



# KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016 IN TALLA NAN RÒS

**Present:** Councillors Mrs A Schofield, Mr J Taylor, Mrs V Emmett, Mrs S Rowley, Mrs M Brown, Ms J Morse  
Mrs I Malcolm, Mrs F Dallas.

Highland Councillor Mr D Fallows.

Before the meeting began Mrs Malcolm announced that she had decided to resign from the Council because of many other pressures on her time. Mrs Schofield thanked Mrs Malcolm for her service to the community in the past year and expressed the regret of the other councillors that she had decided to resign. She asked Mrs Malcolm to put her resignation formally in writing. Mrs Malcolm then left the meeting.

1. **Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016** (already circulated)

The minutes were accepted as a correct record (unanimous).

2. **Matters Arising.**

**Licensing Applications** for the Silverfjord Hotel and the Scot House Hotel.

Mrs Schofield reported that the Licensing Authority granted the applications with conditions.

The Highland Council Planning Authority confirmed that the Scot House Hotel does not have planning permission for its illuminated signs and the Hotel has been informed it must remove them within 21 days of its letter to the Hotel. It is estimated the expiry date is about the 10th September.

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

In the absence of a Police Officer this item was not taken.

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

Mr Taylor presented his financial report (appended).

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

Mrs Schofield presented her planning report:

There had been very few planning applications for the Kingussie area on recent weekly lists:

16/03117/FUL Replacement windows and doors cut down to form opening for new double doors, Hycliff,  
West Terrace

Response: "Kingussie & Vicinity Community Council have no objections to this application"

16/03643/LBC Install 2no. Customer Information Screens in the gravel to the rear of each of the station of the platforms on gallows columns away from the listed elements of the station, Kingussie railway Station.

Response: "While both supporting and welcoming this long overdue improvement to the facilities at our railway station, Kingussie & Vicinity Community Council have the following concerns:

- (i) We appreciate that due to the building's listed status it may be necessary to site the customer information screens away from the station building. However in respect of platform one, has consideration been given as to how easy it will be to view the screens if sheltering beneath the station canopy? We also ask whether the location of existing planters has been taken into account, as these are not only bolted to each other but also bolted into concrete foundations.
- (ii) Having read the environmental information with regard to ingress etc., does the specification take into account the high winds which routinely blow straight down the platform? We also note that the temperature tolerance is shown as -20°C, but would point out that it is not uncommon for Kingussie to experience significant snow and temperatures below -20°C during the winter months".

16/03965/FUL Proposed porch extension 4 Croila View.

Due to conflict of interest (near neighbour) Mrs Schofield took no part in the discussion.

Mrs Rowley dealt with this application. Councillors looked at the plans and it was agreed that it does not affect other properties and that the response should be a neutral: "Kingussie & Vicinity Community Council have no objections to this application".

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

The Highland Council has begun an extensive review of the services it currently provides – 120 items in all. The Council has to make extensive savings over the next few years so they are considering

- (a) statutory services that they must provide and how their delivery might be made more efficient;
- (b) non-statutory services, in order to decide what the Council can and should continue to provide in future.

The review will take about two years and some decisions may be "painful".

Cr. Mr Lobban is taking an active part. (Papers for THC's meeting on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Sept. are available on line and show what is being reviewed.)

A discussion followed about Common Good Funds. Unlike Inverness, most other Highland areas do not have such funds of any note.

Mrs Brown asked about the Inverness City Deal, and if other regions might benefit from it since it was originally publicised as a deal for Inverness and the regions. Mr Fallows commented that it was unlikely the regions will see much benefit, but that they would not suffer because of the need for match funding from Highland Council.

#### **7. Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan Consultation – KVCC response.**

Mrs Emmett reported that she had met with Mrs Brown and Mrs Schofield and they had gone through the CNPA consultation document and formulated draft responses to the CNPA's questionnaire on behalf of KVCC. Mrs Emmett then circulated copies of the draft and councillors considered each response in detail.

Mrs Schofield and Mrs Emmett are attending the AOCC meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> September, and during the afternoon session AOCC members will also consider the document and there will be presentations by CNP staff responsible for each area of it. Mrs Emmett suggested the KVCC response should be sent to the Park after this meeting in case the AOCC meeting reveals the need to amend or add to the draft responses. Councillors agreed to this. (The consultation closes on the 29<sup>th</sup> September.)

#### **8. Memorial Gardens**

It was agreed that the Gardens look very attractive again this year and are a significant feature in Kingussie. Mrs Schofield commented that she had written a letter to Mr Gilfillan on the 13<sup>th</sup> July enquiring about the future of the Gardens and received an acknowledgement on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Since then she has heard nothing, so she re-sent the letter on the 29<sup>th</sup> August by email and from the “read receipt” is aware that it has been seen. It was agreed that the Gardens are too important a part of Kingussie to allow the matter to drop.

#### **9. Commemorative Benches**

Mrs Schofield reported communications with a family from Glasgow and Canada who have connections to Kingussie – the name of one of their relatives is included on the War Memorial in the Gardens. They visited Kingussie this year and would like to donate a sum of money for a memorial bench. They plan to visit again in late September and Mrs Schofield has arranged to meet them.

