

KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2012 IN TALLA NAN RÒS

Present: Councillors Mr A Davidson (Chair), Mr J Taylor (Treasurer), Mrs V Emmett (Secretary), Mrs M Brown, Mr J Patchett, Mrs A Schofield.

Visitors: Ms C Butler (Community Development Officer Badenoch & Strathspey), PC A Courts (Northern Constabulary).

Apologies: Ms G Wright (Vice-Chair).

1. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd October 2012.**

The minutes were approved as a correct record; prop Cr Mrs Brown, sec. Cr. Mr J Patchett.

2. **Matters Arising.**

Cr Mrs Brown reported that she has been invited to speak at the RCAHMS conference in Birnam on Saturday, 10th November.

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

The Police report for Badenoch and Strathspey for October compiled by Insp Macleod was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

PC Courts responded to Councillors' comments and questions on several items contained in the report.

Cr Mrs Brown raised the issue of a disturbance to a meeting held in the Parish Church Hall one evening earlier in October by intruders. Emergency services had been summoned. It appears that the central emergency database does not have the Parish Church listed as such; instead it is recorded as St. Columba's Church, a name that has not been used for some years. PC Courts gave advice as to who to contact to update the database.

Mrs Brown asked if any winter packs would be available again this year, PC Courts agreed to follow this up with Sgt Crawford.

In response to a question from Cr Mr Patchett, PC Courts reported that local calls to the Northern Constabulary before 8p.m are connected to the Aviemore Police station, but after 8p.m they are dealt with by the Inverness Police Centre. The Northern Constabulary also now takes emergency calls on behalf of the Highland Council. For help it is important to give full correct address details.

4. **Our Community A Way Forward – outcomes and the future.** (Ms C Butler)

Ms Butler outlined her role as the new Community Development Officer for Badenoch and Strathspey. She is currently based in the VABS office in Aviemore four days a week, (from Mon-Thursday) and she provided details of how she can be contacted.

(a) Initially she is carrying out an evaluation of the "Our Community, A Way Forward Project" on behalf of the CNPA. Several members of KVCC met Ms Butler before the formal Council meeting and provided information from Kingussie's perspective about the successes of their involvement in the project.

(b) Once the evaluation is complete, she anticipates she will also be involved in the new “Strengthening Communities” project alongside Ms Karen Derrick; Kingussie is taking part. A discussion about the new project ensued. Councillors agreed unanimously with Cr Mrs Brown’s suggestion that rather than focussing solely on individual communities, e.g. Team Kingussie, there was a good case for looking wider – to cover all the communities in Badenoch (Team Badenoch), especially since many of the issues facing communities are common to all these communities. Councillors agreed there is greater strength in working together to solve problems.

(b) Ms Butler briefly outlined her other principal role - a youth role, working with young people and including youth training. It is currently very open-ended and will include liaison with youth groups and schools.

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

- (i) A letter has been received from CNPA notifying KVCC that the planning application for a dwelling on land behind Middle Terrace is to be determined at the CNPA Planning meeting in Boat of Garten on Friday 9th November. Planners are recommending approval. (The developers won an appeal against planning refusal some years ago.) Cr Mr. Patchett asked for clarification about the number of properties to be built on the land and if approval was being sought for them all. Cr Mrs Schofield commented that while there is permission to build four houses eventually, the application was for one house only at this stage. Cr Mr Patchett regretted this approach which was likely to mean that householders whose properties abut the site might face disruption by building activities for a prolonged period of years if the site is to be developed piecemeal.
- (ii) Planning application to build a house in West Terrace has been refused on several grounds.
- (iii) Planning application to restore and extend Kildrummie on the Newtonmore Road. This listed building is a small timber house with notable architectural features. Crs Mr Davidson and Mrs Schofield had looked at the plans and formed the opinion that the owner’s planned work will be in keeping with the style of the building using high quality materials and should enhance the property. On behalf of KVCC Mrs Schofield has responded giving the project the Council’s full support.
- (iv) Meeting with Mr D McKee and Mr A Tait, CNPA planners. Mrs Schofield reported she has invited the planners to meet Councillors to review aspects of the developers’ revised master plan for the “300 house development” about which councillors still have concerns. They have agreed to join KVCC on Wed 21st November on site.

