

KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2012 IN TALLA NAN RÒS, KINGUSSIE

Present: Crs Ms G Wright (in the chair), Mr J Taylor, Mrs A Schofield, Mr J Patchett, Mrs V Emmett; Highland Councillor Mr W Lobban.

Visitor: Mrs K MacLennan, Highland Council Tenant Participation Officer.

Apologies: Crs Mr A Davidson and Mrs M Brown.

Cr Ms Wright welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Mrs MacLennan to speak to the councillors. Mrs MacLennan began by explaining she has recently assumed responsibility as Tenant Participation Officer for Badenoch and Strathspey and the action she has taken to contact the 80 Highland Council tenants in Kingussie and find out about their view. She went on to outline her role and provided illustrations of projects she undertook in her previous post on the Black Isle with Council tenants in several communities in Ross-shire.

A discussion of some local issues followed. (i) **Housing Allocations:** Mrs MacLennan said that housing allocation policy is determined by the Scottish Government. It was agreed that not enough weight is given to local residency and connections, and there is a need for better communications with people on the housing list. (ii) **Dog Fouling:** this is a continuing problem on some streets and pathways in Kingussie. Mrs MacLennan mentioned a scheme known as the Green Dog Walker Scheme. She agreed to send copies of a leaflet about it to Cr Ms Wright, who will put copies in her salon to give out.

Councillors thanked Mrs MacLennan for her input and she left the meeting at this point.

1. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 12th June 2012

The minutes were approved as a correct record; prop Cr. Mr Taylor; sec. Cr Mrs Schofield.

2. Matters Arising.

Low Platform at Kingussie Railway Station: The secretary reported there has been no feedback from the meeting between Network Rail and the Disability Access Panel regarding the difficulties of accessing and leaving trains from the low platform. Cr Schofield reported that she has recently been told of a passenger who fell and was injured when alighting from a train. She had urged the person to write to First ScotRail and Network Rail and had provided contact addresses.

Town Floral Decoration Scheme. It was agreed that the hanging baskets were very attractive this year and helped to enhance the main streets. It was agreed Mr Tait should be thanked for organising and maintaining the floral displays. Cr Ms Wright reported that regrettably there had not been many donations to cover the costs. In discussion, councillors were generally of the view that the donation scheme had not been well publicised and that if there was good publicity many more people would subscribe. Cr Taylor undertook to go to see Mr Tait and discuss the matter with him so that the donation scheme could be better organised and subscribed to next year. Councillors agreed that if need be, the Council would provide a small additional donation this year.

Master Plan: meeting with consultants. The secretary reported that G. Johnstone had contacted her again recently requesting another meeting. Following consultation with councillors, she had arranged the **meeting for Tuesday 18th September starting at 7p.m. and had booked the foyer in Talla Nan Ròs.**

3. **Police Matters.** (The secretary had circulated copies of Insp. MacLeod’s monthly report in advance of the meeting.) In the absence of an officer from the Northern Constabulary, this item was not taken. There have been several reports of continuing anti-social behaviour in Ardvonie Park and the Market Stance, to the annoyance of local residents. The Secretary undertook to contact Sgt Crawford about this.

4. **Planning Matters** (Cr Mrs A Schofield)

Cr Schofield reported only one local planning application: for detailed permission for a house on Plot 3 Gynack Road, close to St Vincent’s Hospital on land owned by Davall Developments. She had already responded on behalf of KVCC concerning the need to keep the access roads to the site clean and clear of mud and debris, of concerns about hours of working given the proximity of the hospital and had offered some comments on the design of the property. She commented further that she intended to contact the planning office since the KVCC response was not showing up on the Highland Council website.

5. **Treasurer’s Financial Report** (Cr Mr J Taylor).

Cr Taylor presented his monthly financial statement:

(i) **Account balances:**

KVCC current Account	£3536.10
KVCC reserve Account	£1818.13
Senior Citizens’ Party Account	£4654.97
Children’s Party Account	£1945.44

(ii) **KVCC expenditure (cheques issued):**

Town Trail Project	£5267.61
Station Adopters	£599.31
Administration	£177.94
Total	£6004.86

(iii) **KVCC Income**

First ScotRail	£599.31
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Balance in KVCC Account

Town Trail Project grant	£1182.39
Station Adopters grant	£250.00
CC funds	£2103.71
Total	£3536.10

6. **Highland Councillor’s Report**

In the absence of Mr D Fallows this item was not taken.

Councillors, however, took the opportunity to update Cr Mr B Lobban on some local matters.

(i) **Town Trail Project.** Cr Mr Taylor reported that the project is almost complete. The leaflets have been printed and distributed. The interpretation boards are still awaiting installation. The project team was devastated to learn that Highland Council was asking for £1000 to install them, at the start of the project the team had been led to believe the Highland Council would support them and as a consequence they had not built in such a large sum for these costs, they were seeking help from other local groups to install the boards. Cr Mr Lobban undertook to raise the matter of these charges with Mr Porteous and Mr McIver in TECS.

