



KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1st JULY 2014

Present: Councillors Mr A Davidson (Chair), Mr J Taylor (Treasurer), Mrs A Schofield, Ms G Wright, Mr J Patchett, Mrs V Emmett (Sec).

Visitors: Mr D MacLeod, Mr T Ramage.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 3rd June 2014

The minutes were adopted as a correct record. (Prop. AS, Sec. JT)

2. Matters Arising

Grass cutting: VE reported back about the problem with grass cutting by Highland Council contractors. The Council acknowledges there is currently a problem across Badenoch and Strathspey about removal of the cuttings; the matter is being actively pursued by their inspection team.

Rural Parliament: VE reported that the CNPA is holding a public meeting at the Lecht starting at 5 p.m. on Tuesday 26th August to discuss issues affecting this part of rural Scotland.

3. Police Matters

In the absence of an officer from Police Scotland this item was not taken.

Several councillors reported some recent incidents of vandalism – the painting of a tree and one of the interpretation boards along the Gynack trail; and the removal of one of the seats on Dunbarry Road. The latter has now been replaced. Mr Grant (KCDC) has worked hard to remove the paint from the interpretation board. It was not known if the incidents had been reported to the Police.

4. Treasurer's Financial Report

Mr Taylor presented his monthly financial report (appended).

The Little Town of Festivals (LTF) has now set up a committee to run the organisation of the festivals. The balance in their fund, held in KVCC's account, has been paid over to them.

5. Planning Matters

No matters to report.

6. Communication from Dochfour Estate

In advance of the meeting, VE circulated a communication from the Factor of the Dochfour Estate, about proposals to develop a piece of land for housing in Dunbarry Road. They are currently doing pre-application consultations before looking at a potential small housing development. They have consulted CNPA planners and the Highland Council planning department. They are seeking support from the Community Council.

A full discussion followed. Councillors reviewed the conditions attached to the first stage to the proposed large housing development at the top of Dunbarry Road, which will result in a significant increase in vehicular traffic, and the impact of further development along the road. They concluded they could not offer their support at this stage. AS undertook to draft a letter to be sent to the Estate explaining the reasons for the Councillors' decision.

7. Arrangements for the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

Mr Davidson reported problems for the future of the parties if the Duke of Gordon Hotel is the preferred venue. It is a very good venue, was much appreciated by the partygoers, but it is very expensive. The balance on the Party Fund would only just about cover the costs for two years and there would be problems in trying to raise substantial funds for future events. As reported in a previous meeting donations to the fund have fallen significantly. Mr Taylor commented that annual costs would be in the region of £1200. He suggested that the chairman might try to negotiate a better deal with the manager of the Duke of Gordon and also explore the possibility of asking partygoers to pay part of the costs. The chairman reported that the owners of the Topsy Laird are willing to provide a festive meal at a lower cost; their premises can take about 50-60 people. A discussion followed about the pros and cons of levying a charge for the event. Councillors agreed that partygoers might be asked to make a donation toward the costs this year. In conclusion it was agreed the chairman should approach the Topsy Laird to discuss terms.

8. AOCB

- (a) VE drew councillors' attention to the correspondence about WW1 commemoration events taking place nationally this year. Mr Patchett reported that the McPherson Museum in collaboration with the British Legion is holding an event on the 4th August and other events are being planned locally.
- (b) VE reported that a problem with the facility for recycling plastic waste at the Market Stance has been resolved, the skip has been returned.
- (c) Bank of Scotland – reduction in opening hours of the Kingussie branch. Mr Patchett reported customers and users are only learning of the Bank's decision to reduce opening hours if they visit the branch, customers have not been informed personally. The reason given for the decision is reduced footfall. The plan is to close the branch on Fridays, meaning that it will only be open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Councillors expressed concern that the decision could ultimately lead to closure of the branch altogether and the loss of yet another facility in the town. Mr Davidson undertook to write a letter to the Bank manager expressing councillors' concerns and the impact on the community and visitors.
- (d) Mr Patchett reported that the owners of the Star garage and their solicitor have still heard nothing from Highland Council about the purchase of their premises. Mr Ramage confirmed he had a similar report from one of the owners and they were still trading.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 2nd September 2014

**KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL – FINANCIAL REPORT
ACCOUNTS TO THE END OF JUNE 2014**

Bank Balances

KVCC	£4766.72
Senior Citizens' Party Fund	£2528.65
Children's Christmas Party Fund	£1552.26
Reserve Fund	£1821.27

Payments

Heritage Project	£131.14
Administration	£68.00
Donation to Town Flowers Project	£200.00
Station Adopters	£75.49
Little Town of Festivals	£110.74

Lodgements

Station Adopters	£75.49
Heritage Project	£80.00

Projects

Railway Fund	£575.17
Town Trail	£368.85
Heritage	£484.66
KVCC	£3338.04
Total	£4766.72