



KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2015 IN TALLA NAN RÒS

Present: KVCC Councillors: Mrs Schofield (Chair), Mr Patchett (Vice-Chair), Mr Taylor (Treasurer), Mrs Emmett (Sec.) Mrs Brown, Ms Wright. THC Councillor Mr Lobban, PC A. Courts (Police Scotland), Mr T Ramage (Strathy).

Apologies: Mr Fallows.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2nd December 2014

The minutes were approved as a correct record. (Prop. Mr Taylor, Sec. Mrs Brown)

2. Matters Arising

AOCB item - Senior Citizens and Children's Christmas Parties: Mrs Emmett reported a letter from the secretary of the Festivities committee. In order to take on responsibility for organising the Christmas parties in future, they agree to open two accounts, one for each fund and are in process of setting them up. As previously agreed, the funds currently held by KVCC will be given to the committee. Mr Taylor handed two cheques to Ms Wright to be given to the Festivities committee treasurer: £1374.97 for the children's party fund and £2841.48 for the senior citizens' party fund. Mr Taylor commented that the latter includes a donation from of £152.83 from the Star Hotel. Ms Wright commented that the committee's leisure insurance policy is being updated to include the two new activities.

3. Police Matters

In the absence of a copy of Insp. MacLeod's monthly report, PC Taylor gave an oral summary. There was a slight increase in alcohol related offences over the festivities period. The team has given priority to curbing alcohol fuelled offences by making visits to licensed premises and also giving attention to potential domestic abuse.

Traffic Incidents: There have been several snow related traffic incidents mainly on the A9, one involving several lorries resulting in overnight closure at Dalwhinnie. A number of seat belt offences have also been detected. The installation of average speed cameras on the A9 is having a beneficial impact. A car stolen from Kincaig was recovered at Dalwhinnie and the offender was apprehended further south. PC Courts stressed the importance of owners making sure their parked vehicles are properly secure at all times.

Firearms licence renewals are due – they are done at 5 year intervals.

Staff Changes: Insp. MacLeod has taken up a new post for training based in Glasgow. He has been replaced in the BSN command by Insp. Middlehurst, who is based in Nairn. Sgt Wemyss is now in

post and based in Aviemore. Several other new officers have taken up position in the area from other parts of Scotland.

Mr Patchett commented on the continuing problems of “illegal” parking along the High Street which often causes considerable problems for traffic trying to drive through the town.

Councillors regretted the loss of the Traffic warden and were of the view that an impromptu visit by a warden or officer and issue of a batch of parking fine tickets might serve as a warning for offenders.

Cr. Mr Lobban commented that parking offences are no longer the responsibility of the Police. Highland Council has taken on the responsibility for parking and dog fouling offences and is in the process of setting up procedures and recruitment of staff. The handover is taking time though.

4. Treasurer’s Financial Report (Mr Taylor)

Mr Taylor presented his monthly financial report (appended to the minutes)

He reported that two cheques for payments incurred for the children’s party still have to be presented and he has allowed for this in the transfer of the funds to the Festivities committee.

5. Planning Matters (Mrs Schofield)

Mrs Schofield summarised recent planning applications on the weekly lists and the action taken by the KVCC sub-committee:

8 Jan. list: renewal of existing permission on East Terrace. A neutral response, but reiterating the condition to avoid overlooking neighbours’ properties.

29 Jan. Pitmain Estate’s application to erect a garage block and workshop near the Lodge.

Councillors looked at plans and agreed a response. Mrs Schofield pointed out the CNPA has not called in the plans but have commented on the need to maintain routes of core paths in the vicinity.

Application Consultation. Mrs Schofield reported a request from the Planning Office for a comment on a new application to erect a steel portal frame workshop and garage for steel fabrication and mechanical services on Market Lane. (Mrs Schofield withdrew on grounds of neighbour interest.)

Councillors looked at draft plans and commented. The land is designated for economic activity in the Local Plan. They noted the design and visual appearance of the building and the surrounding metal security fencing. Councillors commented on the potential adverse visual impact for owners of a property immediately opposite the site and other domestic properties along the roadway. They agreed that establishment of a new business is welcomed, but the response should request that the industrial building and fencing should be made attractive as possible for the neighbours’ sakes.

Pre-application consultation. Mrs Emmett reported an email from Dochfour estates and their draft plans to tidy up the site of the old quarry on Dunbarry Road. Councillors looked at the draft plans and a lively discussion ensued. Councillors’ views were divided on the merits of a small housing development (four houses around a courtyard) and the problems of additional vehicles needing to use the road. Mrs Emmett and Mrs Schofield undertook to draft a response and circulate it round the Council before replying to Dochfour.

