

KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Annual general meeting 2010

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON Tues 25th May 2010 at 1930 hours in Talla Nan Ròs, Kingussie

Present: KVCC Councillors: A Davidson (Chairman), G. Wright (Vice-chairman), V Emmett (Sec.), T Wade (Treasurer), A Schofield, M Stone, J Taylor. Highland Councillor D Fallows.

Apologies: Crs. M Brown, N MacAulay.

Absent: Cr D Whyte.

Visitors: Mr L Brazier.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Minutes of the 2009 AGM held on 26th May 2009

The secretary provided an oral resumé of the minutes of the meeting.

2. Matters Arising.

The former Spar shop on the corner of Gynack Street. Cr Fallows reported he had recently been informed that contracts have been signed for the repairs and work should start shortly. Cr Stone reported hearing hammering in the roof area. Councillors were unanimous in the hope that the problem would be solved in the very near future and the long standing eyesore would be no more.

3. Chairman's Report. (Cr Davidson)

Cr Davidson said the last year had been quite an eye-opener for him since he had not anticipated being made chairman at the previous AGM. He thanked everyone for their support during the year. The Council make up had changed dramatically in 2009 with five new councillors, but he felt the old and the new had blended well.

It had been a busy year for Councillors, especially with regard to several important planning matters, a review by Highland Council of Community Council boundaries and latterly the review of the organisation, work and procedures of all Community Councils.

The Council had held several public consultation meetings: two in the autumn of 2009 as part of the "Our Community, A Way Forward Project" and a third in April 2010, when at KVCC's invitation, Mr Small, NHS Highland General Manager addressed the Council about the very important matter of the future of St Vincent's Hospital. At the April meeting, KVCC had invited representatives from the other Badenoch Councils to be present and the meeting had also been attended by a good number of members of the local communities.

Planning matters had dominated, with several major issues likely to affect the community, especially the planning application for 300 new dwellings at the northern end of Kingussie above Dunbarry and Kerrow. On several occasions the Council had been misquoted and some individual Councillors had unjustifiably come under fire. The Chairman felt it was important to set the matters straight. He reiterated that the Council

does not object in principle to new housing developments, but they were critical of the size and nature of the application to build 300 new dwellings. New developments are important if the area is to thrive and grow economically and new homes are needed, especially for local, as well as younger families. New, properly affordable homes are badly needed for local people; but the nature of the proposed development is likely to result in yet more holiday homes with little benefit to the local community. The Chairman hoped that as a result of the Council's presentation at the National Park Board's Planning determination meeting on 30th April, where the need for better consultation between developers and communities was made clear, a good level of dialogue can be established between the Council and the community, and the developers and their agents to resolve outstanding problems.

Other important planning matters included an application by Scottish Water for the provision of a new waste water treatment works. The Council had responded to the planning application in the autumn 2009 expressing concerns about several design aspects that could result in bad odours pervading the town, potential flooding of parts of the town and also safety concerns about site access via the bridge over the R. Gynack at the entrance to the High School. On other planning matters, the Council's comments always had the welfare of the whole community in mind.

4. Treasurer's Annual Report (Cr T Wade, Treasurer)

(i) Community Council accounts

Cr Wade presented the audited accounts and spoke to them briefly. The income for 2009/10 included an annual grant from Highland Council slightly in excess of £1841 this year. Grants had also been received from the Highland Council's discretionary fund and the Cairngorms National Park for the provision of new town gateway signs and associated floral decorations as part of the "Our Community" project. The Council had made a donation towards the commemorative seat in the memory of the late Alexander Bennett. Other outgoings included several non-recurring sums, as a result of decisions taken by the Council as a whole and by individual Councillors during the year, e.g. for honoria and for the purchase of duck food for use at the Glebe Ponds. Other expenditure included payment for the consultancy work incurred for the Gynack Bridge and Gynack walks project carried out on behalf of KVCC by Kingussie Community Development Company. A donation had also been made to the Pipe Band.

The reserve fund held in the Scottish Building Society had earned virtually no interest in the past year and stands at £1815.16.

Cr Wade spoke about the decision made by the previous Council to discontinue the long standing successful fund raising event at Ruthven Barracks because of problems arising from the poor behaviour of drunken youths. While he supported the decision, he regretted it meant the Council no longer had a similar means of raising funds for good causes in the Community.

(ii) Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

In presenting the accounts Cr Wade spoke about two fund raising schemes that usually benefit the party:

(a) The new owners of the Topsy Laird no longer run the Bonus Ball competition and this was a loss to the funds.

(b) The contents of the small cash bottle collection scheme run by the Silverfjord Hotel was stolen earlier in the year and the Police investigation was still ongoing. Cr Wade said he did not know how much money was missing, but he hoped eventually the scheme would be run again.

A donation had been gratefully received from the Kingussie Golf Club. After payments were made to the Co-op and the Star Hotel for the meals, gifts and raffle prizes, the fund was still very healthy with more than £5000 in the account.

(iii) Kingussie Community Children's Christmas Party

The team organising the event is willing to continue doing so. Fund raising included a donation of £200 from the Kingussie Golf Club. After outgoing payments for party food and presents for each of the children, the fund still holds £1450.

Councillor Davidson proposed a vote of thanks to Cr. Wade for managing the accounts efficiently. There was a brief discussion and then the accounts were accepted as a true record. Proposed Cr Taylor, seconded Cr Wright.

5. Retirements

Three Councillors stood down at the meeting: Cr Wade announced his intention to retire from the Council after very many years with effect from the end of the AGM. Cr Emmett proposed a vote of thanks to Cr Wade for the long and valued service he has given to the Council and the Community.

The secretary then read out the letter Cr Neil MacAulay had written to the Chairman declaring his intention of retiring with immediate effect.

The Chairman announced that Cr Derek Whyte had also told him of his intention to retire at the AGM, but no letter had been received. In Cr. Whyte's absence it was assumed he had retired.

Councillors expressed their thanks to their retiring colleagues and wished them well for the future.

6. Election of Office Bearers

Cr Taylor proposed that existing office bearers should be reappointed to their posts for another year.

The motion was seconded by Cr Schofield and agreed unanimously by Councillors.

This still left a vacancy for the office of Treasurer and Cr Taylor offered to take on this role for one year. His offer was gratefully received.

Office bearers are as follows:

Chairman: Alan Davidson

Vice –Chair: Gwynneth Wright

Secretary Valerie Emmett

Treasurer: Joseph Taylor

Planning sub-committee: Ailsa Schofield, Alan Davidson

“Our Community Project” liaison team: Mairi Brown and Joe Taylor

Kingussie Community Development Company Liaison: Alan Davidson

Association of Cairngorms Communities Liaison: Valerie Emmett

Kingussie Business Forum Liaison: Gwynneth Wright

The secretary agreed to write to the Chairman of KCDC notifying him that Cr Davidson would still act as the liaison between KCDC and KVCC.

7. AOCB

None.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 2030 hours and was followed by the usual monthly business meeting of the Council.