



KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3rd JUNE 2014

Present: Community Councillors: Mr A Davidson, Mrs A Schofield, Mrs M Brown, Mr J Taylor, Mr J Patchett, Mrs V Emmett. Highland Councillor Mr B Lobban.

Apologies: Ms G Wright.

1. Minutes of the AGM held on 4th June 2013

The minutes were accepted as a correct record. (Prop. JT, Sec. AS) A copy of the minutes was signed by the Chairman.

2. Matters Arising

Road Signs: Mrs Schofield reported she has followed up this matter again recently. Action by Bear Scotland will take about six weeks.

Pavements: Highland Council is currently resurfacing the stretch from Manse Road to Gynack Street on the south side of the road only. Mr Taylor commented that they are working on Sundays, Mr Davidson explained the team is trying to be helpful and minimise the disruption to High Street businesses. The new drainpipes that cross the pavements have been fitted with non-slip surfaces. Opportunities have also been taken to patch some of the minor potholes in the road surface.

3. Chairman's Annual Report (Mr Davidson)

Mr Davidson presented an oral summary of the year ending May 2014. He reported it had been a good year overall with no major incidents. Councillors have been busily engaged in many community activities and projects.

Planning applications have been diligently pursued by Mrs Schofield to facilitate good quality detailed responses where appropriate by the Council. Disappointingly the Council's objections on behalf of the community about the use of Dunbarry Road by traffic likely to be generated by a major new housing development were unsuccessful; however construction traffic will not be able to use this route to the site. On behalf of all the councillors the Chairman thanked Mrs Schofield for her work.

Projects: Allotments and Growing spaces. He was pleased to report that the first part of Am Fasgadh Regeneration Company's, (ARC) major community project: the development of allotments and growing spaces for community use, has come to fruition. It is already benefitting residents and groups who have taken plots. He thanked the councillors who serve as directors of ARC for their hard work for the community.

Heritage: During the year several councillors have given much time on behalf of KVCC to the heritage projects: All Our Stories and the development of a Badenoch Heritage Strategy. The Town Trail has been successfully completed; in addition to leaflets available at local shops and accommodation providers, interpretation boards have also been installed in prominent locations.

The Little Town of Festivals is already having a successful second year. It was one of three projects shortlisted for the Creative Scotland award, and although it was disappointing that the project did not win, it was the only one completely organised and run by volunteers with no paid members of staff.

150th Anniversary of the Highland Main Railway Line through Kingussie. The celebrations in September 2013 were highly successful attracting much attention locally and nationally. The chairman thanked everyone who played a major part in organising the weekend's events.

During the year councillors have welcomed to their meetings several speakers about a wide range of community based topics. In April, the new Rector of the High School spoke about exciting developments at the school. The chairman hoped opportunities arise that will enable the school and council to develop closer links. In May, the council was joined by representatives of other Badenoch communities to learn from the NHS Highland team about plans for the re-design of healthcare in Badenoch and Strathspey, which include the planning of a new hospital.

The Senior Citizens' Christmas Party was a continued success attracting more partygoers in 2013, but the change of venue was much more expensive and donations were significantly lower in 2013. The Council will have to rethink the arrangements and explore alternatives if the parties are to continue.

Several important issues are likely to feature in the year ahead: the plans for the new hospital and other aspects of health care; the future of Service Points; and concerns about the local economy, especially the increasing number of empty local shops and other potential business changes on the High Street, all of which seriously adversely affect the townscape. As shopping habits change, the continued downturn in the economy of local retail businesses is also impacting on Newtonmore and Grantown on Spey.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked everyone for a sterling year.

4. Treasurer's Financial Report (Mr J Taylor)

The treasurer presented his financial report, and provided an oral commentary on some of the main items. (Copies of the financial statement circulated at the meeting.) The accounts have been checked by Peter Munro (Accountants) and found to be correct. The treasurer anticipated Mr Munro would require a fee this year because the accounts have been more active than in previous years; the Council has managed several accounts on behalf of other groups and of the several community projects

The annual grants from Highland Council have been reduced for rural councils while urban councils have benefitted. The 2014 annual grant to Kingussie was reduced to approximately half that for 2013. The principal expenditure by the community council is for the hire of the venue for council meetings. Councillors do not claim expenses for their work on behalf of the community. However, if the honorarium due to the secretary is not paid it has to be returned to Highland Council. The sum shown in the accounts this year covers two years: 2013 and 2014.

The grants received from the Cairngorms National Park and ScotRail have been for specific activities: heritage; Town Trail; the “All Our Stories” project; the station adopters’ scheme and railway anniversary celebrations. The projects are complete and all payments have been made.

As mentioned by the chairman the cost of the senior citizens’ Christmas party far exceeded the donations; without warning the Golf Club decided not to continue to collect donations and the donations collected at the Star Hotel were also down.

Councillors adopted the accounts as a true record and joined with the chairman in thanking Mr Taylor for his hard work in managing the accounts.

5. Election of Officers for 2014-15.

Mr Lobban took the chair for the elections of officers and representatives on outside bodies and groups.

Officer	Nomination	Proposer	Seconder	Outcome
Chairman	Alan Davidson	V Emmett	A Schofield	elected
Vice Chairman	Ailsa Schofield	M Brown	V Emmett	elected
Secretary	Valerie Emmett	M Brown	A Schofield	elected
Treasurer	Joseph Taylor	V Emmett	J Patchett	elected
Planning sub-group	Ailsa Schofield & Alan Davidson			elected

Representative on outside group

Youth Group	John Patchett
Kingussie Community Development Company	Ailsa Schofield
Kingussie Business Forum	Mairi Brown
Health Association of Cairngorm Communities	Mairi Brown
CNPA Planning Reps group	Valerie Emmett
	Ailsa Schofield

Mr Davidson resumed the chair after the elections.

6. AOCB

(i) Heritage Festival

Mrs Brown requested that the community council continues to organise the heritage festival as part of the Kingussie Little Town of Festivals programme.

Mrs Emmett suggested that apart from Mrs Brown herself, none of the other councillors is really knowledgeable about heritage matters, and since the Heritage Strategy group is constituted and up and running, the latter group should be asked to take on responsibility for the festival. This was generally agreed.

(ii) Walking Festival

Mr Patchett commented that he felt the organisers of the walking festival were missing opportunities to attract a wider group onto their walks. In 2013 and 2014 the walks took place on only one day

(Saturday). He wondered why there were no walks organised on weekdays, as happened elsewhere. Many potentially interested tourists might have missed taking part in the Kingussie event, since Saturday is usually a changeover day, with some tourists going home and others not arriving until later on Saturdays.

Since the festival is organised by KCDC it was agreed the matter was something they might wish to address.

The meeting closed at 8 p.m. and was followed by a talk from Ms Anne Howe about “Restructuring Care of Older People” (reported in the minutes of the June monthly meeting.)