

# KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2011

**Present:** Councillors Alan Davidson (Chairman), Gwynneth Wright (Vice-Chairman), Mr Joe Taylor (Treasurer & Projects), Mrs Mairi Brown (Projects), Mrs Ailsa Schofield (Planning & Acting Secretary) Highland Councillor David Fallows.

**Apologies:** Val Emmett.

**Visitors:** Sgt John Crawford (Northern Constabulary).

### 1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

The minutes were accepted as a correct record. Cllr Brown wished it to be minuted that she thought Cllr Schofield had done an excellent job in Secretary Val Emmett's absence.

Proposed: Cr Brown, seconded: Cr Taylor.

### 2. Matters Arising

- (i) **State of the High Street:** Cllr Wright asked what progress had been made regarding smartening up Kingussie High Street. Cllr Schofield read out the letter she had drafted and which had been sent to Transport Scotland in response to their letter of 1.9.11, relating to the painting of lamp standards, sorting out parking bay road markings, and resurfacing the footway near Columba Terrace. It was agreed that their response would be awaited with interest.
- (ii) **Website:** Cllr Schofield asked if anyone had any good pictures of Kingussie, or suggestions re content for the "About Us" page of the new website. Neither were forthcoming and Cllr Schofield was asked to put something suitable together for discussion at the next meeting.

### 3. Police Matters (Sgt John Crawford)

Sgt Crawford reported that the new Inspector based at Aviemore had been promoted and moved on, and that his replacement was not expected until December. PC Ian Campbell's post had been advertised. He said that there was not a great deal to report, although a stack of returned magazines left for collection outside the Co-op had been stolen, some of which were turned up on Jonathan's Brae. Two milk cages, the property of Robert Wiseman Dairies Ltd had disappeared from the rear of the Co-op.

Cllr Brown asked whether any progress had been made regarding "Twenty's Plenty" signs for the roads surrounding the Schools? Sgt Crawford replied that this came under the "Safer Schools" project and was a matter for the school Head Teachers. Cllr Schofield was asked to draft letters to the heads of the Parent Councils, ascertaining whether "Twenty's Plenty" signs were still required, whether they had a safe school route, what was its location and whether there were any problems. Once this information had been ascertained it should be emailed to Sgt Crawford, who could then take what ever steps were necessary.

Cllr Schofield said that she had been asked what could be done to stop trial bikes being ridden in Tom Baraidh woods and the adjacent fields, as they were cutting up the ground and causing a nuisance? It was ascertained that the same people as before were responsible. Sgt Crawford said that in the event of it happening again the Police should be contacted immediately, but that it would be difficult to put a stop to it without a formal complaint being made.

**Treasurer's report.** (Cllr Mr Taylor)

Cr Taylor presented his monthly report (copy appended to the minutes) and said that the Star Hotel still had a one gallon bottle of coins for the OAP's Christmas Party fund which needed collecting and the contents counting. He said that he had settled the bill for the use of Talla nan Ros. Cllr Schofield passed on an invoice for £10.80, the cost of registering the domain name for the new community council website.

**4. Planning Matters** (Cllr Mrs Schofield)

Cllr Schofield said that there had been nothing on the Weekly lists needing attention, but that she had received an email from the Highland Council regarding Community Benefit (not to be confused with Planning Gain). Community Benefit is a "goodwill" contribution voluntarily donated by a developer for the benefit of communities affected by development where this will have a long-term impact on the environment, and Highland Council had asked if the Community Council wished to negotiate the benefit or whether they would prefer Highland Council to see to it. This related to an application by Pitmain Estate to build a hydro power scheme and reconstruct the dam on Loch Gynack. After discussion, it was decided that this was best left to the Highland Council.

**5. Highland Councillors Report** (Cllr David Fallows)

Councillor Fallows reported that he had nothing of any significance to impart as he was still catching up with things after his return from holiday. He said he was pleased to see that the railway foot-bridge had been repaired and in use again, and was surprised and delighted to hear that the Courthouse project appeared to be on again. Discussion ensued regarding allotments and the acquisition of suitable land for them.

