



KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4th APRIL 2017 IN TALLA NAN RÒS, KINGUSSIE

Present: Mrs A Schofield (Chairwoman), Mrs V Emmett (Secretary), Mr J Taylor (Treasurer), Mrs M Brown, Mrs J Morse, Mrs S Rowley.

Highland Councillors: Mr D Fallows, Mr B Lobban..

Apologies: Mrs F Dallas, PC A Courts.

1. Minutes of the Previous meeting held on 7th March 2017

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

2. Matters Arising

Half Price Rail Travel: The withdrawal of the use of the concessionary bus pass towards reduction in the price of rail tickets is a big blow. The introduction of the Highland Rail Line Travel Card for passengers travelling to and from stations in Badenoch and Strathspey has met with refusals. Mr Lobban reported these cards were introduced to stimulate more passengers travelling from destinations north of Inverness, and the Rail Company is of the view there are sufficient passengers travelling from Badenoch and Strathspey not to need them!

Mrs Brown undertook to draft a letter as previously agreed (see the Minutes of the March meeting).

Heritage Festival 28th-30th April.

On behalf of Badenoch Heritage, Mrs Brown thanked KVCC for their donation. The KVCC logo will be included on the Festival's literature.

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

Mr Taylor presented his monthly financial report (appended.) He reported that he has made up the annual accounts to the end of March and sent them to the accountants.

4. Planning Matters (Mrs A Schofield)

- (i) Mrs Schofield reported one application on the weekly list for Kingussie – conversion of a current single apartment into two apartments. She read out a draft response for consideration, Councillors looked at the plans and agreed with the response.
- (ii) Kingussie Housing Development: on the 24th March the CNPA considered an application by the developers to vary conditions imposed by the Government Reporter. KVCC was not made aware that this application was to be heard until too late to respond.

The CNPA approved the variation, which will mean changes to the route of the Haul Road and delays to the landscaping of part of the site prior to development and building.

The benefit to Kingussie, which is part of the approval conditions, is the provision of two bus shelters – one outside no. 2 High Street and the other near no. 122 High Street, and the upgrading of the signal controlled pedestrian crossing at the junction of King Street and High Street.

Mr Lobban commented that, at the CNPA Board meeting, he suggested the developers should also make an x-gratia payment of £2,500 to the Community Council for the benefit of the community. The developers agreed, but it has not yet been confirmed.

Statutory representation by Community Councils on planning applications. Councillors commented that the time line for responses often means it is difficult for all the councillors to see plans, discuss them and arrive at an agreed decision and respond before the deadlines. Mr Fallows recommended that as a routine, the Council should immediately send an email to the planning dept. when the weekly lists come out saying the Council wants to be a statutory resposdee on the relevant applications. This then gives more time for the Council as a body to consider plans and make a response.

5. Highland Councillor's Report (Mr D Fallows)

Mr Fallows reported he is still chasing up the matter of the cessation of the current Highland Council scheme for insurance arrangements for all community group run facilities and councils.

6. Memorial Benches Report (Mrs Schofield)

Mrs Schofield updated councillors about exchanges with Highland Council. Her letter to the CEO, Mr Barron had resulted in a prompt reply saying he was referring the matter to Mr Gilfillan. She then read out the conditions applying to the donation of benches; they do not include liability. She asked if the benches are covered by public liability insurance. The Highland Council has apparently not set up a scheme for community groups, which would only cost about £5000 a year.

She reported that, assuming a satisfactory reply is received from Highland Council, one memorial bench donated on behalf of a Canadian family is already under construction; the £1000 prize from the Tesco competition can be used for another, and Mrs Schofield proposed and councillors agreed that a third might be donated by KVCC.

7. Reports of Attendance at Outside Meetings

(i) Social Enterprise Summit in Tomintoul.

This meeting was attended by Mrs Brown, Mr Fallows and Mrs Emmett. They reported that it was a useful meeting with some helpful inputs by HIE, HISEZ, etc. for community groups involved in projects and asset acquisitions.

(ii) AOCC.

Mrs Schofield reported the meeting at the Lecht on 21st March. She provided a résumé of the main inputs, which included one by Scottish water about the problems with the new water supply being experienced in the Strath and their proposed solutions.

(iii) Meeting in Aviemore about the Water Supply.

Mrs Rowley reported the meeting she attended at which Scottish Water finally admitted there is a problem. In England water companies have to report on their monitoring of health problems, but this is not required in Scotland. Mr Lobban reported that Scottish Water does now admit there has been a spike in skin complaints, and the company is now liaising with Public Health Authorities.

(iv) Building Stronger Communities.

Mrs Brown reported she had attended a recent meeting n Talla Nan Ròs, she offered to forward the report for councillors to read.

8. AOCB

(i) Heritage Festival.

Mrs Brown updated councillors about the programme for the Heritage Festival.

(ii) Impending Retirement of two Councillors.

Mr Lobban asked about the remaining councillors when Mrs Schofield and Mrs Emmett retire at the AGM: there will still be four elected members, five if Mrs Dallas is able to attend in future. The full complement is nine. It was agreed the councillors should seek additions. Mrs Schofield reported she had put out an “advert” for nominees on Facebook and that she planned to do a poster to put in the Community Council noticeboard cupboard in King Street.

(iii) Community Council Forum.

Mr Lobban reported that the four Highland Councillors for Badenoch and Strathspey are keen that this organisation should continue even though Highland Council no longer plans to fund VABS to organise meetings.

He commented that the Forum belongs to the Community Councils and he urged them all to meet and seek ways of enabling the meetings to take place in future with agendas being set by the CCs. He suggested that if the CCs did not want to take responsibility for organising the meetings they might contribute some money to VABS to do it for them. Mr Fallows suggested the Councillors should ask VABS how much such a task would cost and then share it out between them.

There being no other business the meeting closed.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 2nd May 2017 at 7.15p.m. in Talla Nan Ròs.

Treasurer’s Financial Report to 31st March 2017

Balance £5079.13

Lodgements

Tesco’s Grant Award £1000.00

Payments

Kingussie Floral Decorations £400.00

Kingussie Heritage Festival £250.00

Secretary honorarium £250.00

Computer Cartridges £62.23

Station Adopters Floral decorations £24.28

Projects

Station Adopter’s Fund £500.89

KVCC Account £4578.24

Total balance £5079.13