



KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2015
AT 7 p.m. in TALLA NAN RÒS

Present: Councillors Mrs A Schofield (chair), Mrs M Brown, Ms G Wright, Mr J Taylor (treasurer), Mrs V Emmett (secretary). Highland Councillor Mr D Fallows.

Visitors: Mr M Kelly, and new Councillors Mrs F Dallas, Mrs I Malcolm, Mrs J Morse.

Apologies: Ms S Rowley.

Mrs Schofield welcomed the visitors to the meeting.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 6th October 2015

The minutes were approved as a correct record. (Prop. **JT**, sec. **MB**)

2. Matters Arising

Community Council Noticeboard: **JT** reported he had not yet contacted Mr Thompson.

AS commented she will advise about the paint.

Ruthven Bridge: **AS** reported the opening ceremony of the new bridge is taking place on Friday morning 6 November; she has been invited to attend. Mr Fallows extended the invitation to all the other community councillors.

Spey Street car park: no news.

Court House: **AS** reported she had been given a guided tour recently, the work done so far is very impressive. It is hoped the work will be completed by next summer.

Christmas Tree: Mrs Dallas reported that since the usual site for the tree outside the Court House is blocked by scaffolding, this year the tree will either be sited in the Memorial Gardens or outside the Duke of Gordon Hotel.

Highland Council's Transport consultation: **AS** and **MB** had attended the meetings in Aviemore, **AS** reported the turnout was low. The plans are to lose 15% from the subsidy budget.

CityLink's proposals to discontinue the M91 bus service: Citylink does not receive a subsidy and is purely a commercial operation.

Incidents of mis-ticketing have come to light. Mr Fallows reported he had contacted the Minister of Transport about these incidents and the department is investigating them. The situation is complicated in that Parks of Hamilton operate part of the service although the buses and staff are in Citylink livery. Two of their current services will still operate, however there will not be any services going south before 10 a.m.

In the forthcoming issue of the Strathy, **DF** is suggesting that passengers put their used tickets in boxes he will provide in the Post Offices in Kingussie and Newtonmore to provide an indication of the levels of bus travel.

MB asked about the function of Hi Trans, she could find no reports that it has been active south of Inverness. This was confirmed.

3. **Police Matters**

In the absence of a police officer this item was not taken.

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

JT presented his monthly report (appended).

He reported that the funds belonging to the Heritage group have been transferred out of the KVCC account into their new independent account. The KVCC account now only holds Community Council funds and the Station Adopters' fund.

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

(i) Davall Developments application: **AS** reported that on behalf of KVCC, she has lodged an objection to their application to overturn some of the condition applying to their building site above Dunbarry Road. There have been numerous other objections from residents. The case will be determined by the CNPA on the 27th November.

(ii) Under delegated powers, THC has granted permission for the conversion of the shop at 80 High Street to residential accommodation.

Ms Wright asked if there was any news about the Chinese Takeaway. Mrs Malcolm reported the owners have found a new tenant. **AS** reported she has spoken them, they explained their plans to improve the shop, but it will not open for a while.

6. **Highland Councillor's Report** (Mr D Fallows)

DF reported that the application by SSE for a new substation by Garva Bridge will be considered at the next Planning Meeting on the 10th November.

7. **Correspondence**

None

8. **Proposal for street banners by the Kingussie Business Forum** (Mrs Brown)

MB reported that the Business Forum would like to mount banners on the lamp-posts along the High Street, similar to those in Aviemore. Councillors recommended that they be advised to consult Transport Scotland since the High Street is part of the A86 trunk road.

A discussion followed about the disadvantage that both Kingussie and Newtonmore suffer from as a consequence of being part of the A86 trunk road compared to other communities such as Aviemore and Grantown on Spey, who have much more freedom to mount publicity banners, etc. and decorate their High streets because they are not on trunk roads.

Councillors wondered if it might be possible to apply to have the High Streets "detrunked" once the A9 dualling past Kingussie and Newtonmore is complete, so that the A86 junction could occur at Dalwhinnie and heavy traffic can use the A889 between Dalwhinnie and Laggan to connect with the current A86 there instead of using the high streets through Kingussie and Newtonmore. They agreed that the current A86 section of road between Newtonmore and Laggan is not really suitable for the large heavy vehicles that currently have to use it.

VE commented that there are to be public consultation meetings in Kingussie and Newtonmore later in November and suggested perhaps this might be raised at the meetings.

9. **AOCB**

1. **Water Quality:** Mrs Malcom asked about the water quality in Kingussie; she had received reports of someone suffering from skin problems since the water supply was changed. A discussion ensued; it

was agreed that the resident should contact Scottish Water to complain and ask for the water quality to be tested.

2. **Railway: GW** asked if improvements are to be made at the railway station.

AS reported that Abellio had not factored in a sum to support Station Adopters' work; they have asked the groups to submit budgets covering the costs of the work they do to enhance their stations. Abellio will then include a budget for Station Adopters in the next financial year.

The Highland Mainline Community Rail Partnership, covering stations from Dunkeld to Carrbridge, is to be launched the following week. The group members have been asked to identify three quick wins and three longer term priorities. **AS** has identified the problem of the low platform and need to raise it, the need to paint the footbridge, the desirability of electronic indicator boards, the provision of a water tap for the Station Adopters to use when watering the plants, and the possibility of providing a vending machine on the platform to enable passengers to obtain refreshments while waiting for their trains.

Several councillors expressed the view that the possibility of having to use the low platform is discouraging some people from using the railway, because the current arrangements for getting on and off the trains is unsatisfactory and potentially dangerous, especially for some elderly travellers and passengers with mobility problems.

MB raised the matter of anomalies in rail ticket pricing, for example it is cheaper to travel from Dundee to Kingussie than from Perth to Kingussie. **AS** reported such anomalies are known, but the Community Rail Partnership is not empowered to act as a pressure group on such matters.

3. **Social Media:** Mrs Malcolm asked if the Council used social media to publicise its work.

AS commented that she looked after the KVCC website, but felt there could be problems of using social media, such as Facebook, because it is open to others to comment and make entries on it and she felt it would need constant monitoring.

4. **Minutes of old Council meetings:** **VE** commented that when she became a councillor and secretary in 2009, she inherited files containing the minutes of meetings in previous years. She has never had cause to refer back to them and they are cluttering up her bookshelves. She was reluctant to shred them and asked if other councillors were aware of policy about such documents. It was suggested she should ask the Ward Manager.

5. **AS** asked the new councillors if they would send a photograph of themselves to her to go on the KVCC website (head and shoulders jpeg).

This being the last meeting of the current Council, on behalf of all the Councillors, Mrs Schofield presented a small gift to retiring Councillor, Ms Wright and thanked her for her many years of loyal service and her significant contribution to community affairs.

Date of the Next Meeting: To be confirmed later.

Treasurer's Monthly Financial statement – November 2015

Current balance in the KVCC account	£4769.21
Payments	
Badenoch Heritage	£913.51
Project Funds	
Station Adopters	£575.17
Final Balance	£4769.21