**6. The Am Fasgadh project: Progress report** (Cllrs Brown, Taylor & Schofield)

Cllr Brown said that the Community Right to Buy application was being progressed and that she understood the printed version exceeded nine inches in height! She then gave a report on a meeting held between ARC (Am Fasgadh Regeneration Company (Kingussie Ltd)) representatives, Cllr's Brown, Taylor and Schofield, Kingussie Business Forum representative David Adamson, Highland Council Corporate Manager William Gilfillan, and other Highland Council officials. The meeting discussed the community acquisition of the old Folk Museum site and re-development of the former Court House building. At its conclusion, Mr Gilfillan indicated that in principle the Council had no objection to a community acquisition of the former folk museum site, with the exception of the plot of land which had planning permission in principle for a pair of semi detached bungalows. It was drawn to the Council's attention that the Scottish Government's preferred option was for communities to be offered a twenty five-percent discount when acquiring assets for community use.

Discussion ensued and it was felt that all areas of the town should be linked in to benefit the whole town, and that one way to link things together would be to have a town trail. It was understood that

KCDC intended to put this on the agenda for their October meeting. Cllr Brown said that she wished to arrange a meeting with Simon Green of the Royal Commission of Ancient and Historic Monuments Scotland (R.C.A.H.M.S) and KCDC, to see if things could be progressed further. Cllr Schofield said that the whole community council should congratulate Mairi on the amazing work she had done to date to bring about a community acquisition of the former folk museum site, as without her it would not have got this far.

**7. Glebe Ponds (Cllr Wright)**

Cllr Wright said that she had been doing her best to try and sort out the problems surrounding the Glebe Ponds. She had ascertained that planning permission was not required for the greenhouse and poly-tunnel as both had been in situ in excess of ten years without any complaints having been made. Comment was passed that this was not considered to be an issue. She went on to say that she had arranged an open meeting at Talla nan Ros to discuss to discuss the maintenance issues and find a suitable solution to them. She hoped that Ward Manager Sue Palmer and Highland Council Ranger Duncan McDonald would be present.

The Laird of Glentromie Mr Michael Hone, had kindly indicated that he would be happy to assist with removing some of the excess duck population and also suggested that barley bales would help to clear the water. It was hoped that works could be undertaken by volunteers from the High School or people on community service orders. Donnie Grant and the Kingussie Community Development Company had also offered to help. Discussion ensued re this and it was pointed out that the pathway was slippery and really needed resurfacing, which was a major project. Cllr Wright said that she had contacted the "Beechgrove Garden" team and expected to receive an application form from them shortly. There was discussion re the possibility of funding from the Highland Council's Discretionary Fund, but it was pointed out that this needed to be applied for by a properly constituted body. It was believed that there was a bank account containing £462.40 held by people who had been looking after the Glebe Ponds on an informal basis. Cllr Davidson said that the Community Council would be happy to assist with grant aid if required, but that the Glebe Ponds were not and never had been a Community Council project.

**8. AOCB**

- (i) **Complaint re dog mess and broken glass at Campbell Crescent/Dunbarry Terrace Play Park:**  
Cllr Schofield said that she had received a complaint about dog mess and broken glass littering the play park at Campbell Crescent/Dunbarry Terrace play- park. The complainant had contacted Highland Council's Richard Porteous who had indicated that he would rectify the problem. Cllr Schofield had been asked whether there was any possibility of the play - park being fenced off to deter irresponsible dog owners from using it, and had said that she would look into it.
- (ii) Cllr Davidson said that he would shortly have a date for the OAP's Christmas party which he would circulate as soon as possible, and would appreciate as much help as possible on the day.
- (iii) Cllr Schofield confirmed that she had submitted nominations for Robert Kelly and Charlie Young and his team for Highland Council Quality Awards, as per the decision made at the previous meeting.

## **9. Correspondence Received**

- (i) Letter and questionnaire from NHS Scotland relating to a free NHS news sheet publicising their services.
- (ii) Letter and brochure from the CNPA regarding forthcoming community consultation on the new draft Local Plan.
- (iii) Letter and CD from the CNPA relating to planning application for the installation of two hydro power schemes and reconstruction of a dam on Loch Gynack.

Date of Next meeting: Tues 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011 at 7p.m. in Talla Nan Ròs

**APPENDIX TO KVCC MINUTES – OCTOBER 2011**

**TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT OF ACCOUNTS.**

**KVCC Current account**

Balance	£3698.90
Cheque issued to Talla nan Ros	<u>18.00</u>
	£3680.90

**Reserve Fund**

Balance	£1816.62
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**Senior Citizens' Account**

Balance	£5065.99
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**Children's Community Christmas Party Account**

Balance	£2017.15
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J Taylor  
Treasurer