



# KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2015 IN TALLA NAN RÒS

**Present:** KVCC Councillors: Mrs Ailsa Schofield (Chairwoman), Mr John Patchett (Vice-Chairman), Mr Joe Taylor (Treasurer), Mrs Valerie Emmett, (Secretary), Mrs Mairi Brown, Ms Gwyneth Wright.

THC Councillor Mr David Fallows.

**Visitors:** Mrs E Duncan, Mr T Ramage (S&BH)

### 1. Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015

The minutes were accepted as a correct record, (Prop MB, Sec. JT)

### 2. Matters Arising

None.

### 3. Police Matters

Councillors discussed the recent email from Insp. MacLeod about the proposed nature of his monthly reports to community councillors. It was agreed that councils needed more local information rather than an area wide statement, which would include data about Nairn as well as Badenoch and Strathspey. Mrs Scofield agreed to respond to Insp. MacLeod.

Mr Taylor reported concerns he had received from a local resident about young motorists racing along the High Street in the evenings; when she reported it to the local police station she was told the Police needed the registration numbers of the offending vehicles before they would take action. Councillors agreed this was unacceptable.

### 3. Treasurer's Monthly Financial Report

Mr Taylor presented his report (appended). The balance in the Children's Christmas Party account has been transferred to the new account opened by the Festivities Committee, who will take responsibility for organising the parties in future. However, their Bank has still not opened a separate account for the Senior Citizens' Party fund and so the balance still remains in the KVCC account. He reported a donation of £150 from the secretary.

**Station Adopters:** Mrs Schofield reported that she has bought new plants for the planters at the railway station. Scotrail (Transport Scotland) will reimburse KVCC for the cost.

### 4. Planning Matters.

Mrs Schofield presented her report:

Weekly List 02.04.15

**15/00960/FUL** Installation of x1 DSLAM cabinet measuring 1600mm x 450mm x 1200mm. (Broadband Project) Land 10M East Of Ardesie Spey Street

**15/00961/FUL** Installation of x1 DSLAM cabinet measuring 1300mm x 450mm x 1430mm. (Broadband Project) Land 40M SE Of Free Church Of Scotland, Ruthven Rd.

**15/00962/FUL** Installation of x1 DSLAM cabinet measuring 1300mm x 450mm x 1430mm. (Broadband Project) Iona Gallery, Duke Street.

**Suggested response to all three:** “Kingussie & Vicinity Community Council support this application, which will ultimately bring great benefit to Kingussie”

Permissions Granted using Delegated Powers

**15/00636/S42 Land Adjoining 10 Ruthven Road**

Application under Section 42 to undertake development without complying with condition 5 previously imposed for permission 13/00893/FUL on 25/02/2014. This new application will not be called in.

Comment submitted date: Mon 09 Mar 2015:

On the assumption that the proposed structure is an attempt to minimise the noise and disruption currently experienced by neighbouring properties as a result of a commercial wood-chipping operation, Kingussie & Vicinity Community Council have no objections. However we would wish to see the proposed building either constructed or clad in more sympathetic building materials in order to fit in with, and enhance the area. We would also ask for appropriate levels of soundproofing to be fitted, and for assurances that sufficient undeveloped space remains to allow safe vehicular movements on and off the site in the interests of safety and the reduction of potential nuisance to neighbouring properties. We note that recent deliveries of woodchip to the Duke of Gordon hotel were made using uncovered trailers. This resulted in fairly large chunks of woodchip being blown off the trailers onto the street, causing a serious hazard for pedestrians. Although aware that this is a Road Traffic Act issue rather than a planning issue, we ask whether there are any planning conditions which would be imposed to negate this hazard?

Nothing to cover the issue of (uncovered) deliveries which we raised.

**15/00318/FUL                   Erection of three houses (amended proposals (ref no: 14/1018/FUL) at Brookville, Gynack Street.**

Thorough checks were carried out re the effect of loss of light to existing properties (we flagged this up as a possible issue) but it was not found to be an issue – the main detractor of light is the Badenoch Centre.

**2014/0282/DET                   Proposed core path section re-route, Pitmain Estate**

“Kingussie & Vicinity Community Council have no objections regarding this application. We note that the applicants have been working closely with representatives from the CNPA and Kingussie Community Development Company to arrive at a mutually agreeable solution to the proposed change of route on this section of the core path network. We understand that the proposed changes will improve the path rather than detract from it, which we welcome. We ask that the new section of the path be constructed to C.O.A.T standard and that in the interest of public safety, a condition is attached concerning arrangements for public access during times when shooting takes place in the area”.

