



KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2nd December 2014 in TALLA NAN RÒS at 7 p.m.

Present: Mrs A Schofield, Ms G Wright, Mr J Taylor (Treasurer), Mrs V Emmett (Secretary), Mrs M Brown, Mr J Patchett, Highland Councillor Mr D Fallows.

1. Election of New Officers (Mr Fallows in the Chair)

Following the decision of Mr Davidson to retire from the Community Council it is necessary to elect a new chairman. Mr Fallows opened the meeting by offering his thanks to Mr Davidson, who has retired from the Council, for his long service on the Community Council and his hard work as a Councillor on behalf of the community.

Election of Chairman:

Mrs A Schofield Nom. Mrs Emmett, Sec. Mrs Brown. Mrs Schofield agreed to be nominated. Elected unanimously.

Election of Vice Chairman, with the election of Mrs Schofield as chair, it is necessary to elect a new vice chair.

Mr Patchett: Nom. Mrs Emmett, Sec. Ms Wright. Mr Patchett agreed to his nomination. Elected unanimously.

Planning Matters. Mrs Schofield agreed to continue to act as the main point of reference for planning matters. Mr Patchett agreed to act as the back-up on planning matters.

Mrs Schofield assumed the chair of the meeting. She also expressed her thanks to Mr Davidson for his significant contributions as a community councillor in serving the community for more than 11 years. She undertook to write a letter to him on behalf of all the councillors.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th November 2014.

The minutes were accepted as a correct record. Prop: Mr Taylor, sec. Mrs Schofield.

3. Matters Arising. None.

4. Police Matters

In the absence of an officer of Police Scotland this item was not taken. VE reported she has not received a routine monthly report from the Chief Inspector.

5. Planning matters (Mrs Schofield)

- (a) Application by the Co-operative Store to install new external plant and replace the existing air conditioning at their new premises. Mrs Schofield read out a draft of a response on behalf of KVCC. Councillors agreed to the draft. Ms Wright reported she understood the new equipment is installed but she did not know if it was working. Mrs Schofield reported the opening of the new store was postponed until after Shopping Sunday (7th December) so as not to interrupt the planned festivities on the High Street. The intention is to open the new store on the 11th December.
- (b) Replacement of a porch at St. Helens, Ardbroilach Road. A neutral response was agreed.
- (c) Building site on West Terrace. Highland Council has served an enforcement stop notice on the developers, who began work at the site without permission.

6. Treasurer's Monthly Financial Report. (Mr Taylor)

Mr Taylor presented his report (appended).

He reported that he had mistakenly received a bill from the treasurer of Talla Nan Ròs for a meeting held on the 9th September. This was not a KVCC meeting. He had taken it up with the treasurer and discovered the TNR committee does not know who held the meeting.

Signatories. The Bank of Scotland will require a minute that Mrs Schofield has been elected chairman of KVCC and is to be a signatory on cheques. He undertook to find out if a similar minute will be required by the Scottish Building Society for the KVCC account with them.

7. Highland Councillor's Report. (Mr Fallows)

(i) Bridge over the R. Spey at Ruthven.

Mr Fallows commented he had much pleasure in reporting that Highland Council has successfully been awarded a grant of £250,000 from this year's financial budget from the Strategic Transport Fund towards the replacement of the bridge over the R. Spey close by the Dell.

This means the project can go ahead during this financial year with Highland Council finding the additional funding needed. The replacement bridge will be a prefabricated single track bridge, slightly narrower in width than the current bridge, but still able to take large lorries, and with a cycleway/ pedestrian path attached. Its estimated life is in excess of 60 years and there will not be a weight limit on it. The bridge will be ordered and built before April 2015.

The entire existing bridge has to be removed safely with nothing dropped into the river because of the nature conservation designations. The plan is to use the existing stone piers, which will be refurbished and then the new bridge will then be slid into position across the river.

Mr Fallows commented that Highland Council has been very fortunate in gaining the funding to replace the existing bridge, which is close to total collapse. Without the grant it could have meant closure of the bridge for up to a year.

There will be a 12 week period of total closure of the river crossing however, meaning that access to Insh, Drumguish and the Tromie and Ruthven communities will have to be via Kincaig. THC Community Services will consult communities well in advance about the closure. The work is likely to take place over the three month period from April onwards.

(ii) THC Budget.

The budget papers will be issued on the 11th December and they will be debated by the full Council on the 18th. Mr Fallows was pleased that the proposal to reduce primary school teaching hours has been dropped, and the budget for Highlife Highland will not be reduced for 2015/16. It is hoped that Inverness Leisure can be persuaded to amalgamate with Highlife Highland resulting in a significant management cost saving. VE reported she had sent a lengthy response on behalf of KVCC to the Policy Team for the attention of the CEO.

(iii) Court House.

With the removal of the old building from the site, the work on the Court House and the building of the extension can now go ahead. Mr Fallows reported he did not know the planned start date.

(iv) Former Folk Museum Car Park, Spey Street, Kingussie.

Councillors reported complaints by neighbours about problems of long term parking on the site. It is being used for long term (permanent) parking by owners of caravans and motorhomes, some commercial vehicles and frequently for overnight parking by heavy goods lorries. Additionally several storage containers have been placed on the car parking area by a company doing work on Highland Council properties locally. Since the drainage of the car park is substandard and significant areas of the car park flood, the available area for legitimate short term parking is seriously compromised. Mr Fallows reported he is already trying to find out about the parking of the storage containers by the Easy Heat Company. He undertook to pursue these matters further. VE undertook to forward an email from Cr. Lobban on the matter to Mr Fallows.

