



KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4th OCTOBER 2016 IN TALLA NAN RÒS, KINGUSSIE

Present: Councillors Mrs A Schofield, Mrs S Rowley, Ms J Morse, Mrs V Emmett, Mr J Taylor.

Highland Councillors: Mr D Fallows and Mrs J Douglas.

Visitors: Ms M Thompson (Head of PR & engagement NHS Highland), Dr Boyd Peters (Associate Medical Director, Mental Health), and Ellen Stewart (Researcher Edinburgh University).

Apologies: Councillors Mrs M Brown and Mrs F Dallas.

Mrs Schofield welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The meeting began with a presentation by Ms Thompson and Dr Peters on the Health Care re-design – update on developments for the new hospital as part of wider re-design.

The site for the new hospital (in Aviemore) is yet to be secured, negotiations are still taking place.

Work on the new provision of services was begun four years ago and the Scottish Government gave their approval in February 2015, following public consultation. Plans are being well advanced. The money for the project is assured subject to the appropriate business case process being followed.

The business case is a three step process: Initial Agreement, Outline Business Case and Full Business Case. The Initial Agreement was approved and the Outline Business Case is drafted and the team hopes to progress further this in November 2016. The big question is what provision to plan for that is appropriate now and for the future up to 50 years ahead; the team has been working on an appropriate service model.

The new hospital will also house the GP provision for the Aviemore practice. The intention is to bring the majority of different health care teams for Badenoch and Strathspey into one place rather than them being scattered across the area and in different buildings. This will make the planning and provision more efficient. The nursing staffs in the two current hospitals have identified current shortcomings with current arrangements and are putting forward ideas of how to improve the service.

The planned bed provision is 24 GP-led; there are currently 17 beds in the St Vincent's (10 GP-led and seven for psychiatric assessments) and 13 in Ian Charles hospitals.

The team is also trying to devise systems for reducing long stay patients; the challenge is how to build flexibility into the system. "Step up/step down rooms" are being developed in both the Wade Centre in Kingussie and Grant House in Grantown and these will reduce the need for some people to be in hospital.

Mental Health Provision: There are currently seven mental health beds in St. Vincent's with most of the current patients coming from Lochaber, Ross and Nairnshire, and most of these eventually go into nursing homes.

Mental health nurses are in short supply and it is difficult to recruit to fill local vacancies. The plan is to centralise those in need of specialist psychiatric assessment to New Craigs in Inverness. Well- controlled mental health cases will be assessed in the new hospital, but more complex/acute cases will be assessed and managed in Inverness centre with the benefit of 24/7 specialist psychiatric consultant input as well as other specialist staff and facilities.

Quite a proportion of the GP beds in the current hospitals also have patients with dementia and the nurses at St Vincent's have good experience in caring for them. There will be the opportunity for these staff to transfer to the new facility. The future plan is also to include provision of outreach mental care for patients in their own homes.

Home care/social care: the team is working on a model of what will be needed in future. The demography and age profile of the area is changing with an increasing population of more elderly people living including in Aviemore – it is no longer an area of young fit people!

Community Services: these need developing and extending with increases in provision of home care, plus home medi-care treatment.

A discussion followed.

Transport: Mr Taylor asked about the provision of public transport to and from the new hospital site – has it been planned for and who has responsibility for it? This is a major concern for people living in the communities who do not have their own transport and the bus services are poor at present.

Response: There is a requirement to include and make provision for this in the re-design plans. Councillor Mrs Douglas commented that there is an agreement with the Community Bus Co. for people to use their bus passes when using this service.

The transport group is trying to knit public transport provision together to ensure there are proper connections. Stagecoach Services are subsidised by Highland Council, who therefore have more control on bus routes and timetables. It was acknowledged that access to services via public transport is a current challenge.

Concerns were also raised regarding the suitability of the proposed site and whether the 24 beds being proposed would be sufficient. Ms Thompson assured councillors the site was large enough and there will be adequate car parking spaces at the new hospital site. 24 beds should be sufficient for current and future needs in Badenoch and Strathspey.

Ambulance Service: In reply to a question about Ambulance Services, the team assured the Council that the current home based service is to be maintained, there are no plans to centralise the vehicles and ambulance teams in Aviemore – this would not make sense and would vastly increase response times.

In conclusion, Ms Thompson reported that a newsletter going to every home in the area; it is planned to go out in the next couple of weeks (w/b 17th October) and it includes various contact details.

There being no other questions, Mrs Schofield thanked Ms Thompson and Dr Boyd Peters for giving their time to update the Council and they departed at this point. Ms Stewart requested to stay to the end of the Council meeting, this was agreed and she was welcomed by Mrs Schofield.

Business Meeting.

1. Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 6th September 2016 (already circulated)

The minutes were approved as a correct record. (Prop SR, sec. JM)

2. Matters Arising

1. JT reported that the Saltire flag is flying again from the Clock Tower. The Silverfjord Hotel is opening soon and the owners are currently advertising for staff.
2. **Spey Street Car Park:** It is likely that enforcement notices will be put on vehicles, caravans etc. that are parked there long term. Several councillors commented that parking spaces in King Street are being used day-long by Highland Council employees working in the Court House, making it more difficult for others to find short term spaces to visit shops etc.
3. **Memorial Gardens:** Mrs Schofield reported a letter from Mr Gilfillan. Highland Council plans to peg the budget for next year, so plants for the gardens will still be provided, but we shall need community volunteers to help with the planting and maintenance during the year.

3. Police Matters (PC A. Courts)

PC Courts reported 28 incidents in the past month, including one drink driving offence in King Street and an incident of disorderly behaviour at the Topsy Laird. There have been no reports of break-ins or thefts. The Half-Marathon will take place in Aviemore on the 16th October and Police Officers will be deployed there at the event.

There have been several staff changes recently with a new Inspector, Mike Middlehurst based in Nairn. The Police Station is closing and Officers will move into the Court House shortly. Plans include some public access.

Road Markings: There is only one road marking machine in the Highlands, so renewal of road markings will take some time. BEAR, however, has responsibility for the road markings of trunk roads and this includes Kingussie High Street.

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

Mr Taylor presented his monthly financial report (appended).

5. Planning Matters (Mrs A Schofield)

The illuminations at the Scot House Hotel have been dealt with by the Enforcement Officer.

A planning application for a new house and other works at Torcroy has been called in by the CNPA.

Councillors looked at the site plans and a brief discussion followed about housing in the countryside policy.

Mrs Emmett commented that the applicant has invited Mrs Schofield and herself to a site visit to look at the location of the house. Mrs Rowley and Ms Morse expressed interest in joining the site visit; they all agreed to provide dates when they were available and Mrs Emmett agreed to set up the visit.

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

Mr Fallows reported that a redesign process is underway in Highland Council. It is a difficult process and it could take up to two years to complete. Cr. Mr Bill Lobban has been looking at the organisational procedures followed by other Local Authorities.

The new Council offices in the Court House are open. Some teething problems are still being ironed out.

7. Correspondence

1. Mrs Emmett reported that the suggestions she made to SSE on behalf of KVCC to find sites for undergrounding of power cables on landscape grounds, is one of two sites chosen by SSE for potential works. The KVCC suggestions have received support of the CNPA.
2. It was reported that the RSPB has bought some land adjacent to the Dell towards Newtonmore and running along the riverside.

8. Cuts to A9 Intercity Bus Services adversely affecting rural communities along the A9 corridor Edinburgh to Inverness (see the email from Mrs Schofield on Tuesday 27th September)

This topic was discussed and it was agreed to support the proposed petition.

9. AOCB

1. On behalf of the CNPA a new community initiative has been launched: **“Building a Stronger Community”**. It will include Kingussie, Newtonmore, Laggan and Dalwhinnie. Mrs Emmett reported she received a long questionnaire about it for completion on behalf of the SBSA from Susan Paxton, Head of Programmes (Community Led-health & Networking), Scottish Community Development Centre & Community Health Exchange (CHEX). Mrs Emmett has looked at it and is of the view the SBSA does not fit into the assumptions implicit within the questions. She plans to simply write a statement about the SBSA. She undertook to keep the Community Council informed. (Ms Paxton proposes a community meeting for the 25th October.)
2. Mrs Rowley reported attendance by Mrs Schofield and herself at the recent Badenoch and Strathspey CC Forum, when emergency plans for Community Councils were put forward. Mrs Rowley was of the view they were a good idea.
3. Ms Morse reported that KCDC is planning to restore the bridge over the R. Gynack near to the Golf Course. They are hoping to involve an Army team which can use the exercise as part of their training.
4. The Highland Wildlife Park is commissioning a public consultation about plans to improve visitor facilities and experience.
5. Mrs Rowley reported the Festivities Committee is holding a fund raising a “Quiz Night” on the 22nd October in Talla Nan Ròs. The quizmaster is Freddie Nield. Tickets are £10, and teams of 2, 4 and 6 are needed. Food will be provided and participants are invited to “bring a bottle”.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 1st November 2016

Mr Fallows gave his apologies in advance; he will be unable to attend on that occasion.

Appendix

Financial report for month ending 30 September 2016

Current Balance in the KVCC account: **£3937.02**

Payments

Website: £27.36

Station Adopters £55.04

Talla Nan Ròs (hire of foyer) £52.00

Total **£134.40**

Projects

Station Adopters £470.13

KVCC funds £3466.89

Total **£3937.02**