



KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON **TUESDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2014 IN TALLA NAN RÒS AT 7p.m.**

Present: Crs. Mr A Davidson (Chair), Ms G Wright, Mrs A Schofield, Mrs M Brown, Mr J Taylor, Mr J Patchett, Mrs V Emmett; Highland Councillor Mr D Fallows; Sgt J Crawford (Police Scotland).

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2013

The date of the previous meeting was corrected and then the minutes were approved as a correct record. Prop. AS, sec. MB.

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Treasurer's Financial Report (Cr Mr Taylor)

Cr Taylor presented his monthly report (appended.)

Donations of £66.00 were received at the exhibition evening for "All Our Stories" in December.

At present, the Little Town of Festivals account is in deficit, not all the community organisations involved with the Little Town of Festivals events have paid their £20 donations towards cost of the publicity leaflets. JT undertook to contact Mrs Graham to ask her to chase them up.

All the Christmas party accounts have been settled.

4. Police Matters (Sgt Crawford)

Cr Mrs Emmett commented that she has not yet received the monthly report for January from Insp. MacLeod.

Sgt Crawford reported it has been a quiet month with few incidents. However there have been two recent incidents of note: a serious assault outside the Star Hotel on the 1st February and an 18 year old male has been charged; theft of number plates from a vehicle and their illicit use on a van. This vehicle was later seen on CCTV in Fort William at a filling station and the thieves "stole" fuel from the pumps. They were later apprehended and charged with theft.

Cr Davidson commented that the long term parking issue on the High Street mentioned in a previous meeting appears to be partly resolved. Some of the vehicles have been removed. Sgt Crawford said he would alert the team and they would keep an eye on the matter.

Traffic Wardens: In a discussion about the lack of Traffic Wardens, Sgt Crawford and Cr. Fallows explained that alternative arrangements are not yet in place and were unlikely to happen until late summer.

Sgt Crawford informed councillors his role in the new Force has changed and he hoped to be able to attend Council meetings regularly in future. He went on to explain the new patterns of working for police teams. In reply to a question from Cr Ms Wright he confirmed the understanding that there will be a police presence in the Court House when the building works are complete.

Letter to Police Scotland: Cr Mr Patchett commented that in view of the discussions he no longer wished to put forward a draft letter for Police Scotland.

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

Cr Schofield informed councillors about recent planning approvals and applications:

- (i) Approval has been granted with conditions for a new Biomass cabin at St Vincent's Hospital;
- (ii) KCDC's application for the mini-hydro scheme has been approved; equipment is being ordered so work can begin shortly;
- (iii) KVCC has responded to and supported an application for works at Gordon House (a listed building.)

She then brought councillors up to date with the appeal made by Davall Developments on 18th December for their housing development. There will not be a public inquiry. The papers are now all with the Government reporter, who is only considering written submissions; this includes letters etc. from the public.

6. **Highland Councillors' Report** (Cr Mr Fallows)

Cr Fallows informed the Council that he recently stood down as deputy leader of the SNP on the Highland Council; he found he had too many diary clashes with other duties. He is still chairman of the finance, housing and resources committee.

Traffic Wardens. He explained that the traffic warden implementation report had to wait until the post of traffic wardens was "decriminalised" and the Highland Council could then introduce a new wardening system. The economic viability of several alternative systems for rural areas will be examined plus how to introduce a new system. There might be the possibility of employing "roving wardens" who would visit different areas unannounced.

Departmental reorganisation in THC. A reorganisation of senior management in THC has been effected with senior managers assigned changed departmental responsibilities; there has been no change in the number of heads of service however. The new director of Education, Adult and Children's services is still to be appointed.

Communications with Community Councils. Councillors raised the matter of communication between ward managers and community councils, and also Ward Forums.

