



KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3rd MARCH 2015 IN TALLA NAN RÒS

Present: KVCC Councillors: Mrs Ailsa Schofield (Chairwoman), Mr John Patchett (Vice-Chairman), Mr Joe Taylor (Treasurer), Mrs Mairi Brown, Ms Gwyneth Wright. THC Councillor Mr David Fallows, PC Andrew Courts (Police Scotland).

Apologies: Mrs Valerie Emmett.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd February 2015

Cancellation of Bus Service by City Link (page3): Mrs Schofield said that she would like to amend the first sentence of this item to read: "A letter drafted by Mr John Patchett ..." as her involvement in the drafting had been minimal, the letter was very much the work of Cllr Patchett, and that credit should be given where it was due. The minutes were approved as a correct record. (Prop. Mr Taylor, Sec. Mr Patchett)

2. Matters Arising

Mrs Schofield said she was delighted to report that earlier in the day she had been contacted by City Link to say that they had relented on their decision to cancel the M91 09.26 bus service and that they would be re-instating it with immediate effect. Everyone agreed that the Community Council's initiative had paid off, and that it was an excellent outcome. Mrs Schofield said that now the whole Community Council were aware of the news she intended to publicise it on the Aviemore & Spey Valley Forum Facebook page, but was advised by Highland Councillor Fallows that this had already been done by Highland Councillor Bill Lobban.

3. Police Matters

All Councillors had received a copy of the March 2015 Police Report. Mr Patchett asked when the Police would be handing over responsibility for parking to H.C? Cllr Fallows said that it would not be for a while, as it would take up to 12 months for the Council to obtain the necessary authorities. PC Courts reported on local incidents. He said that a man had been arrested for the two recent break-ins at the Silver Fjord and Star Hotels, and was currently in custody. He was also thought to be responsible for offences at Carrbridge. Mumford & Sons would be performing in Aviemore on the weekend of 31st July - 1st August 2015, meaning that a significant numbers of extra people would be visiting the area making it much busier than usual. During February the Police dealt with various incidents including: a house Fire/dogs/firearms-renewals/ driver behaviour/ theft of chair/ theft of bike/one assault (still being investigated) plus other miscellaneous offences. There was some discussion regarding the current problem of dog mess,

and what could be done to combat it. The Highland Council's Dog Warden had been patrolling but as many of the offences seemed to occur during hours of darkness, no one had been reported. A query was made regarding the use of CCTV cameras for this purpose, and councillors were advised that this should not be a problem as long as the cameras did not point onto other people's property and that a notice was displayed advertising the fact that they were in use. PC Courts said that he would obtain further information re this.

4. Treasurer's Financial Report (Mr Taylor)

The Treasurer presented his monthly financial report (appended to the minutes). He reported that the money ring-fenced for the Senior Citizens and Children's Christmas parties was still in the Community Council's account, as the Festivities Committee were still waiting for their bank to open the new account into which they would pay the monies. The Community Council's bank and building Society accounts had now been amended, allowing the Chairwoman to be a joint signatory. The Secretary's £250 honorarium was due, and Mr Taylor asked Mrs Schofield to sign a cheque for that amount.

Mr Taylor asked if Councillors were agreeable to the Heritage Festival receiving a further payment of up to £500? As this festival is run under the auspices of the Community Council and funds are available for the purpose, this was agreed. Mr Taylor stated that the Star Hotel had not been thanked, or received notification of the amount (£162.83) raised for the senior citizens Christmas Party from the bottle in their bar. It came to light that the previous Chairman had taken responsibility for this, so Mrs Schofield said that she would write a letter to the Star Hotel to thank them.

5. Planning Matters (Mrs Schofield)

Mrs Schofield summarised recent planning applications on the weekly lists and the action taken by the KVCC sub-committee.

Weekly list 26.2.15:

15/00608/FUL. Fairholm, Gynack Road. Installation of 15 ground mounted solar PV panels. The proposed array would be sited at the side of the house, set into a bank. It was not anticipated that they would cause any loss of amenity to existing properties, and the park were not calling the application in. The suggested response was for a neutral submission, stating that there were no objections. This was agreed.

