



KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5th MAY 2015 IN TALLA NAN RÒS

Present: KVCC Councillors: Mrs Ailsa Schofield (Chairwoman), Mr John Patchett (Vice-Chairman), Mr Joe Taylor (Treasurer), Mrs Valerie Emmett, (Secretary), Ms Gwyneth Wright.

THC Councillor Mr David Fallows.

Apologies: Mrs Mairi Brown.

Visitors: Mr R Ormiston, Mr T Ramage (S&BH)

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 7th April 2015

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

2. Matters Arising

None.

3. Police Matters (PC A. Courts)

Chairman's response to Insp. MacLeod's proposals about monthly reports: VE confirmed no reply to date.

PC Courts provided an oral update about incidents locally in the past month:

Traffic offences on local and trunk roads, two chimney fires dealt with by the Police and Fire Service; damage to parked cars in Duke Street when a drunken driver had crashed into them. The driver was apprehended and will be charged.

A pedestrian was in collision with a car being driven along the High Street. Luckily he was unhurt because the car was being driven slowly; the pedestrian admitted he had not looked before attempting to cross the road.

Several significant acts of vandalism took place in the town on Saturday 2nd May about 1.30 a.m. when the decorative fruit trees in planters outside the Silverfjord hotel were uprooted and broken and the planters overturned, the rainwater downpipe from a nearby house was ripped off the house wall, one of the traffic light stanchions at the Cross was damaged and bent, and obscene graffiti was written on a road sign near to the A9 to Inverness slip road. The Police are investigating. Councillors expressed their dismay at these incidents.

Mr Patchett commented on the continued lack of Police presence in the town and he raised again the significant problem to the smooth flow of traffic along the High Street due to irresponsibly parked cars. PC Courts said he would investigate the problem again.

Finally PC Courts urged all householders to be vigilant and beware bogus workmen touting for work after a resident in Newtonmore was defrauded recently. Householder should also be alert to suspicious vehicles patrolling about in the area. On completion of this item, PC Courts was thanked by councillors for attending the meeting and he left to continue his duties.

4. Treasurer's Financial Report (Mr Taylor)

Councillor Taylor presented his monthly financial statement (appended). He reported that KVCC had supported the Heritage Festival, which KVCC initiated originally, with a donation of £500.

All the Christmas Party funds (for the children's party and the senior citizens' party) have now been successfully transferred to the Festivities committee's accounts. This committee will organise the parties in future and take responsibility for any fund raising for them.

The accounts are now made up to the end of the financial year, end of March 2015; the treasurer is awaiting receipt of two bank statements before passing the accounts to Mr Munro, accountant for checking. They will be ready in time for the AGM in June.

5. Planning report (Mrs Schofield)

Mrs Schofield presented her report:

Planning Applications.

Weekly List 9.4.15: **15/01258/FUL** Erection of flat roof single storey extension, Bourach, 2 Croila View.
Response: "Kingussie & Vicinity Council has no objections to this application".

Weekly List 16.4.15: **15/01126/FUL** Change of use from Class 1- Retail to Class 2- Financial, professional and other services: internal and external alterations, 61, High Street.
Response: "Kingussie & Vicinity Community Council has no objections to this application, which will bring a prominent High Street property back into useful service. We also welcome the fact that the expansion of Kingussie's dental practice will be of great benefit to the community".

15/01270/FUL Erection of fence, gate and shed, Kildrummie, Newtonmore Road.
Response: "Kingussie & Vicinity Community Council has no objections to this application, and are pleased to see the ongoing improvements being made to this listed building and its garden grounds."

Weekly List 23.4.15: **15/01534/FUL** Change of use from Residential Flat to commercial office space: Craigmhor, 21 High St. (Flat over Joe's Chippy)
Response: "Kingussie & Vicinity Community Council has no objections regarding this application".