Mr Taylor reported that a tree consultant, who has done some work for the Am Fasgadh Regeneration Co., has commented that one of the large trees along the side of the car park is potentially dangerous and could easily lose large limbs in a gale, and these could fall onto the parked vehicles close by.

8. Health Matters (Mrs Brown)

Mrs Brown reported several meetings she has attended recently. In response to an NHS request she had consulted elderly people about visits to Raigmore Hospital and sent back their responses. She gave examples of issues and concerns: the travelling problems of patients being asked to report for early morning appointments (0730-0800), the need for signage at bus stops in the centre of Inverness indicating which buses go to the hospital and likewise at the hospital, the need for indications of buses going to the centre of the town; the lack of refreshments provided for patients staying overnight in the patients' hostel. As a result she had met the Manager of Raigmore and all Heads of departments had received copies of her email; in several instances action has already been taken. She had also raised the possibility of pre-op. assessments being carried out locally.

Mrs Brown commented she was looking into two reports of concern about homecare provision, Ms Wright agreed to pass on some other reported concerns to Mrs Brown.

9. Heritage Festival (Mrs Brown)

The festival is to be held on the 16th to 18th April 2015. The theme will be the 250th anniversary of the publication of James McPherson's Ossian legends. The Heritage strategy group has been working on plans for an academic conference involving UHI; other groups who are collaborating with the plans include the RSPB, Historic Scotland, RCAHMS and the National Library of Scotland. She also hoped that one of the Highland Council genealogists would contribute to the festival's activities. The festival is

intended for the community and offers of help from members of the community would be very welcome. She has contacted the Principal of the High School to find out if they might be involved. Mr Fallows suggested that she apply for funding from the Ward Discretionary Fund to help finance the festival. Applications are considered on the first Tuesday of each month at area councillors' meeting - but not in January or August.

10. AOCB

(i) Senior Citizens' Christmas Party.

Ms Wright distributed copies of a letter from the secretary of the festivities committee. The committee is offering to take responsibility for organising both the senior citizens' party and the children's Christmas party in future. The secretary assured the Council that they are a fully constituted organisation and already organise a Christmas workshop for children, Kingussie Shopping Day and the Christmas Eve event; they are also willing to undertake fund raising events to ensure the future of the parties.

Mr Taylor commented that the organisers of this year's children's Christmas party are doing it for the last time. He reported that the funds held by KVCC are designated for sole use for the two parties; if the festivities committee took on the responsibility for the parties then the funds would need to be used solely for these purposes. The festivities committee would need to give assurance that the funds will be used for these events and not be used for other activities. Given this caveat, he suggested that the Council's accepts the festivities invitation to take over the organisation of the parties and he was willing to pass over the funds held in the KVCC accounts to them. The motion was accepted unanimously (Prop. VE, Sec. MB)

It was suggested that the festivities treasurer should speak to Mr Taylor about transfer of the funds. VE agreed to draft a response accepting the festivities committee's offer and setting out the conditions.

(ii) Little Town of Festivals

VE reported that her attention had been drawn to a problem affecting the production of publicity leaflets for the festivals. Mrs Graham, who had been the driving force behind the festivals, has moved away; the proposal to form an organising committee last year had not been effected and it appears that nobody is acting as overall coordinator. However each of the community groups is going ahead and is organising its own festival. There was a discussion about the success of the festivals and the hope they would continue; the value of publicity leaflets and their distribution was questioned. Councillors generally agreed to support the events and, if asked, to provide a donation for the production of leaflets. VE agreed to contact Ms Laurence Kelly for a list of festival organisers and, if need be, she would set up a meeting to help coordinate matters.

(iii) Community Rail Partnership

Mrs Schofield reported she has joined the newly formed group as the Kingussie representative and she provided a summary of a meeting she had attended recently in Glasgow. A discussion followed about the possibility of the display of posters at the railway station about the festivals and other tourist attractions in the Kingussie area. Mrs Schofield commented she has already contacted the Principal of the High School about a potential poster competition for the pupils.

(iv) Highland Folk Museum – request for a letter of support.

Mrs Emmett reported back about a meeting she had attended recently with some of the staff of Highland Folk Museum. Mrs Chisholm, the Curator of collections had asked if KVCC would provide a letter of support to the Museum's application to be acknowledged as a recognised collection of National Significance. Mrs Emmett circulated copies of a letter from Mrs Chisholm. Councillors expressed surprise that the collection is not already recognised and willingly agreed to support the museum's application,. VE agreed to draft the letter of support. Mrs Brown undertook to ask the Badenoch Heritage Strategy group to write a letter of support as well before the deadline of mid-January.

(v) Bank of Scotland closure days.

Mr Patchett reported that the Bank of Scotland still has not responded satisfactorily to letters from customers and the MP, Mr Alexander.

11. Dates of meetings in 2015.

Councillors agreed to continue to the pattern of monthly meetings in 2015: to meet on the first Tuesday in every month starting at 7p.m. apart from January and August, when there will be no meetings. Talla Nan Ròs is still the preferred venue.

Mr Fallows gave his apologies in advance; he will not be able to attend the February meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 3rd February 2015

KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Current Balances

KVCC	£5931.05
Senior Citizens' Party Fund	£2678.65
Children's Christmas Party Fund	£1550.26
Reserve Fund	£1821.27

Payments

Hire of Talla Nan Ròs	£44.00
Remembrance Day Wreath	£29.00

Lodgements

Heritage fund	£30.00
Station Adopters	£40.99

Projects

Station Adopters	£575.17
Town Trail	£368.85
Heritage	£544.66
KVCC	£4442.37

Total £5931.05

J Taylor(Treasurer)

December 2014