Mrs Emmett commented that previously, councillors were of the view that they were very well informed and as a consequence they felt valued, well consulted and that their opinions were taken notice of. Since reorganisation of the ward structure, the communication flow was very much reduced. Along with fellow councillors she was concerned about the Community Council's role as a conduit between Highland Council and the community on community matters.

Other councillors commented on the lack of ward forums and also the style of the few recent meetings that had taken place. Kingussie councillors had always attended the forums and felt the meetings were consultative with some good discussions; they also provided opportunities for networking with councillors from other CCs. The style of recent meetings was top down, used just as a means of imparting information and with no opportunity for discussion, or meeting other councillors to hear their opinions and to network with them.

Cr Mr Fallows expressed surprise at these views and said he would raise them at the next area meeting of the Badenoch councillors with officials.

7. **Senior Citizens' Christmas Party- planning for the future.** (Cr Mr Davidson)

The Chairman reviewed the party at the Duke of Gordon Hotel. All bills have been settled. Councillors agreed it was a great success and everyone who attended enjoyed it. The venue was excellent; the meals were good, the facilities are all on one floor removing the problem of negotiating stairs for less mobile and disabled participants, the staff welcoming and helpful. The large increase in the cost of holding the party at the Duke of Gordon Hotel however, has serious implications for future events if the current patterns of providing the meal, a welcoming drink and wine at the table without charge is maintained for all the senior citizens at the party.

- (i) The cost of the 2013 party came to £1619.80; £512.06 more than in 2012. The big increase was due to the increased cost of the meals (an increase of £6.00 per head).
- (ii) The bottle collections at various venues raised £556 in 2012, but dropped to just £144 in 2013. The donations bottle on the bar at the Golf Club had been removed without informing the KVCC chairman, because the club had decided to collect for another charity; and donations from the Star Hotel had also dropped as a result of problems there.
- (iii) The balance in the party fund is £2528.55, enough to cover the cost of a party in 2014 if the 2013 pattern is maintained, but insufficient for any future parties without major fundraising or a change in the "rules".

A discussion followed about alternatives:

- (iv) Retain the 2013 venue, but partygoers should be asked to pay part of the cost of the meal, e.g. £10 of the £16 paid per head in 2013. Councillors were of the opinion that most partygoers are likely to be willing to pay towards the costs.
- (v) Request donations towards the cost at the party, rather than levy a fixed payment in advance. The risk is that donations might not be sufficiently substantial to reduce the overall cost borne by the party account.
- (vi) The Chairman informed councillors that if the Topsy Laird is considered as a venue, the owner is offering to provide meals for £7 per head. The venue can accommodate 100 guests if additional trestle tables are acquired. Councillors queried if the venue was large enough for the afternoon entertainment and dancing.
- (vii) Councillor Mrs Brown asked if the Council is targeting the right client group. She is aware of a number of housebound senior citizens and some in the sheltered accommodation who did not choose to attend. Should councillors consider a totally new format?
- (viii) Consider organising a fund raising activity.

Through their networks and community contacts, Councillors agreed to talk to partygoers about the financial problem and seek their views of the options. The item to be placed on a future agenda.

8. **Heritage Festival** (Cr. Mrs Brown)

Mrs Brown informed councillors of the dates of this year's festival: 4th to 6th April.

She outlined the programme which is almost finalised:

A representative of the Royal Commission of Ancient and Historic Monuments Scotland (RCAHMS) is to lead an architectural walk around the town.

Historic Scotland has agreed to lead a guided walk and interpretation of Ruthven Barracks.

John Robertson will give an illustrated talk in Talla Nan Ròs about his recent historical research. This will include the history of the 1914 shinty match against Kyles.

Kingussie Camanachd club will be playing against Kyles on the Saturday afternoon exactly 100 years after the memorable 1914 match.