15/01155/FUL Installation of x1 DSLAM cabinet measuring 1300mm x 450mm x 1430mm. (Broadband Project) Land 20M NE Of Skigersta, Spey Street.
Suggested response: As per the previous applications: "Kingussie & Vicinity Community Council support this application, which will ultimately bring great benefit to Kingussie"

15/01620/FUL Formation of a temporary road linking the A9 Trunk Road with the B970 (south) during construction works at Ruthven Bridge; Land 155M Ne Of Ruthven Cottage.
Application states: The formation of a road linking the A9 Trunk Road with that part of the B970 road which lies to the south of the River Spey. The Ruthven Bridge over the River Spey is to receive a new superstructure which requires that the B970 is closed at Ruthven Bridge for a period of some 6 weeks. It is proposed that a road is constructed across a field, a distance of approximately 130 metres. It is proposed that the field will be restored to its former condition when the bridge works are complete. This link road will serve to mitigate the disruption to those wishing to access the south side of the River Spey from Kingussie and vice versa. A diversion route is already

available but it involves a trip of some 23 km on a fairly tortuous road. Members of the public, Highland Councillors and Health Professionals have expressed their concern at the implications of such a lengthy diversion. This link road is likely to be required for a period of only 6 weeks or thereby.

A substantial discussion followed.

Suggested Response: "Kingussie & Vicinity Community Council are pleased to see that an application has been made to form a temporary access road in an attempt to limit the serious disruption which will take place during the dismantling and reconstruction of the Spey bridge at Ruthven. While fully supportive of this, we were disappointed to note that although the application lodged by Highland Council acknowledged concerns made by the public, health professionals and Highland Councillors, there was no mention of the serious concerns raised by Kingussie & Vicinity Community Council. As a statutory body we would expect our views to have been taken into account, and request that we be treated as statutory consultees regarding this application. Given the urgency of the situation we ask that strenuous efforts are made to determine the application as soon as is practicably possible".

Councillors agreed all the proposed responses.

Permissions Granted using delegated powers:

15/00961/FUL/JUDO/OAA Installation of x1 dslam cabinet measuring 1300mm x 450mm x 1430mm. (broadband project) at land 40m se of Free Church of Scotland, Ruthven Rd.

15/00960/FUL/JUDO/OAA Installation of x1 dslam cabinet measuring 1600mm x 450mm x 1200mm. (broadband project) at land 10m east of Ardessie, Spey St.

6. Highland Councillor's report (Mr Fallows)

No additional matters to report.

7. Healthcare updates

Mrs Emmett provided an oral report on behalf of Mrs Brown who was unable to attend the meeting owing to illness:

- (i) **The New Hospital.** The next meeting of the NHS Healthcare Redesign committee will take place on 12th May with the senior project officer, who will make a presentation based on the specification provided by the Healthcare committee. In response to a question from Mrs Schofield before the meeting, Mrs Brown had confirmed that the Scottish Ambulance Service has given an assurance that there will no change to the current arrangements and there is no reason to suspect any change. An ambulance will continue to be based in each of Kingussie and Grantown-on-Spey communities to serve their areas of Badenoch and Strathspey respectively. The ambulance based in Aviemore will be moved to the new hospital site so that it will be readily available there for emergencies, as well as serving its current area of Badenoch and Strathspey. This move will not affect the ambulances in Kingussie and Grantown. Mrs Schofield asked if this assurance has been given in writing, Mrs Emmett undertook to convey her question to Mrs Brown.
- (ii) **St Vincent's Therapy Garden.** A temporary difficulty that had arisen recently has been successfully resolved and all is well with its access to patients.
- (iii) **The Wade Centre.** The refurbishment has been delayed because NHS has been trying to secure the right contractor for the task and ensure the Centre can continue to function for the benefit of all its patients and clients. Eleven residents and day care users are working with Mrs Mary Stewart, the horticultural therapist, with indoor practical activities linked to gardening. The activities are proving

very successful and enjoyable. The refurbishment plans at the Wade Centre include the provision of a small outdoor Therapy Garden.

8. Date and Arrangements for the AGM

Councillors agreed that the AGM should be held on **Tuesday 2nd June at 7 p.m. in Talla Nan Ròs**. It will be followed by the routine business meeting.

9. AOCB

Ward Community Council Association. Mrs Schofield reported that she and Mr Taylor had attended a Ward community council meeting in Boat of Garten, where representatives of all the Badenoch and Strathspey councils were invited to consider the formation of a B&S Community Council Association. After much discussion the majority view is that Councils should be able to be kept in touch with each other through an informal forum rather than a formal organisation.