6. Highland Council’s Proposals for Service Points

In advance of the meeting all councillors were circulated copies of the policy document and consultation survey. Councillor Lobban provided his perspective on the proposals to close most service points in the Highland region, leaving very few with full service and other points downgraded to access only via the Internet and telephone in other locations. If the proposals are adopted it will

result in staff redundancies. The proposals will affect Badenoch and Strathspey: Kingussie and Grantown service points will close and be substituted by unmanned access points – one to be located in the Court House for Kingussie. The nearest full service point will be in Aviemore. Requests for interviews and meetings will have to be made via the Council’s call centre and this is currently proving difficult with considerable delays in completing arrangements.

A lively discussion ensued, with councillors expressing concerns about arrangements for registering births, deaths and marriages, etc. all of which require face to face meetings with a registrar; the lack of public transport requiring travel to Aviemore for face to face meetings, problems for people who do not use IT. It was suggested that staff, who will be working in the Court House, might be given responsibility for dealing with public requests and queries if and when required. Work currently done at central offices might also be dispersed across the region where job opportunities are few so as to keep rural locations open and staff still fully employed. It was agreed that a robust response is required. Mrs Schofield undertook to put an entry on the KVCC Facebook page. At the end of the discussion, all councillors agreed to send their considered comments to Mrs Emmett, who will prepare a draft response and circulate it in time for the March meeting.

7. Cancellation of a Bus Service by Citylink through Kingussie

A letter drafted by Mrs Schofield and Mr Patchett on this disturbing matter had already been circulated to all councillors and their views received. Mr Patchett was thanked for his diligent pursuit of the matter and the effect for residents. The letter has been sent to Citylink Bus co., Highland Council departments dealing with transport services, the B&S elected members, the MSP and MP. So far no response has been received from the bus company.

8. Dog fouling of public places

Several complaints have been received about dog fouling of pavements and paths both in the town and other public places. The loss of a designated dog warden is regretted. There is a shortage of dog litter bins in some of these places which are well frequented by dogs and their owners. Requests for additional bins from THC have been refused on account of costs and need for suitable locations where they can be emptied by refuse collectors. Mrs Emmett handed out some warning notices provided by the THC and several councillors took copies for putting up around the areas. Councillors commented that polythene litter bags are available for free at the Service Point as an incentive for owners to make sure their dogs do not foul the areas where they exercise their pets.

9. Recruitment of new councillors

With the resignation of Mr Davidson, the number of councillors is down to six – five elected and one co-opted. Mrs Schofield expressed the view that it was becoming urgent to recruit new members. The current rules allow the co-option of one further member, plus several associate members. Elections are due in June 2015. Mrs Schofield undertook to put an entry on Facebook.

10. AOCB

- (i) Caberfeidh Horizons is undertaking a public consultation about their plans to seek funding to extend their provision for their client group and make it available to the wider community. In order to do so they have identified suitable premises and are taking steps to acquire them. Mrs Emmett had circulated copies of the public consultation

questionnaire in advance of the meeting. Councillors agreed to send their comments to Mrs Emmett, who would compile a response on behalf of KVCC and circulate it to councillors before sending it off.

- (ii) Mrs Emmett drew councillors' attention to an email from Ms Cowie, Ward Manager, about a meeting date is **Tuesday 24th February**, to be held in the Studio at Aviemore Community Centre at 7.00 pm. to consider a proposal to set up a Badenoch and Strathspey Community Council Association. (Tea, coffee and sandwiches will be provided beforehand.)
- Councillors agreed to let Mrs Emmett know quickly if they are able to and wish to attend.

The meeting closed at 2100 hours.

Date of next meeting: 3rd March 2015

KVCC Financial Report for March 2015 meeting

Balances

KVCC	£5884.06
Senior Citizens' Party Fund	£2841.48
Children's Christmas Party Fund	£1444.30
Reserve Fund	£1821.27

Payments

KVCC presentation to Mr Davidson on his retirement	£46.99
Children's Party	£107.96

Lodgements

Senior Citizens' Party Fund	£162.83
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Projects

Station Adopters	£575.17
Town Trail	£368.85
Heritage Fund	£544.66

KVCC Funds	£4395.38
Totals	£5884.06

J Taylor (Treasurer)