



# KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> JULY 2016 IN TALLA NAN RÒS, KINGUSSIE

**Present:** Councillors Mrs A Schofield, Mr J Taylor, Mrs V Emmett, Mrs S Rowley, Mrs M Brown, Ms J Morse. Highland Councillor Mr D Fallows, PC A Courts (Police Scotland)

**Apologies:** Mrs I Malcolm, Mrs F Dallas.

### 1. Minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016

The minutes were approved as a correct record (Proposed: JM, Seconded: SR)

### 2. Matters Arising

None.

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

PC Courts provided an oral report. June had been a good month with relatively few incidents: some traffic offences and minor accidents, one lorry fire, straying animals, one case of shoplifting. Reports of two missing persons and concerns about two hillwalkers were resolved satisfactorily. One case of a neighbour dispute was dealt with and also reports of noise disturbance at the Scot House Hotel. Several councillors reported they had also received complaints from residents living in the vicinity of the Scot House Hotel about the late night noise disturbance. (See further discussion under agenda item 7.)

**Parking on the High Street:** Councillors raised again the problems to traffic movement along the High Street as a result of vehicles being parked in no waiting areas.

Councillor Fallows reported that the decriminalising of parking does not apply to trunk roads. Parking etc. in restricted areas along trunk roads is still the responsibility of the Police. PC Courts took note of this information and said he would report this to his senior officer.

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

Councillor Taylor presented his monthly financial report (appended).

The cheque for the donation to the town flower displays has still not been cashed. Apparently the Council's donation represented half of the total spent on the displays. Councillors queried if it had been value for money and how much local businesses had contributed. Mr Taylor commented that if the Council gives a donation in future years he will ask for receipts.

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

- (i) Application for permission to erect agricultural buildings and do additional work associated with the riding school in Market Lane: no objections.
- (ii) Gordon Hall Farm – application to demolish and old barn and erect a new one: No objection.

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

Nothing to report.

**7. Correspondence**

**(i) Notification of a Licensing Application.**

Notification of a licensing application for the Scot House Hotel had been received: variation of the existing licence. The Council had responded and while not objecting to the granting of a new licence had raised concerns about the possibility of patrons causing noise or disturbance to adjacent properties, given the proposed hours of closure (1am). At the meeting, several councillors reported they had received complaints on this matter from residents nearby about late night noise disturbance. (See also item 3 Police Report).

They also reported complaints from local people about the installation of bright neon signs at the hotel; these were felt to be inappropriate for the location of the hotel on the more rural edge of the town and its proximity to private residencies. Checks had been made and it was ascertained that planning permission was required for the installation of illuminated signs and no application had been sought. Mr Fallows confirmed that such signs did need planning permission. It was agreed that since councillors have received complaints about them, the Community Council has no option but to report the matter to the Planning Enforcement Officer.

**(ii) Youth Link.**

Mrs Emmett reported back on an exchange of emails which she has passed on to Mrs Malcolm. At present the youth club is in abeyance due to lack of interest on the part of young people locally, but the Youth Officer intends to try to resurrect it in the autumn when the schools are back in session.

**(iii) NHS.**

Mrs Brown reported on recent NHS matters. Local concerns have been expressed about the size of the new hospital and the number of beds. There are also plans to move dementia assessment to Inverness rather than continue to do it in St Vincent's Hospital. Concerns were expressed about the effect on patients being moved so far from home and of potential travelling difficulties for families who wished to visit their loved ones in Inverness if they do not have their own transport. Ms Maimie Thompson of the NHS has agreed to respond to these concerns.

**8. Memorial Gardens**

Mrs Schofield commented that Mr Charlie Young has done an excellent job in a voluntary capacity in planting out the Gardens and the planters around the town. Councillors expressed their thanks on behalf of the community. Mrs Schofield reported she wrote a letter on behalf of the Community Council to the Highland Council's Chief Executive expressing concerns about the uncertain future for

maintaining the Gardens; she received an acknowledgement but as yet, five weeks on, she has not had a reply. It was agreed she should follow this up again.

### **9. Commemorative Benches**

Mrs Schofield reported she put in a grant application to the Tesco "Plastic Bag fund" (Groundwork Trust) for funds to replace the old commemorative benches around the town. She had received confirmation of the application. She applied for eight to ten teak benches with plaques and for plants under the project name "Kingussie Benches and Blooms". Tescos had extended the closing date because not many applications had been received. If the application is shortlisted then it will be included on a poster put up in the Aviemore branch, asking customers to vote for their favourite project.

### **10. AOCB**

#### **(i) Water Supplies:**

Mrs Rowley reported she had attended the meeting in Kinraig about the quality of the public water supply. It had received good press coverage both nationally and internationally.

#### **(ii) Cairngorms National Park – Partnership Plan 2017-2022 – Consultation**

The current plan is due for renewal in 2017. A guide to the policies has been published asking "nine big questions".

**(Information already circulated by email with contact to the website to facilitate download of the document.)**

Mr Fallows provided a résumé of the main areas: conservation, visitor experience, rural development. A discussion ensued:

(i) **Visitor experience** – Mr Fallows suggested councillors should comment on the infrastructure and the effect on visitor numbers to Kingussie and Newtonmore of the dualling of the A9. Is there a danger they will become dormitory towns unless remedial actions are taken? It was agreed there is a major need for information points along the A9 and at the entrances to the towns about accommodation, visitor attractions, etc. Indoor venues attractions are also desirable as well as outdoor attractions. If the Cycle Friendly Kingussie initiative is to be really successful, there is a need for a network of facilities where visitors can hire bicycles. It was also suggested that the Cairngorms Learning Partnership might develop residential leisure learning to attract visitors to the locality.

(ii) **Rural development** – the major issues here are the need for housing, economic development and community capacity and empowerment.

**Housing:** The housing needs are for properly affordable housing since wages are low and people are unable to afford to rent or buy more expensive properties. The current legislation will not solve the problems of housing shortage and affordability.

**Economic development** - there is a need for skilled jobs and opportunities for local people to use their existing skills base properly. There is a need for more and more diverse employment opportunities, with the Park and Government supporting business development initiatives.

**Community Capacity and Empowerment** – are expectations unrealistic? Where can all the volunteers come from to develop and maintain community initiatives? Is there

already a volunteer overload? How does the Local Authority and the Park Authority support communities and not put obstacles in their way?

**Missing Issue:** It was agreed that the missing issue is public transport. There is a need for more properly connecting buses routes, more frequent buses and services at the right times to allow residents to travel and get to and from work on time.

**Councillors' Response:** The consultation period runs from the 27<sup>th</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> September. It was agreed that in the absence of a meeting in August, the councillors will all read through the consultation document and form views. At the September meeting councillors will then discuss the consultation, give their views and make suggestions, and a response can then be drafted ready for submission by the closing deadline.

**Date of next meeting: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

#### **APPENDIX**

#### **TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH ENDING 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2016**

Balance in the KVCC account £4271.42

#### **Lodgements**

Station Adopters (Scotrail) £155.96

#### **Payments**

Station Adopters £155.96

Talla Nan Ròs (hire of room) £78.00

Moray & Nairn Newspapers (AGM advert) £26.80

#### **Project Balances**

Station Adopters £525.17

KVCC account £3746.25

**Total £4271.42**