



KINGUSSIE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2nd MAY 2017 IN TALLA NAN RÒS

Present: Community Councillors: Mrs A Schofield, Mrs V Emmett, Mr J Taylor, Mrs M Brown, Ms J Morse, Mrs S Rowley.

Highland Councillors: Mr D Fallows, Mr B Lobban.

CNPA Community Support Manager Mr L Haxton

Apologies for absence: Mrs F Dallas

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 4th April 2017.

The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising

Half Price Rail Travel using the Highland Rail Card scheme.

Mrs Emmett reported that Mrs Brown had drafted a letter to HiTrans about the Highland Railcard scheme not applying south to communities south of Inverness. The letter has now been sent.

Memorial Benches

Mrs Schofield reported she has been in touch with the Highland Council's Compliance Officer and has taken note of their requirements for the placement of a new bench. The officer has also set out Highland Council's undertakings regarding public liability insurance, repairs, etc. She is pleased that the memorial bench provided by the Canadian family can now be installed; she has asked that this should be done before they visit Kingussie towards the end of May. She has also drawn to the attention of Highland Council the damage to one of the existing benches on the High Street near to the Bank; one armrest has been ripped off. One of the councillors reported that the arm rest has been recovered and is in the Court House.

A discussion followed about the purchase of more memorial benches using the prize money from the Tesco's Bags for Life competition. Mrs Schofield showed photographs of the commissioned "Canadian seat" being made by craftsman, Mr Fraser Mackintosh of Newtonmore; it is made from Accoya wood, a hardwood with a very long life. It is costing in the region of £800. Mrs Rowley reported she has been researching other wooden benches and she circulated photographs from one supplier; they are made from teak and cost £400 plus a delivery charge of £90 for venues in Scotland. The prize money would be enough to buy two new benches and a third if funds could be topped up. Mr Lobban suggested that councillors look at and assess other sources or visit outlets and view what is on sale. He also suggested they sit on the benches! Councillors agreed to Mrs Schofield's suggestion that, in principle, some of the KVCC funds in the current account could be used to purchase another bench as a donation to the whole community.

3. Treasurer's Monthly Financial Report.

Mr Taylor presented his monthly financial statement (attached as an appendix).

4. Planning Matters

Mrs Schofield reported two recent planning applications

(i) Former THC planning offices on the High Street.

Application for the conversion of the premises into an art gallery and art workshops on the ground floor and a self-catering holiday flat on the first floor. A discussion followed about lack of parking at the premises, with only street parking outside on the High Street. Mrs Brown reported that the off-road area immediately beside the premises belonged to the Church and it was in regular use by parishioners attending services, weddings and funerals. It was agreed that the establishment of a privately owned gallery was unlikely to threaten or compromise the Iona Gallery run by the SBSA. Councillors hoped that, if given planning permission, the gallery would be open regularly to contribute to the community as a new visitor attraction. Mrs Schofield read out a draft response and councillors agreed with it.

(ii) Achahandra, Middle Terrace.

This application is for minor development works and the Council should not raise any objections.

(iii) Housing Plot at the end of West Terrace.

Permission to build a house on this plot has finally been granted, but with lots of conditions. Drainage, sewage disposal and flood mitigation are major concerns and are part of the conditions to be met. Scottish Water has agreed to the permission but stipulate drainage and sewage disposal must be connected to the public sewer. It is still not clear if there is in fact a public sewer anywhere nearby and this is going to be difficult to solve.

5. Highland Councillors' Reports

All the current councillors have now stood down and the elections of new councillors take place on 4th May. Mr Fallows is retiring, but Mr Lobban is a candidate for the new round.

National Park Partnership Plan.

The plan has been sent to Ministers and a response is expected in June. In response to a question, Mr Lobban and Mr Fallows confirmed that the CNPA Board membership remains unchanged until September. Nominations for new representatives of Local Authorities begin in July.

Highland Council Insurance scheme for Community Councils and Community organisations:

Mr Lobban reported that the THC scheme is to continue. The Council has reached an agreement with Zurich Insurance regarding the group scheme; accreditation will remain essentially the same, except that as from 2018 organisations will have to deal with Zurich direct. Carrbridge Ahead, Carrbridge's Community Company has negotiated their insurance this year with Zurich under the new arrangements, and their insurance is going to be £200 cheaper than previously.

6. Reports of Attendance at Outside Meetings

(i) KCDC

Ms Morse reported that the next meeting of KCDC (Kingussie Community Development Co.) takes place the following evening (3rd May). She is now its secretary as well as KVCC's representative.

