



# KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2016 IN TALLA NAN RÒS

**Present:** Community Councillors Mrs Schofield (Chair), Mrs F Dallas, Mrs J Morse, Mrs I Malcolm, Mr J Taylor (Treasurer) Mrs V Emmett (Sec.)

Highland Councillors: Mr D Fallows, Mr B Lobban.

PC A Courts (Police Scotland)

**Apologies:** Mrs S Rowley, Mrs M Brown.

### 1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016.

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

### 2. Matters Arising

None.

### 3. Police Matters (PC A. Courts)

PC Courts provided an oral report. There have been few recent incidents; the area has been largely peaceful. A motor vehicle was stolen, however, from Spey Street but was subsequently found close by the Spey Dam. The aluminium goalposts and nets belonging to Kingussie Shinty club have been stolen from the football pitch at the Market Stance sometime between New Year and mid-February. Police and the Fire Service were called to Insh Watersports to deal with a chimney fire in their premises at Insh Hall.

Mrs Schofield asked if there have been any reports of collisions or near misses on the B9152 between motor vehicles and deer disturbed by the road works on the A9. PC Courts commented he was not aware of any such reports. A brief discussion followed about the increase in traffic along the B9152 by motorists trying to avoid the roadworks with some driving at inappropriate speeds.

Mrs Schofield asked if there had been a report of theft of oil from a domestic tank in Market Lane, PC Courts commented he was not aware of this.

There being no other issues, Mrs Schofield thanked PC Courts for giving his time to attend the meeting and he left at this point.

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

Mr Taylor presented his monthly financial statement (appended). He commented on the recent Badenoch and Strathspey Forum that he had attended with Mrs Schofield and Mrs Rowley. In response to a question, the Ward Manager had informed Community Councillors present that they are able use their accrued funds for activities and projects that are deemed to support and improve the community. A discussion followed about other issues that had arisen at B&S Forum meeting.

## 5. **Planning Matters** (Mrs A Schofield)

Mrs Schofield reported there were no recent planning applications for the Kingussie area in the weekly lists.

## 6. **Highland Councillors' report** (Mr D Fallows & Mr B Lobban)

**THC Budget:** Mr Lobban and Mr Fallows commented on recent decisions. Some last minute amendments to earlier proposals were accepted, such as the retention of the recycling centres in Kingussie and Grantown. Budget cuts are still extensive though and THC is going to lose a considerable number of staff via voluntary redundancy, with a substantial number at senior management level. Of the confirmed losses so far (280), 37 are senior managers. A further 140 posts are still being considered. Staff losses include a good number of personnel who live in Badenoch and Strathspey. As a result of staff losses, the Council is going to lose experience and expertise and the administration will have to be completely reorganised. No teachers' posts will be lost however. Schools are being invited to take part in an energy savings programme with some of the resultant savings being ploughed back into the schools. The Ward Discretionary budget will be cut back, but only by 30%; Highlife Highlands' budget will suffer a 10% cut, with 6% of it this year. Despite recent press publicity, the budget cut for Eden Court is only 1.6%; many other organisations will suffer bigger cuts.

## 7. **Correspondence**

Mrs Emmett and Mrs Schofield reported receipt of an invitation from the Tower Mint for the purchase of a commemorative medal celebrating Queen Elizabeth II's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday for schools and councils. They asked councillors if they wished to use some of their funds to purchase medals for Kingussie Primary School pupils. Councillors examined the sample medal provided and after discussion decided not to purchase any.

## 8. **Undergrounding of Power Distribution Lines** (ref. an email from Lee Haxton, CNPA)

Councillors discussed local power distribution lines that might be recommended for undergrounding:

(i) The power line that serves properties at the top of Gynack Road and Ardbroilach Road and runs through Tom Baraidh to Kerrow Drive. This line is often damaged in storms and high winds with consequent power failures to properties.

(ii) The several pole lines that run along the valley on the north side of the R. Spey from the Newtonmore direction to the substation in Kingussie between the Newtonmore Road and the railway station. These lines are very visible in the landscape and in addition not all the wooden poles look very stable. Undergrounding of these lines would improve the landscape and ensure continuity of supplies. There was an incident some years ago when one of the power lines came down in the meadow where the farmer had his herd of cattle. Several cattle were electrocuted.

Mrs Emmett agreed to recommend these routes.

## 9. **Funding**

(i) **Use of KVCC funds.** See entry in item 4 of the minutes.

### **(ii) Funds in the railway project.**

Mrs Emmett asked about progress with plans to use remaining funding from The Highland Mainline 150th Anniversary in 2013. She recalled proposals from councillors to make large colourful posters illustrating local beauty spots and attractions in and around Kingussie to be mounted on the railings along the platforms at Kingussie station and for a display of mounted photographs of old Kingussie in

the waiting room. Mrs Schofield commented that the plans are being considered as part of the recently formed Community Rail Partnership plans to improve all the stations along the route from Dunkeld and Birnam to Carrbridge and she hoped to report back shortly.

## **10. Reports of Meetings of Outside Groups and Organisations**

### **(i) Badenoch and Strathspey Forum**

Mrs Schofield reported the meeting she attended along with Mr Taylor and Mrs Rowley on 23<sup>rd</sup> February in Aviemore. When the forum was set up in 2015 it was agreed that the Community Councils would set the agenda, and this was done. The agenda on this occasion, however, was set by the Ward Manager as a training session for community councillors. Mrs Schofield has requested copies of the training pack so that members of KVCC might use it.

### **(ii) Flooding Meeting in Kincaig**

Mrs Schofield reported back on the meeting set up by Kincaig Community Council and that she had attended with Mrs Rowley on February. The main focus was on the R. Feshie, particularly where it joins the R. Spey, and its impact on land and communities locally and upstream along the Spey when in spate. The meeting was attended by elected members and staff from Highland Council, SNH, SEPA, local landowners and other community representatives. It proved was a very useful meeting with some good inputs and discussions. One of the outcomes is to reconvene a group comprising SEPA, THC SNH and local landowners to discuss possible solutions.

**BL** reported that THC has now surveyed all the bridges to evaluate their condition.

## **11. AOCB**

Mrs Schofield commented that it was pleasing to see some of the High Street shops are coming back to life, but she felt more might be done to make the High Street attractive and encourage tourists to stop off and spend time in local shops and businesses. She suggested the Community Council might run an annual competition for the best High Street frontage with separate prizes for the businesses and for the private residences. At the end of the discussion at which most of the councillors agreed to her suggestions, she undertook to develop it further with an outline about the competition and application forms.

**Date of next meeting: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016.**

**Financial report for period ending 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

**Balances** £4354.22

**Payments**

Hire of Talla Nan Ròs £54.00

Honorarium for secretary £250.00

Total £304.00

**Project Fund**

Railway/station adopters £525.17

**KVCC funds** £3829.05

Current Account Total £4354.22