Cat Vis-Christie of the RSPB's Futurescapes team will give a talk about the history of the Insh meadows. On the Sunday, the evening service will be held in Insh village church and Donald Barr of Newtonmore will read the lesson. His great-grandfather was the lay preacher in the mid-19th century and he used to walk from Newtonmore to Insh each Sunday to preach. The churchgoers from Glenfeshie wove a plaid for him to wear to keep him warm. The Highland Folk Museum has this plaid and has agreed to loan it for display at the service.

Councillors agreed to meet the cost of hiring Talla Nan Ròs for the indoor events. The exhibits from the "All Our Stories" project will be on display for everyone to view.

9. **Healthcare Redesign** (Cr. Mrs Brown)

Mrs Brown provided a detailed review.

At a meeting in 2011 to discuss the state of the hospital buildings in Badenoch and Strathspey, attended by MSPs, Highland Councillors, Friends of St. Vincent's and those involved with the Therapy Garden, it was clear that despite the excellent quality of nursing care at St Vincent's, the building itself has a limited life span. Repairs to St Vincent's would cost £3.2 million and the costs would have to come out of the revenue budget, meaning that other health services would suffer.

In 2012 the NHS Highland Health Board began to explore the possibilities of provision of a new community hospital in Badenoch and Strathspey. The cost of a new hospital would come from the Scottish Government funds and not affect revenue funds. The health group has included representatives of Community Councils and their views have been listened to.

NHS Highland now intends to hold the required public consultations about alternatives during the first part of 2014. This will be wider than just consideration of hospitals. The group has looked at all healthcare services and consulted professional groups of health care workers and GPs.

The alternatives to be put forward in the consultation will be:

- (ix) Status quo. Continue to run the two hospitals as they are.
- (x) Patch up the two hospital using revenue funding, with one acting as a "hub" and the other "a spoke".
- (xi) Build a new community hospital with enhanced services paid for by the Scottish Government. The time scale to build and complete a new hospital is estimated to be 3-4 years.

The Health Board group recognises that the provision of good public transport will be vital.

The next meeting of the Board takes place on 4th March in Inverness; Mrs Brown will attend. The public consultation will take place over three months and the outcomes will then go to the Scottish Government.

10. **AOCB**

- (i) Councillors agreed to invite Mr Bray, the new Rector of the High School to meet the March meeting to discuss the promotion of good links between the school and the wider community in Kingussie. Mrs Emmett agreed to write to him.
- (ii) Cr Mrs Emmett mentioned that the CNPA is planning to hold a weekend Nature Festival in mid-May and has designated Kingussie as one of the three centres for nature related activities. The CNPA officials are inviting people to offer to run events.
- (iii) Cr Mrs Emmett drew councillors attention to a letter from the CNPA announcing that the proposed Local Development Plan has been sent to Scottish Ministers. A reporter will examine the

plans. Councillors were concerned to learn that the letter stated the Council's representations about the LDP have not been resolved; their understanding had been the points raised had been accepted. Mrs Emmett agreed to follow this up.

- (iv) C r. Ms Wright requested the Council to invite MS Howe, RCOP Highland Community Networker to the next meeting to discuss plans for Restructuring Care for Older People. Councillors commented there should only be one visitor at any meeting. Mrs Emmett agreed to contact Ms Howe and invite her to a meeting –timing to depend on the outcome of the invitation to Mr Bray.

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

Treasurer's Financial Report presented at the February 2014 meeting.

Balances

KVCC account	£6686.06
Senior Citizens' Party Fund	£2528.55
Children's Christmas Party fund	£1819.53

Lodgements

CNPA (All Our Stories)	£1486.32
All Our Stories	£66.00
Little Town of Festivals	£30.00
Administration	£75.00

Cheques Paid out

All Our Stories	£2402.13
Little Town of Festivals	£332.40
Railway anniversary & Station Adopters	£258.00
Administration	£106.00

Project Accounts

All Our Stories	£1596.44
Railway Anniversary & Station Adopters	£575.17
Town Trail	£368.85
Heritage	£535.80

KVCC Account	£3609.06
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Total: Projects & KVCC	£6686.06
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