

# KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2012 IN TALLA NAN RÒS.

**Present:** Crs. Ms G Wright (in the chair), Mrs M Brown, Mrs A Schofield, Mrs. V Emmett, Mr J Taylor, Highland Councillor Mr D Fallows.

**Apologies:** Mr A Davidson, Mr J Patchett, Mrs K MacLean

**Visitors:** Sgt J Crawford, Northern Constabulary.

The secretary gave the apologies for Ms MacLean, Highland Council, who was due to speak to the meeting about her work as Community Development Officer for Services to Older People. She was unable to make the meeting due to icy roads and snow.

1. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2012.**

The minutes were accepted as a correct record. Prop: AS, sec: MB.

2. **Matters Arising.**

**Point 4.** The secretary made one amendment: Ms Butler (VABS), who attended the meeting in October will not be involved with the Strengthening Communities Project. She will concentrate on her other roles in VABS as noted in the minutes.

**Point 9. Senior Citizens' Christmas Party.** Councillors, who had attended the party on 25<sup>th</sup> November, unanimously agreed that it was very successful and the Star Hotel staff had done the partygoers proud. It was proposed that letters of thanks should be sent to the Star Hotel and the entertainers. The secretary agreed to draft letters and send them to the Chairman for signature and posting.

**Point 10 AOCB –Little Town of Festivals:** Mrs Brown reported that her input at the RCAHMS conference in Birnam about the development of the Town Trail and the Trail leaflet was well received. She received offers of help with the Heritage project from members of several academic institutions who were present. The young trainees did a presentation on the Oral History project that they piloted in Kingussie; this will be developed further in the spring. The project has been awarded one of only 50 Heritage Lottery grants.

**Post Office.** In Cr Patchett' absence, the secretary read out a copy of the letter he had received from the MP Mr Alexander. Councillors agreed that it did not take the matter any further, nor give any firm reassurances about the future of the Post Office and the Postmaster.

**Ardvonie Steps:** Cr Mrs Schofield agreed to contact Mr Shaun Finnie, who has succeeded Mr Porteous at TECS about the need for repairs.

3. **Police Matters**

The CI's monthly summary report was distributed at the meeting.

Sgt Crawford reported on the previous month's statistics for the Kingussie area. Most of the road figures relate to offences on the A9. The camera enforcement van has visited the Newtonmore Road in Kingussie though, and some incidents might relate to offences picked up here.

Cr Mrs Brown asked if any survival packs are still available for donation to elderly and vulnerable people. Sgt Crawford confirmed he still has a few packs and he will liaise with Mrs. Brown about them.

In response to a question from Cr Ms Wright asking if a complaint had been received on Shopping Sunday about loud music being played by a music group based in the entrance to the Police Station, Sgt Crawford said he was unaware of any such complaint but he would investigate.

In the absence of other questions, Sgt Crawford left the meeting at this point.

#### 4. Planning Matters

(i) **Housing development in Kingussie.**

Cr Schofield back reported on the very useful recent meeting between several councillors and Mr McKee and Mr Tait, members of the CNPA planning team, about matters of concern with respect to the proposed major housing development. Councillors expressed serious concerns about the apparent intention by the developers to use Dunbarry Road as an access for up to 55 houses from part of the site, despite one of the conditions imposed by the CNPA in granting permission does not allow such use. After profitable discussions, councillors had accompanied the planners for a walk along East Terrace so they could see for themselves the problems of using this road as an access/rat run if new residents were allowed to exit the site via Kerrow Drive and Dunbarry Road.

Mrs Schofield then read out a draft letter to the CNPA about matters of concern arising from the developers' consultants' recent exhibition in Kingussie. Councillors agreed the letter should be sent.

**Advice about Letters of Objection to planning applications:** The planners suggested that local people wishing to object should not send in their letters of objections until the developers submit their detailed planning application. They advised strongly against proforma letters or petitions, which do not carry much weight. More notice is given to individually written letters and these will be very important.

**Section 75 agreement:** Mrs Schofield reported she had recently learned that as part of the Section 75 agreement and without consultation, KVCC will receive £2,500 as a contribution towards Community Care. This is to be granted within 28 days of the occupation of the first dwelling house on the development site conditional on it being spent within five years, otherwise it must be returned to the developers with accrued interest.

**Highland Council:** Cr Schofield then commented that, as part of KVCC's and local residents' concerns about using Dunbarry Road as an access, she had contacted Mr MacIver, the B&S principal road engineer in TECS, to find out what Highland Council knew about the consultants' proposals and what response THC has made. When she was finally able to make contact, he appeared to be very reluctant to meet KVCC. Cr Fallows undertook to contact Mr. Neil Gillies, TECS Director to find out why officials are unwilling to meet KVCC to discuss their concerns.

