



# KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> JUNE 2015 IN TALLA NAN RÒS

**Present: Community Councillors:** Mrs Schofield, Mrs Emmett, Mrs Brown, Ms Wright, Mr Taylor, Highland Councillor Mr Fallows.

**Visitors:** Mrs J Cushing (Ruthven Steading), PC A Courts (Police Scotland)

### 1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Mrs Emmett requested a correction to the draft minutes:

AOCB Last Mail Coach Run - delete the last part of the penultimate sentence "*and the treasurer handed a cheque to Mr Ormiston at the end of the meeting*"

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

### 2. Matters Arising

**Healthcare matters:** Mrs Brown provided copies of a written statement from Mr N Small, Director of Operations NHS Highland, stating that there is no threat to the ambulance services or locations. The SAS has confirmed this to him.

In effect the ambulance stationed in Kingussie will continue to be stationed there and likewise for the stationing of the ambulance in Grantown on Spey.

**Ruthven Bridge Removal and Replacement Works:** Mrs Schofield read out a recent response from Mr MacKenzie, THC's Structural Engineer in reply to a communication she sent on behalf of KVCC. She regretted that none of the points she had raised had been answered.

The plan to construct a temporary access from the Ruthven side of the Bridge and the A9 cannot go forward as the costs are far too high (£70,000 has been quoted in the press.)

Mrs Cushing was invited to speak. She provided copies of a document she had sent to Highland Councillor Mr Rimmell, setting out the serious concerns of residents living on the Ruthven side – importantly the arrangements for access to emergency services and for daily social care at home of elderly and infirm residents. The residents are also concerned that while the R. Spey crossing is out of action for at least six weeks, their only access to the north side of the river requires them to travel along a narrow tortuous road from Ruthven via Insh to Kinraig to the nearest river crossing. She asked why the Highland Council was not considering improving the existing rough route from Ruthven to the A9 instead of constructing a proper temporary road and the imposition of a speed restriction on the A9 during the bridge repairs.

At the end of a good discussion, Mrs Schofield undertook to try to set up a meeting with Mr MacKenzie to alert him to residents' major concerns.

### 3. **Police Matters** (PC A Courts)

PC Courts presented an oral report.

He reported a recent nasty accident in Kingussie near the High School when a car ended up upside down on the railway line. Fortunately no trains were due at the time.

There have been several other road traffic accidents and incidents, but no fatalities.

Police officers had to deal with a breach of the peace at the Duke of Gordon Hotel.

He was sad to report vandalism at the KCDC community hydro scheme when the vandals attempted to gain access to the control room and they threw objects into the R. Gynack.

Fortunately the installation was not damaged.

He was pleased to report several positive lines of enquiry for the incidents in May.

The Police have also been monitoring the parking on the High Street; they have spoken to several drivers who were parked in no parking areas.

### 4. **Treasurer's Monthly Financial Report** (Mr J Taylor)

Mr Taylor presented his monthly financial report. (Appended)

### 5. **Planning Matters** (Mrs A Schofield)

#### Weekly List 14.5.15

15/01772/FUL Change of use to residential. 102 High Street (Old Drill Hall)

Response: Kingussie & Vicinity Community Council welcome the fact that one of Kingussie High Street's significant buildings is to be repaired and given a useful purpose again.

However we would like to make the following comments:

1. Given that the application is for a change to residential use we note that the proposed floor plan indicates that the property is likely to be used as hostel accommodation, as the application includes rooms with multiple lavatory provision, a "prep area" adjacent to but not apparently linked to the kitchen, and the retention of a drying room, yet no provision is being made for parking. As the A86 High Street is a busy road and the new development is likely to generate further traffic, what measures are being considered to minimise disruption to adjacent properties?
2. We ask that in the event of the UPVC windows on the front elevation being replaced that any replacement windows be of quality wooden sash type, or at least give the appearance of being sash type, as they are far more appropriate to a building of this age and quality.

#### Notice of Review 14.5.15

Relates to a proposed development at Airleywright, The Crescent, where the applicant wishes to erect a new house in his garden grounds. We commented, stating that as far as we were aware it would not affect the amenity of adjacent properties, and that the existing garden grounds of Airleywright were considered to be large enough to accommodate another dwelling. However the application was refused using delegated powers and the applicant has asked for a review of the application.

### Granted Using Delegated Powers

1. A steel portal frame workshop/garage for the use of steel fabrication and mechanical services at land 20m north of Hillview, Market Lane.
2. Change of use from class 1- retail to class 2- financial, professional and other services: internal and external alterations at 61 High Street (ex-Trading Post premises)

#### **6. Highland Councillor's Report (Mr D Fallows)**

Mr Fallows commented he was pleased to report that Highland Councillors have made a decision about the future of Service Points. Kingussie will retain its full Service Point and be located in the Court House. There will be no diminution of service; the office will open as now for five half-days each week.

Work on the Court House has begun.

Police Scotland has confirmed that officers will have facilities in the refurbished Court House and it is expected they will shortly declare the current police station surplus to requirements.

#### **7. High Street Floral Displays- Business Association's Plan (Mrs Brown)**

The Business Association has a new committee.

They have drawn up new plans for floral displays in the town. They intend to install plant troughs securely fixed to the railings on top of the stone walls of the bridge over the R. Gynack. All the materials will be bought locally, thereby supporting local traders. The association members have also agreed a rota for looking after the plants during the summer.

Mrs Emmett reported receipt of an email from the Business Association chairman, Ms Boquillon, requesting a donation from KVCC. The estimated total cost is £800 and they would welcome a donation of £400.

After a brief discussion Councillors agreed to donate £400 and asked for the donation to be acknowledged.

#### **8. AOCB**

1. Mrs Emmett reported an invitation to attend a meeting of the Monadhliath Deer Management Group on 23 June at Alvie Estate, where they will present their strategic red deer management plan. She was willing to attend as the KVCC representative, this was agreed.
2. Mrs Emmett reported a communication from a Masters' student at University of Edinburgh, who is doing research on the Spey Catchment Initiative. She hoped KVCC would be able to suggest key people and groups who she might interview. Councillors suggested several names of people from "user groups" and Mrs Emmett undertook to reply to the student.
3. Club 55. Mrs Emmett reported receipt of information about the new ScotRail franchise holder's (Abellio) plans to scrap the current Club 55 scheme and to introduce a new less advantageous scheme, which would increase rail fares considerably and disadvantage travellers in rural areas where there are few if any alternative public transport links. Mrs Schofield commented that the Highland Community Rail Partnership, of which she is a member, is meeting in Pitlochry the following week. An Abellio representative will be present and the topic will be discussed.

The senior rail card scheme is a national scheme and holders get a 30% discount on fares.

Date of next meeting: **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

**KVCC Financial Report for the month ending May 2015.**

**Balances**

KVCC	£5214.06
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**Payments**

Heritage Festival (Ossian)	£500.00
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**Projects**

Railway adopters	£575.17
Town Trail	£368.85
Heritage	£544.66
KVCC	£3725.38
Total	£5214.06