- (ii) (ii) **20mph speed limits.** For several years KVCC has been trying to get “Twenties Plenty” signs installed on roads in Kingussie that are used by pedestrian and especially children on their way to school; in particular those roads that do not have pavements- so far without success. There has been a disappointing lack of response from the Primary School. Mr Lobban commented that there is still a good amount of funding in the budget as part of the “Safer Routes to School” project, but it needs the school to produce its safer routes plans. The secretary agreed to contact the Primary school again to try to arrange a meeting to discuss the project.
Cr Taylor commented that a school sign on the Ruthven Road is facing in the wrong direction and needs to be unbolted and turned around. Mr Lobban agreed to contact Mr McIver to have this rectified.
- (iv) **Ward Forum Date – 12th September:** Several councillors commented on the unfortunate timing of this meeting in Kingussie. It clashes with a major event in the Badenoch Centre as part of the annual BLAS festival, which is likely to attract a large local audience. Notification of the Ward Forum had only recently been received without any prior consultation; there are no posters or other details of the meeting to alert local people of this meeting. Several councillors have sent their apologies for non-attendance at the ward meeting since they have already purchased tickets for the concert!
(iv) **Absence of a Ward Manager:** The secretary commented on the serious lack of communication with Highland Council since the departure of Ms Palmer, the Ward Manager in June. There has been very little information coming from the official based in Nairn, who is temporarily acting as Ward Manager, she cited the lack of consultation about the Ward Forum date.
- (v) **Replacement Hospital.** Cr Mr Lobban commented that the next major issue for Badenoch and Strathspey will be plans for a replacement hospital; the NHS has set up a working party. A brief and productive discussion followed.

7. **Planning for the Highland Railway 150 year anniversary celebrations on September 2013.**

Mr Moffett, who intended to lead the discussions, had sent his apologies as he had been called away at short notice. It was agreed to defer the discussion until the October meeting.

8. **Recent Correspondence.**

The secretary provided copies of recent letters:

From the Minister for Transport in the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland about the proposed dualling of the A9. She agreed to contact the chairmen/secretaries of Aviemore, Kincaig and Newtonmore and Dalwhinnie Community Councils about collaboration in setting up a joint meeting when consultation is due.

From Stagecoach about Bus Services. She agreed to supply the organisation with an email address so they can provide useful information about their services.

From the Highland Licensing Board re door Entry Policy for licensed premises operating after 1 a.m. and Late Hours Catering licensing Hours Policy. It was agreed no response was required. The current arrangements do not affect Kingussie directly and only two such premises are open beyond 1 a.m. in Aviemore and current arrangements appear to be working satisfactorily there. It was agreed the arrangements mostly apply to Inverness.

9. **AOCB**

- (a) Councillors had learned that the Star Hotel has changed ownership at the beginning of September. Unless notification is received otherwise, they assume the booking for the Senior Citizens party in late November will be honoured by the new owners.
- (b) **Poor State of Pavements:** Cr Ms Wright read out a letter from a local disabled resident about the poor state of pavements on several streets leading to the centre of town. The resident has to use a mobility scooter and the poor surfaces make her journeys very problematic. A discussion followed, councillors commented on very longstanding problems that have not been addressed properly for several years despite previous letters and complaints to relevant officials about them. Cr Mrs Schofield reported recent contact with Mr Mitchell of Transport Scotland. The organisation is planning a survey of the footpaths along the A86 in Kingussie. She undertook to contact him again to find out the results. Depending on the outcome of this survey, it was agreed to write to Mr Mitchell at Transport Scotland and MSP Mr Thompson about the complaints regarding the pavements along the High Street (A86) and to Mr McIver at Highland Council with respect to pavement problems along Duke Street, Spey Street and King Street.
- (c) **Am Fasgadh.** Cr Mr Taylor updated colleagues about recent developments, especially the proposed open meeting on 1st October. In order to qualify for application for grants, the Am Fasgadh Regeneration Co. needs at least 100 members, so the current team has prepared letters to go out to all residents inviting them to join and to attend the meeting to learn more about the major community project.
- (d) **New Oral History Project “Telling our Stories”.** Cr Taylor reported that following on from the success of the Town Trail project, the team has applied for a grant to document local history by running an oral project based on interviews with local people and drawing on their memories. A team from the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) is involved and stayed on the town last week. They have already interviewed several longstanding residents and plan to return to carry out more interviews; they will also run a training course for interested people on techniques for recording oral history. The organisation is also hoping to devise a Heritage Trail for Kingussie.
A lecture on the Architecture of the area around Kingussie will be given by RCAHMS on Monday evening 10th September at 7.30p.m. in Talla Nan Ròs.
- (e) **Glebe Ponds.** Cr Ms Wright reported that with much help from members of COAT all the paths around the Glebe ponds have been resurfaced and are now wheelchair and push chair friendly.
- (f) **Grass Cutting.** Several councillors have had complaints about the standard of grass cutting of amenity areas by contractors. The contractors are not removing the cuttings from the football pitch and other areas which are usually kept clear. The decaying cuttings are making the surface slippery for players using the football pitch and are causing a nuisance in the changing rooms. Mr Lobban agreed to follow up the matter with Mr Porteous.

The meeting closed at 9 p.m.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 2nd October 2012.