**Transport Scotland:** Mrs Schofield reported she had also contacted Mr Mitchell at Transport Scotland and she read out his response. No recent discussions have taken place between Transport Scotland and any developers proposing any developments affecting the A86 through Kingussie.

Cr Fallows suggested that councillors should undertake a survey of the number of school pupils using Dunbarry Road and adjacent roads on their way to and from school.

(ii) **Weekly List.** Cr Schofield reported nothing relevant to the KVCC area. Cr Fallows asked if KVCC had given a response to a recent application for a conservatory in Manse Road, as the planners had

recommended refusal. Cr Schofield replied that she had not offered a response on behalf of KVCC since councillors saw nothing to object to and did not think the application was an issue.

## 5. Treasurer's Financial Report.

Cr Mr Taylor provided his usual monthly summary report:

Current account	£5365.54
<b>Recent expenditure:</b>	
Cheques issued to value of	£51.91
Payment for Wreath for Remembrance Day	£28.15
Website	£28.76
Income:	
Lodgements (Kingussie Festivals)	£20.00
<b>Balance in KVCC Account</b>	
Town Trail Grant	£1138.05
Station Adopters' Grant	£155.29
CC Funds	£4072.20
Total	£5365.54
Reserve Fund	£1818.08
Senior Citizens' Christmas Party Acct.	£4679.97
Children's' Christmas Party Acct	£1945.44

Cr Mr Taylor reported that KVCC account still has not been credited with the £500 grant from the Ward Discretionary Fund for the Little Town of Festivals project, despite notification of the award some time ago. He intended to contact Louise Clark, B&S Ward Manager about it.

## 6. Highland Councillor's Report: (Cr Fallows).

Cr Mr Fallows reported that Highland Council has agreed to the sale of the allotment site at the Kingussie Folk Museum site to Am Fasgadh Regeneration Co. for £1 plus legal expenses. A proper plan of the land to be transferred is being prepared.

The budgets for 2013/14 and 2014/15 are occupying a good deal of Councillors' and Officers' time, since considerable savings have to be made. A difficult area for making savings is the cost of operating local Service Points.

The Council aims to make progress with refurbishment of the Court House in Kingussie in 2103/14; the budget allocation for the work is in place.

## 7. Notices, Updates and Correspondence.

- (i) **Strengthening Communities, Team Kingussie Meeting.** The secretary reminded councillors of the forthcoming meeting on Monday 190<sup>th</sup> December in Talla Nan Ròs. All the councillors reported their intentions to attend.

- (ii) **Notice of Public Consultation about dualling of the A9.** The secretary distributed information about the forthcoming exhibition and public consultation in Talla Nan Ròs on Wednesday 12 December from noon to 7p.m. Transport Scotland hopes to start construction of the section from Kincaig to Dalraddy in 2015/16. Several councillors indicated they planned to attend.
- (iii) **Strengthening Communities:** communities led renewable workshop in Boat of Garten on Wed. 12 December: invitation to attend a day's workshop. Most of those present doubted if they would be able to attend due to other commitments.
- (iv) **Notice of overnight closures of the A86 for essential works letter from Scotland TransServ.** Essential works have to be carried out due to failure of the Auchmore retaining wall along the A86 between Creag Dubh and Cluny Castle. Work will begin on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013 with overnight road closures of the A86 between 2200 and 0600 hrs Mon –Thurs. Traffic will have to use alternative routes as follows:  
Westbound use the B9150 from Newtonmore onto the A9 at Ralia junction.  
Eastbound use the A889 onto the A86 Drumgask junction to the A9 Dalwhinnie junction.
- (v) **Letter from the Abernethy Presbytery about changes in the Highland Council's funeral arrangements.** Cr Mr Fallows reported that Cr Lobban has raised the matter with Richard Grant in Highland Council. It transpires that the policy about funeral arrangements has not been changed as intimated in the letter, it is still necessary to provide two days clear notice of work to be done for a burial. In some circumstances, depending on the timing and day of first notice, this could amount to four days between notification and burial. The Council still aims to continue to offer two burials ad day depending on the location and availability of the two teams of two men to do the work at the graveyards. No change of policy has been put before the TECS committee.

#### 8. AOCB

Cr Mrs Schofield requested a formal record in the minutes of the community's thanks to Christmas Lights team: Ian Smith, Norman Holmes, Calum MacRae and Neil MacAulay for their excellent work in putting up the lights along the High Street and the Christmas tree outside the Court House. The annual auction to raise funds for the lights had been a success again. Shopping Sunday was also deemed a success; although it was not as busy as last year, there had been a very pleasant and relaxed atmosphere in the town. The local shops and other organisations who had taken part were thanked for their work in promoting Kingussie.

**Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2013.**