(ii) Building Stronger Communities

Mrs Rowley reported that as part of this project Newtonmore and Kingussie intend to collaborate with regard to events they each organise. So far she has been unsuccessful in contacting the Newtonmore webmaster who looks after their website.

(iii) Kingussie Business Forum

Mrs Brown reported that KBF has the Kingussie website on its agenda for their meeting later in May in view of the current webmaster's departure from the area. KBF also plans to go ahead with the reintroduction of a hanging basket scheme and the baskets will be put up very shortly. However they are still asking from more volunteers to do the watering.

Mrs Emmett commented that KBF had assured KVCC they already had good watering arrangements in place when they asked for a donation towards the provision of the floral scheme this year. On this assurance KVCC had given such a donation. She was concerned it might all fall apart again as had happened in the past. Mrs Brown replied that KBF has one team but would like more volunteers.

(iv) Local Water Supplies

Mrs Rowley reported that Scottish Water has introduced its scheme to chloramine the water supplies. Users are reporting the water does taste and smell better. Mrs Brown commented that one day she noticed a metallic smell on a batch of newly washed linen and Mr Lobban confirmed he had noticed this too.

7. Kingussie Bank Closure

The closure of the Kingussie Branch is scheduled for September. Private account holders will be able to pay in and withdraw money from their accounts at the Post Office; but this does not apply to business accounts. Business account holders will now have to travel to the Aviemore Branch – 25+ miles round trip each time. Mrs Schofield read out a letter she has drafted to the CEO of the Bank of Scotland about the impending closure and the consequences for the communities, especially the small business account holders and it was agreed to go ahead and send it.

8. AOCB

(i) Community Rail Partnership Art Project

Mrs Schofield reported she has the go-ahead for the art project at Kingussie Railway Station (see entry in the minutes of the March meeting.) A series of Heritage panels will be produced and mounted in the passengers' waiting room. The SBSA has agreed to undertake the production of original paintings featuring the main attractions of the Kingussie area, and these will be converted into large mounted posters to be fixed to the railings along the platforms. These will not be put in place until the work on the south platform is complete later this year. Mrs Schofield suggested that at least three copies are made of each poster so they can be replaced if they suffer weather damage at some point. There was general agreement that a consistent style would be appropriate for all the artworks. Mrs Emmett then showed councillors a painting of Ruthven Barracks by Mr Bob Kinnaird, done in a style often used very successfully for railway posters in the past – with clean lines, bright colours and very eye-catching; it was agreed this style would work well and the distinctive posters would be clearly seen by passengers on the trains as well as those waiting to travel. Mr Haxton commented that posters in a similar style have been produced for the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park and he undertook to contact his colleague there and pass on information to Mrs Emmett.

Mrs Schofield requested that the current monies in the Railway Fund should be transferred to the SBSA for undertaking the project as a contribution towards the costs of art materials. This was agreed.

(ii) Cairngorm Nature Big Weekend.

Mr Haxton reminded everyone of the event - 12-14 May, featuring illustrated talks in Boat of Garten and Balmoral as well as a programme of various outdoor nature events across the Park.

(iii) Need for new Community Councillors

With the impending retirement at the AGM in June of two councillors: Mrs Schofield and Mrs Emmett, the Community Council needs at least two more councillors in order to ensure it can continue to function

securely. In the course of discussions, Mrs Rowley commented that she knows of one person who might be willing to be co-opted.

Mr Taylor commented that while he is willing to continue as treasurer he cannot undertake any other additional responsibilities. (The standing orders do not allow anyone to hold more than one post of officer.) Mrs Rowley indicated she is willing to take on the post of secretary and to continue to look after planning matters. (Mrs Schofield said she is willing to help Mrs Rowley informally.)

Mrs Schofield reported she has put entries on Facebook and on the Community Council's website asking for volunteers, but to no avail. She undertook to place adverts in the CC notice board cupboard and on other noticeboards in the town. She hopes the Strathy might do a feature to publicise the need for volunteers.

Date of Next meeting: Tuesday 6th June to include the AGM.

Appendix: Treasurer's Monthly Financial Report to the end of April 2017.

Current Balance	£5105.41
Lodgements	
Refund from Talla Nan Ròs	£54.00
Station Adopters	£24.28
Payments	
Talla Nan Ròs	£52.00
Projects	
Railway Fund	£525.17
KVCC	£4580.24
Total	£5105.41