

Michael Dolan, Project Manager of the Highland Council's Care and Learning Service and Margaret Walker, NHS District Manager spoke about the forthcoming planned refurbishment of the Wade Centre and showed councillors draft plans. The existing ten en-suite bedrooms will be completely refurbished with new bathroom fittings, modifications will be made to lounge and dining areas, the kitchen and laundry will be modernised with new equipment, etc., the central heating system will be replaced and the building will be re-wired. The building works will be carried out sensitively so that as many of the current residents are able to continue to stay in the Wade Centre while the work is in progress, although they will have to be moved into different rooms at times. As a last resort they might have to transfer for a short time to another care home. It is unlikely to be able to provide respite care at the Wade Centre during the refurbishment, but alternative provision will be made. Day care will probably also have to be transferred to the Glen Centre in Aviemore during the work.

A new eleventh bedroom is planned with a particular purpose – “a step up – step down room”. The intention is to use the room to provide short residential periods of therapy in order to enable people to remain living in their own homes. The room has two specific purposes for this short stay intensive transition care, (a) for patients returning to their own homes from a spell of hospital care, but who are not quite ready for independent living again. They will be provided with a programme of intervention therapy to enable them to regain their mobility and confidence; (b) for a vulnerable person who is temporarily finding it difficult to remain in their own home but for whom it is inappropriate to suggest residence in a care home. They will also receive therapy to help them recover and return home.

Councillors were shown the plans and discussed alternative locations of the eleventh room. There was general agreement about the contribution of the garden areas to the health and wellbeing of the residents. Mr Dolan and Ms Walker commented they are anxious to retain the gardens and to try to improve them. It is hoped that when the new hospital is built and St. Vincent's closes, the therapy

garden will be transferred to the Wade Centre. They assured councillors that the current day care provision will be maintained in the revitalised centre.

At the close of the discussions, the Chairman thanked Mr Dolan and Ms Walker for their informative and pleasing news about the Wade Centre. They left the meeting at this point.

Business Meeting

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th October 2014.

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

2. Matters Arising

Item 6. Community Services – late notice of a public consultation. VE reported that she had received comments about the report in the October minutes from the Ward Manager. Apparently notice about the public consultations had been emailed to Community Council chairmen on 23rd Sept., but an error had occurred and not all emails arrived, so a hard copy of the notice and a poster were posted out by Royal Mail the same day to the Chairmen. Wider circulation via CC secretaries was not sent out until the following week (30th Sept.) – only two days before the meeting in Kingussie as reported in the October minutes. VE reported she has suggested that such notices should always be sent to CC secretaries, not just to chairmen, since the secretaries are in regular communication with the other CC councillors.

3. Police Matters (PC. A Courts, Police Scotland)

Recent Incidents. PC Courts reported two recent thefts from the KCDC Community hydro site in Gynack Road, where security fencing and materials were stolen. At present there is no information about the perpetrators.

Effect of the average speed cameras along the A9. Councillors reported recent observations, of drivers not understanding how the cameras work, speeding until they approach a camera gantry and slowing down fast. AD commented that lorries are still travelling in convoys and not leaving space for other vehicles to overtake safely. The general consensus is that, so far, traffic along the road is calmer.

Effect of the weight limit on the Ruthven Br. This is apparently having a significant knock on effect along the River at Feshiebridge, where several lorries have become stuck on the old bridge not being able to negotiate the turns at the end and on the hill on the north side. Long holdups have resulted until emergency services have been able to tow the lorries away. There are growing concerns about damage to the parapets of the Feshie Bridge itself and its long term survival.

Irresponsible Parking along the High Street. Councillors reported several occasions again recently where the High Street has been virtually blocked as a consequence of drivers irresponsibly parking their cars and vans in areas where parking is not allowed on the roadway between the Star Hotel and Duke Street, with most of the obstructions occurring on the south side of the High Street from the McIntosh Gallery along towards the Topsy Laird. Vehicles are allowed to park on the north side, but when vehicles are parked on the other side, often for long periods, there is insufficient space for cars and lorries to negotiate the road through the gap that is left. Councillors asked that PC Courts report this matter again so that police officers can investigate and take action. VE agreed to write to

Bear Scotland to urge repainting of the yellow road markings on the south side to make it obvious where parking is not allowed.

4. Treasurer's Financial Report (Joe Taylor)

JT reported he had thanked the Kingussie Business Association for their kind donation to the Senior Citizens' Fund. He reported that nearly all the DVDs of the all Our Stories project have been sold, but there are still two names on the list of orders that he has not yet traced.

5. Planning Matters (Ailsa Schofield)

AS reported there are no new planning applications. She also reported two planning approvals:

- (i) The Pitmain Estate application to re-site the powerhouse for their hydro scheme;
- (ii) Application for new signage by the Co-op at the former Murchies store on the High St.

6. Highland Councillor's Report (Dave Fallows)

DF commented he had nothing significant to report.

The Chairman commented he had been asked to pass on a message from the British Legion about Highland Council's progress in refurbishing war memorials since they have received substantial funding to carry this out across the Highlands. DF agreed to follow this up.

In response to a question about the Court House, DF reported he understood a scrap merchant had purchased the former Star garage building but has so far failed on two occasions to come to dismantle it.

7. Senior Citizens' Christmas Party Arrangements (Alan Davidson)

AD commented he had circulated copies of the invitation to all councillors and taken note of comments about readability of some of the coloured text and also one councillor's view on the wording of the request for donations from partygoers. Application forms will be placed in the Post Office and The Wright Style.

AD undertook to send an email copy of the poster to VE for printing and display in the community council's noticeboard cabinet.

This year's party will be held at the Topsy Laird, two dates have been booked and Kit and John Harling have been booked to provide musical entertainment after the meal.

A discussion followed about the future of the party after this year. It was agreed to review it again in the New Year.

8. AOCB

Request for support from Kingussie Golf Club to rebuild the bridge over the Gynack.

VE had circulated copies of the request from the Golf Club chairman in advance of the meeting and had received views. It was agreed that the Council supports the initiative recognising the bridge by the Golf Club House was used by members of the community as a general amenity. KVCC is not a fund raising body though and will not be in a position to organise fundraising events on behalf of the Golf Club. The view is that other groups are better placed to do this. VE undertook to respond to the letter on behalf of the Council.

Highland Council Budget consultation (Email and survey forms circulated in advance)

VE undertook to complete the on-line survey on behalf of councillors. Responses are required by 14th November. She commented that unlike similar consultation exercises in previous years, the survey

forms just require “box ticking” and do not allow for comments; so she is prepared to formulate a separate written response as well explaining councillors’ views on behalf of the community. She will send this to the originators of the email in the Policy Unit of THC and to the four elected members.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 2100hrs.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 2nd December 2014

Monthly Financial report to accompany the minutes of the November meeting of KVCC

Balances

KVCC	£5933.06
Senior Citizens’ Christmas Party Fund	£2678.65
Children’s Christmas Party Fund	£1552.26
Reserve Fund	£1821.27

Payments

Cairngorms Learning Partnership	£26.95
Railway Adopters Planting (AS)	£40.99

Lodgements

Heritage Fund (Sale of DVDs)	£30.00
Donation from KBA to Senior Citizens Party Fund	£150.00

Project Account Balances

Railways Adopters Project	£534.18
Town Trail	£368.85
Heritage Project	£514.66

KVCC funds	£4515.37
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Total	£5933.06
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J. Taylor (Treasurer)