15/00636/S42 Land Adjoining 10 Ruthven Road. Application under Section 42 to undertake development without complying with condition 5 previously imposed for permission 13/00893/FUL on 25/02/2014. (The production of woodchip for the Duke of Gordon Hotel). Again, the CNPA did not intend to call this application in. Mrs Schofield said that she had spoken to June Doherty at Highland Council Planning Office to obtain further information re this application. After discussion and as a result of the information received, the suggestion was for a neutral response covering the preference for a more aesthetically pleasing structure with appropriate levels of soundproofing fitted, and assurances that sufficient undeveloped space remained to allow safe vehicular movements on and off the site. It was also noted that if the

development was to receive permission under Sect 42 it should be carried out as soon as possible and with a deadline date, in order to minimise disruption to residents. It was noted that recent deliveries of woodchip to the Duke of Gordon hotel were made using uncovered trailers, resulting in large chunks of woodchip being blown off the trailers onto the street causing a serious hazard for pedestrians. Although a Road Traffic Act issue rather than a planning issue, it was decided to enquire whether there were any planning conditions which could be imposed to negate this problem.

A letter sent on 5th September to the CNPA suggesting that there should be a clear design code for future planning applications was discussed. The CNPA response indicated that due to legal implications any design code would need to be drafted in conjunction with the next Local Development Plan, and that there would be an opportunity for the public to comment before it was adopted.

6. Highland Councillor's Report

Cllr Fallows said that Court House contracts had been issued, and that as there were no contamination issues the works should commence in early April. With regard to Ruthven Bridge; initially it had been expected that work would commence in early April, but the start date had slipped to early May meaning that works were likely to last well into May/June/July. Cllr Fallows said that deterioration of the bridge had been both rapid and sudden. No further deterioration had occurred since the weight limit had been imposed, but if there was any further deterioration bridge would be closed immediately. Concerns were raised that the project may slip further, and it was pointed out that local businesses would be seriously affected. Cllr Fallows said that the delay was to do with the timescale the contractors had to actually build the bridge as the existing bridge couldn't be demolished until new one had been completed, and although there was no need for planning permission SEPA permissions were still necessary. There was further discussion re this, and the possibility of asking the M.O.D whether they could provide a temporary solution.

7. Highland Council's Proposals for Service Points

A final draft response to Highland Council's proposals for Service points was discussed. It was felt that it was part of H.C's remit to deal with remote and rural areas, and that the proposed savings (£100,000?) achieved by cutting services would be minimal in the scheme of things. H.C were alleging that their Service Points were under-utilised, so why couldn't some services be outsourced to outlying offices, giving staff a supply of other work to do when not dealing with the public? This would go a long way to saving money. If the proposals went ahead the cost of these services would just be passed on to the public, who would be forced to pay for transport to visit far flung offices. Other community services such as the local car scheme would also be affected. It was felt to be inappropriate and unacceptable to consider relocating these services to Aviemore.

It was agreed that Mr Patchett and Mrs Schofield would amend the draft as per the discussion, ensure all were happy with the result, and let Mrs Emmett send it to H.C.

8. Correspondence re A9 Duelling

A letter from Transport Scotland re a public exhibition to be held on 9.3.15 at Dalwhinnie Village Hall was briefly discussed. The general consensus was that as the exhibition related to the duelling of the A9 at Dalwhinnie, no further action was required at this point.

9. Future of empty shop premises on Kingussie High Street

Concerns were expressed with regard to the increasing number of empty shop premises on Kingussie High Street. Options discussed were the possibility of writing to the owners of the affected premises asking what they proposed to do with the premises, and whether community groups could be encouraged to put displays in the empty windows.

10. AOCB

- (i) Councillor Fallows was asked when the River Gynack Bridge on Spey Street was likely to open again? He replied that it was likely to be open by the end of the week, and that the delay had been down to Scottish Water. Concern was expressed that the contractor had left cut scrub lying by the river, and that the works had resulted in leaving a sandy bank and small stones which were likely to be washed away if the water rose again.

The meeting closed at 20.45 hours.

Date of next meeting: 2nd April 2015

KVCC Financial Report for March 2015 meeting

Balances

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Senior Citizens' Party Fund | £2841.48 |
| Children's Christmas Party Fund | £1374.97 |
| Reserve Fund | £1821.27 |

Payments

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|---------------|--------|
| Talla nan Ros | £46.00 |
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Projects

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| Station Adopters | £575.17 |
| Town Trail | £368.85 |
| Heritage Fund | £544.66 |

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| KVCC Funds | £4349.38 |
| Totals | <u>£5838.06</u> |

J Taylor (Treasurer)