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

Cr Taylor presented his monthly financial statement:

Account Balances	KVCC Current Account	£5397.45
	KVCC Reserve fund	£1818.13
	Senior Citizens’ Christmas Party Fund	£4654.97
	Children’s Party Fund	£1945.44
Expenditure	Town Trail	£44.39
	Station Adopters’	£99.71
	Admin.	£20.00

Balance in the KVCC Account

Town Trail Project grant	£1138.05
All Our Stories Project Grant	£500.00
Station Adopters Grant	£155.29
KVCC funds	£3604.11
Total	£5397.45

7. Highland Councillor's Matters

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

8. Road Safety

(i) **Twenty's Plenty.** Mrs Brown regretted the lack of progress and that the Primary school is not responding. After discussion about how to progress "Safer Routes to School" for Kingussie, it was agreed to write again to Ms Snodgrass, the Head teacher of the Primary School and to the chair of the Parent Council to invite them to a meeting to discuss the project.

(ii) **Complaint about the state of Pavements in Kingussie.**

Cr Mrs Emmett read out the letter received at the end of October from Mr McIver, Highland Council's Principal Engineer for B&S. The letter is in response to a letter of complaint sent to him after the September KVCC meeting. In his reply Mr McIver confirms that the Council is aware of the condition of footways in Kingussie. It is unlikely that footway resurfacing or restructuring will be undertaken, however, because other areas of B&S are in need of more urgent repair. He also confirmed that some minor surface repairs to footways were recently carried out in Kingussie to ensure they are free from defects and he reminded councillors that the western footway in King Street was reconstructed in 2009.

Mr Dave Thompson MSP also wrote to the Chief Executive on our behalf and he has received an almost identical response from Mr. Gillies, Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Services.

In the ensuing discussion, Cr Taylor pointed out the recent minor repairs in Duke Street and outside the Iona Gallery appear to have been done using only gravel and no tarmac, as a consequence most of the gravel has already been washed away by rain. Cr Mrs Schofield confirmed a similar situation along parts of Dunbarry Road.

Mrs Schofield confirmed that she would contact Transport Scotland to enquire about progress with their survey of footways along the High Street.

9. Senior Citizen's' Christmas Party

Cr. Mrs Emmett reported she had written a letter to the new Manager of the Star Hotel confirming the booking and the terms for the party to be held there on Sunday 25th Nov.

Cr Davidson reported that application forms have been placed in the Post Office and at the Wright Style and posters have been put up. Arrangements were discussed. Additional offers of help on the day have been received from the Postmaster, Mr Kelly and from Ms Margaret Gowans; entertainment in the upstairs lounge after the lunch is in process of being confirmed and is likely to include Kit and John Harling, Nigel Dyson, piper Sandy MacDonell, and the Clansmen (if they are available.)

10. AOCB

- (i) **Kingussie a Little Town of Festivals.** Cr Mrs Emmett reported she had heard that afternoon that the application made by KVCC on behalf of the community organisations to the Ward Discretionary Fund for a grant towards the costs of promotional material is successful. The project has been awarded £500 towards the costs of printing and distributing a leaflet advertising all the monthly festivals plus posters. The leaflets will be distributed by Landmark.
- She had received a communication from Mrs Graham, project coordinator asking if KVCC will act as the lead body in applying to the CNPA to use the “Brand” on the promotional materials. Councillors agreed.
- History Festival:** Mrs Brown reported that KVCC is acting as lead body for the new project “All Our Stories” and she asked if KVCC will also be the lead body for the proposed History Festival. She suggested it is run over the weekend of 6/7 April 2013. A short discussion followed about what would be involved and what expertise would be required. Mrs Brown commented that a coordinator will be hired for the “All Our Stories” project and the festival might tie in with this; she is also in contact with RCAHMS and will seek some advice/expertise from them. She undertook to speak to Claire Ross at CNPA to find out if some of the Cultural Heritage Officer’s time could be given to the event.
- (ii) **Post Office**
- Cr Mr Davidson expressed concerns about the future of Kingussie Post Office. Officials from the Post Master General’s office have recently visited the Post Office to discuss changes (reductions) to the services that can be offered in Kingussie. In the ensuing discussions councillors shared the concerns and expressed the view that the PO seems to be cutting services to make sure the Kingussie branch can no longer be operated economically as a freestanding facility. Cr Mrs Schofield reminded Councillors that at a meeting with MP Danny Alexander, he had promised that Kingussie PO would not close under his watch! This promise no longer looked certain. It was agreed that a letter should be sent again to Mr Alexander expressing KVCC’s serious concerns.
- (iii) **Ardvonie Park Steps.**
- Cr Mr Patchett reported he had received reports from some elderly residents that the steps and handrails leading up the slope from Ardvonie Park to Tait’s Brae are in a poor state of repair. It was agreed that this problem should be reported to Mr Richard Porteous.

The meeting closed at 9 p.m.

Councillors thanked Ms Butler for taking part in the meeting.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 4th December in Talla Nan Ròs at 7 p.m.