Mrs Schofield reported that the grant application to the Tesco plastic bag competition was unsuccessful, but we have been invited to apply to another Tesco fund for a grant; however there is only a two week window in which to make the application. Mrs Morse offered to look at the original application and the conditions of the new fund and help with drawing up the new application.

#### **10. Court House Opening**

Mrs Schofield reported that after communication with the Ward Manager, Ms Cowie offered to give Mrs Schofield and Mrs Boquillon, chair of the Business Forum a quick preview of the building at 3p.m. on Wed. 7<sup>th</sup> Sept.

Mr Fallows indicated that the official opening is likely to be conducted by the Convenor of the Highland Council and that Mr Wade, as a Freeman of Kingussie and its last Provost, will be an honoured guest. When requested, he undertook to see if the Community Councillors could also be invited.

Mrs Emmett reported that the SBSA has gifted a special table from the Iona Gallery to the Court House. The Society had commissioned the table from Kingussie craftsman furniture maker Aaron Sterritt. The table will be placed in the entrance hall in Court House.

#### **11. Spey Street Car Park**

Councillors reported that most of the rubble and building materials are being removed from the car park. They expressed several ongoing concerns about the area – the presence of several permanently parked cars, several caravans, a “Pizza wagon” and a “Burger bar” and that some large lorries often park there overnight. The drainage of the area is inadequate and large parts of the car park are unusable due to flooding after rain. At present it is also being used during the day by contractors’ vehicles working on the Wade Centre. The available space for visitors to park is therefore very small.

Mrs Schofield recalled that when the planning application was submitted of the refurbishment and extension of the Court House as the principal THC offices it included references to the Spey Street and

Ardvonie car park as places for office staff to use, so as not to clog the roads in Kingussie. At present very few staff would be able to use the Spey Street car park.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to Mr Richard Porteous requesting the installation of a height restriction barrier to prevent parking by caravans etc. and also a request that the drainage be improved so that the full area can be used well. Mrs Schofield undertook to do this.

## **12. Road Markings**

Councillors were unanimous in their praise for the very considerate and careful way the Bear team has resurfaced the pavements, which are now in an excellent condition.

Mrs Schofield undertook to write a letter to bear expressing the thanks of the whole community for the significant improvements to the pavements.

Mrs Schofield commented that she planned to contact Mr Hossack of BEAR to enquire when they are likely to be able to renew the road markings, which could help to reduce the significant levels of parking on the High Street and King Street in particular in areas not designated for parking and which results in virtual grid lock on occasions.

Mrs Emmett asked if KVCC might request some further resurfacing be carried out to the footpath on the north side of the main road at the western end of town - from the end of the 30mph limit to Tait's Brae. The surface is becoming dangerous because it has broken up and is largely loose rubble now, it has not been surfaced for at least 20 years and several residents with mobility problems are not able to use it safely. A resident with a mobility scooter finds it cannot cope with the rough surface and is unable to use the route on the opposite side of the road because there is no dropped kerb and the scooter cannot get up the kerb and across the grass verge to the hard surface. Mrs Schofield undertook to write about this as well.

## **13. AOCB**

Mr Taylor asked about the loss of the Saltire and its flag pole from the clock tower. Mr Fallows commented that he thought a new flag and pole had been ordered to replace the previous pole which had developed a fault.

Councillors confirmed they had received the update about the Wade Centred that morning and were pleased to learn about the extensive work being done there to increase and improve the facilities.

Mrs Brown commented that Ms Maimie Thompson and Dr Boyd Peters of the NHS Highland plan to attend the next Council meeting to discuss the Health Care Redesign and plans for the new hospital. Councillors welcomed this.

Mrs Brown told councillors the good news that the Parish Church has received a substantial grant to restore the heritage organ, work is starting on the 19<sup>th</sup> September and will be complete by Christmas. The church is open for visitors on Thursday mornings.

Kingussie Little Town of Festivals

- (i) **Heritage Festival:** Mrs Brown announced that this will take place over the last weekend in April next year; the theme is "Making Tracks, Highland Connections" and plans for talks etc. are well advanced.

- (ii) Mrs Emmett commented that **The Food on Film Festival** is planned to go ahead as usual over the first weekend in February 2017. It will be its tenth anniversary and this year will include a “masked ceilidh” on the Saturday evening, as well as a good programme of films and the usual food market. The opening event takes place in the Iona Gallery on the Friday evening and the SBSA will mount a supporting art exhibition with a “mask theme”. The art committee is also considering running some supporting art workshops for children and adults as well.
- (iii) Mrs Rowley confirmed that the longstanding Shopping Sunday event, now a **Winter Fun-Day** will take on Sunday 4th December.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 2115.

**Date of next meeting: Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

**KVCC TREASURER’S MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT**

<b>Current Balance</b>	£4071.42
<b>Payments</b>	
Kingussie Business Forum (town floral decorations)	£200.00
<b>Projects</b>	
Station Adopters	£525.17
KVCC	£3546.25
<b>Total Funds</b>	£4071.42