**Court House:**

Mrs Schofield reported that works have commenced today. Mr Patchett and Mrs Schofield met H.C’s Architect Sarah Johnston and the project manager Ian MacDonald for the contractor, Morgan Sindall. The contractors will be contacting adjacent local businesses about access during the building works. It is hoped all the building works will be complete by the end of December 2015. In response to questions, Mrs Schofield commented that there will not be a dedicated staff car park adjacent to the Court House buildings, staff will have to use either the Ardvonie car park or the car park at the junction of Spey Street and Duke Street. Mrs Schofield reported she asked about tourist information boards in the square outside the building; the contractors do not know yet if the scaffolding will obscure them; the planters and seats will be moved in front of the working area. Mrs Brown asked about the future of the listed items in the Court House: the

original stove and the cell doors. Mrs Emmett commented that KVCC had written to Highland Council about them about two years ago requesting they could be preserved. Mrs Schofield said the contractors and the architect are well aware of the listed items.

#### **5. Highland Councillor's report.**

Customer Services: Mr Fallows reported that the consultation has only just finished. In reporting to Highland councillors, the Policy Unit had not realised that all but one of the community councils in Badenoch and Strathspey had responded, they thought there was only one response! (Aviemore CC was the only B&S council to decide not to respond to the consultation questionnaire.) Councillors Lobban and Rimell are now on the Customer services Board and the next meeting is due at the end of April. They will expect an analysis by the officials about the responses.

#### **6. Ruthven Bridge.**

Mrs Schofield reported there has been a flow of correspondence about this urgent matter and this was discussed. MSP Dave Thompson has asked KVCC to contact him if there is no satisfactory response from Highland Council to KVCC's and local residents' concerns. Alternative access across the river: Mr Cameron Kemp, THC area manager has contacted SSE and Balfour Beattie about the possibility of alternative access using the pylon route on the south side of the river during the period when there is no bridge. Transport Scotland is also involved in discussions. Mr Fallows reported that the start date is not wholly certain, but it is likely to commence in early May. The contract has not yet been signed although a contractor has been chosen. Public consultation: He reported he has asked that THC goes through KVCC. In response to a question from Mrs Schofield, Mr Fallows said he did not know what arrangements have been made for access by emergency services.

#### **7. Recruitment of new councillors.**

Mrs Schofield commented that community council elections are due in November and there are only five more council meetings before then. She suggested fellow councillors might talk to other local people about standing for election. She read out a draft item that she proposed to on Facebook. Mrs Brown suggested making posters and this was agreed.

#### **8. Town Floral Decoration Fund.**

Mr Schofield reported she had been approached by Mr Cook of the Business Forum about a donation from the Council. Mrs Brown commented that she had attended the last Business Forum, and no decision was made about the provision of hanging baskets for the High Street this year. She understood Mr Cook has resigned as chairman. The Forum has only met once since their last AGM, and at present they have no chairman or secretary. Their next meeting is due at the end of April. Mrs Schofield undertook to respond to Mr Crawford, Mr Niblock and Mr Cook asking for clarification about their plans.

#### **9. AOCB**

##### **(i) Highland Council: Stage 1 consultation about Onshore Wind energy guidance.**

Mr Fallows commented that since most of Badenoch and Strathspey lies within the Cairngorms National Park and there is a policy of no wind farms within the National Park, there was little point in responding to the consultation.

##### **(ii) Grantown Celebrations:**

Mrs Emmett read out a letter from Mr Voysey suggesting that community councils might make commemorative canoe paddles for presentation to the Grantown Museum to celebrate the importance

of the R. Spey as a means of communication between communities from Laggan to Grantown. A discussion followed at which most councillors suggested it was more appropriate for other community groups be asked to undertake this activity. Mrs Brown suggested the letter should be sent on to the Badenoch Heritage Group and she undertook to do this.

**(iii) Heritage Festival.**

Mrs Brown reminded councillors that the Heritage Festival is to take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April and the theme this year is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of James McPherson's odyssey about the Ossian Legends.

**(iv) The High Street.**

Mrs Duncan commented that she has lived in Kingussie since 2002 and over the years has watched the High Street die. She expressed concern about how it might be revived. In discussion, points were made that the problem affecting Kingussie High Street is a national one as shopping habits have changed. It was suggested that Kingussie is promoted as a "destination" to attract tourists and encourage them to tarry a while, but innovative ideas were not forthcoming.

**(v) Formation of the Highland Mainline Community Rail Partnership**

Mrs Schofield reported the recent meeting she attended. One of the major issues the partnership intends to try to address is the need for an integrated public transport system.

**Next meeting: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 7p.m.**

**Financial report**

**Balances**

KVCC	£5600.99
Senior Citizens' Christmas Party	£2841.48
Children's party fund	Nil
Reserve fund	£1821.27

**Receipts**

KVCC- donation	£150.00
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**Payments**

KVCC Secretary	£250.00
Station Adopters'	£137.07

**Projects**

Station Adopters	£438.10
Town Trail	£368.85
Heritage fund	£544.66
KVCC	£4249.38

<b>Total</b>	<b>£5600.99</b>
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