Heritage Festival. Mrs Emmett presented a report on behalf of Mrs Brown. The theme for the April festival this year was the 250th anniversary of James McPherson's combined works, including his Ossian Odyssey. The Kingussie Heritage organisers collaborated with UHI in mounting a conference in Kingussie where 85, mainly academic scholars, took part. The event included a field visit to the township site at the Highland Folk Museum. (James McPherson grew up and was a schoolmaster in a similar township close by Ruthven Barracks.) The delegates later visited Balavil House, built by McPherson and still the home of members of the McPherson family. The festival was a great success, including for several local businesses, with 53 of those attending the festival staying in local guest houses and hotels for up to three nights.

The Ossian legacy: there is a proposal to look at ways of taking heritage forward in the local schools with the provision of teaching and learning materials. In this context Mrs Brown hoped to be well enough to attend a meeting of headteachers of the Badenoch primary and secondary schools on Thurs. 7th May.

Walking festival: this event takes place on Friday 15 and Saturday 16th May and is organised by KCDC. It begins with a talk in Talla Nan Ròs on Friday evening about historic maps of the area. Councillors agreed that if such events are marketed well they could attract tourists and bring economic benefits for local businesses.

Shinty commemoration: A memorial is being held on the Isle of Skye over the weekend of 16th/17th May remembering the shinty players from the Skye and Kingussie teams who lost their lives in one of the major battles of the 1914-18 war. The shinty players at that time were soldiers in the Territorial Brigade of the Cameron Highlanders. As part of the commemoration, the current Kingussie and Skye teams will play matches on Saturday, including the ladies shinty teams, and there will be a memorial service and laying of wreaths at the war memorial in Portree on Sunday. The commemoration will also be attended by a group of soldiers from the current Royal Highland regiment, including their shinty team who will play in a match against a Skye team.

Other events: Mr John Robertson will give a talk "Kingussie Characters" on the 22nd May based on his recent book, which includes information about some of the 60 men whose names feature on the War Memorial.

Kingussie Business Association: Mrs Emmett reported that Mrs Brown attended the AGM of the Association as the KVCC observer representative. The members decided not to provide hanging baskets of flowers along the High Street this year, because considerable problems arose in 2014 about watering the baskets regularly and as a consequence many of the plants died within a short time. Instead, they are going to try planted troughs of flowering plants mounted along the bridge over the R. Gynack. These should be easier to water and keep fresh.

The Association hopes that KVCC will make a donation towards the cost. Councillors agreed, and asked that the Association should make a formal request when they have done their costings.

Caberfeidh: Mr Patchett reported that sadly Caberfeidh had been unsuccessful in their application for funding from the Highland Council's Community Challenge Fund. As a result they are not able to pursue their plans for developing their "community hub" and Highland Books on Line initiative, staff have been made redundant and other activities for some of their clients have also had to be terminated.

Celebrations of the Centenary of the Last Mail Coach run. Mr Ormiston outlined the plans for restaging the last run of the horse drawn mail coach 100 years ago from Kingussie to Roy Bridge on the 3rd and 4th of June. A horse drawn coach will be used needing four pairs of horses overall. The route will be divided into four nine-mile stages based on the old staging points where horses were changed; passenger tickets will be sold for each stage. The intention is to raise funds for the Riding for the Disabled Association. A discussion followed about the cost of funding the whole operation, Mr Fallows suggested Mr Ormiston should apply for a Ward Discretionary Grant towards the costs and he would support it. Kingussie Councillors agreed to provide a donation of £250 towards the event and the treasurer handed a cheque to Mr Ormiston at the end of the meeting. Mr Ormiston also told the Council that a new stone marking the centre of Scotland will be erected at Glentruim.

The meeting drew to a close at 9 p.m.

Date of next meeting: 2nd June 2015. The AGM will take place at 7 p.m. and be followed by the routine business meeting.

APPENDIX:

KVCC MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Balances	KVCC	£5714.06
Payments	Talla Nan Ròs	£24.00
Receipts	Railway Adopters	£137.07

Project Funds

Station Adopters	£575.17
Town Trail	£368.85
Heritage	£544.66
KVCC	£4225.38
Total	£5714.06