

Kingussie and Vicinity Community Council  
Monday 14th March 2022 @ 6pm  
Via Zoom Draft Minutes

Present Ruaridh Ormiston(RO) Lindsay Dawson(LD) Esther Botha (EB) Janet Kinnaird(JK)Gilmour Strang (GS) Tom Ramage(TR)

Apologies :Margaret Bentley ,John Craig ,Louise Thomson ,Lisa Taylor

Declaration of Interests :None

Adoption of February :Minutes Proposed EB Seconded LD

#### Treasurer's Report

LTh was unable to attend but an e mail was received following the meeting. The bank account currently stands at £22629.65 which includes the grant for the Glebe Ponds feasibility study. To date the bank is still not cooperating .

#### Planning Report

JK and RO had looked at the applications and there was nothing on which to comment .

#### Matters Arising

##### Glebe Ponds

- Following the last meeting KVCC has been granted funding(£9700) to begin a feasibility study for the regeneration of the Glebe Ponds.JK and MB attended a meeting with Liz Cowie(Area Ward Manager) and Carole Butler(Community Support Officer) to discuss next steps. We are delighted that Ali McKnight(Agroecosystems Ltd) will be working on the project. The first meetings will take place in mid/ late April.
- Festivities Fund- no further information

#### Jubilee Celebrations Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd June

- LTh had asked if KVCC agreed to the price of raffle tickets. The meeting agreed to the price. Action LTh.

LA mentioned that the school is delighted to be having a performance of The Twits. She also mentioned that JK and the HeadTeacher would meet to discuss further details. JK has agreed the wet weather option(Badenoch Centre ) with Fraser Tulloch and Ian Adamson for the primary school event. Awaiting a response for the family event. The entertainment is coming together .

#### StVincent's Hospital

- The questions raised at the last meeting were responded to by Kenny Rogers NHS. This is the response

It is now some time since the hospital closed . There has been a recent spate of vandalism locally and open windows in this building may be seen as an invitation. Can these be secured? I have highlighted this to local management and our estates team to review security arrangements. This was last looked at in December.

2. We are given to understand that there are items of equipment left in the building. While these items may not be seen as fit for purpose in the new hospital setting KVCC would like to know if those items can be donated to a suitable overseas charity. Disposal of excess equipment is ongoing at St Vincent's, further removals will take place next week to uplift and distribute surplus items. Medical charities will be offered any equipment surplus to NHS requirements. Site closure certificate will be issued to Scottish Government in the next few weeks.

3. Recent high winds caused considerable damage locally. Trees fell onto the front porch area of the building and we are told there is other damage to the roof. Are repairs to be undertaken and if so when? The site is secure and damage has been made safe. Future repairs will be discussed and agreed as a result of the property disposal process below.

4. Rumours in the community continue to circulate as to the future of St Vincent's. Finally can you shed some light on current future plans for the building and grounds? NHS Highland is following the Scottish Government process for disposal of surplus properties. All NHS buildings are owned by Scottish Ministers and managed by NHS on their behalf. The process involves offering the building to public sector partners in the first instance prior to open market sale. St Vincent's is at the initial stage of being offered to public sector partners.

Members mentioned that a housing trust or association would be a good way forward for the building and grounds as well as the community.

#### Ruthven Bridge

- KVCC had written to Richard Porteous of Highland Council re the ongoing very poor state of the bridge. A very positive response has been received .

We have confirmed with the bridge designer that the bridge can carry a surfacing depth of 120mm. We are therefore proceeding to draw up a contract and put out a tender to carry out the following works:

- Plane off the existing surfacing and remove areas of damaged waterproofing;
- Install new waterproofing and sub surface drainage system;
- Lay new surfacing (120mm thick);
- Regrade approaches to tie in with higher surfacing level, and;
- Install new expansion joints.

This work will require us to close the bridge for an estimated 4 week period, planned for the beginning of June.

The meeting has concerns about the length of time of the closure however the work must be undertaken.

#### Items of Business

- Proposed Indian War Memorial.

JK introduced the item following an e mail from Gilmour Strang. GS is a volunteer for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission-Eyes On Hands On Programme and also the Imperial War Museum War Memorials Register . GS is also a director of KCDC but was in attendance as an individual.GS has seen a proposal for this memorial and identified four missing names from the list.Some have unknown written against their names in terms of their units and suggested a blank space would be preferable as this could be rectified in future.PH said that what had been seen was a second draft and the project was on the fourth draft and beyond. She had attended a recent meeting and seen the latest draft. She thinks the number is now up to 64 and had spent time checking the names on the draft against the list provided. GS has had contact with Maj.Heather Laurie. He has done extensive research into the missing names and had contacted PH who had yet to respond. PH offered an apology for missing the e mail but had been indisposed due to surgery.GS mentioned that KCDC had offered a sizeable donation to the project and believes it had been rejected. PH stated that there have been many drafts of the plan for this memorial and not all councillors have been involved since the start. She herself has come relatively late to the project and the driver is Bill Lobban.Questions were raised as to where the memorial will actually be sited. PH said it will be to the right of the war memorial to give an element of symmetry with the sun dial. She also said that there will hopefully be an information board sited with the others at the top of the Gardens. GS asked if a rail for wreaths had now been included in the design .PH said there would be as funding had been set aside for this purpose. GS also said that replacing gravel in the design for paving to match the rest of the park would have been a good idea and of course far more practical. JK asked PH the question of how and when the project was shared with the community and what the design choices were? In response PH said that the design choices were not extensively discussed as it was more a matter of the stonemason and detailer to work out what was a safe and suitable design for a memorial given the placement next to a school etc. RO suggested that this may have happened when KVCC was in abeyance. JK was unaware that any sharing with the community at large had taken place . PH said that the British Legion and Billy Boyle had been consulted and ARC is involved .TR seemed to think it was only bits in the Strathie. JK stated that she was in favour of a memorial and particularly for the enduring work of Mrs Harling. However this project had not been shared widely within the community and therefore lacked transparency.The Glebe Ponds project will require regular communication within the community. Tom Ramage said that a huge amount of consultation had been required for the development of the Gardens and in particular the art project but this had not seemed to be the case here.JK asked PH to feed back to the other councillors the lack of transparency in the community of this project. Action PH .RO suggested that as it was an Army project any issues lay there,

however it is being lead by a community group. There has been consultation with the family of Mrs Harling and a date for completion and opening decided as 22nd of May.

#### Road Closure

- Kingussie Shinty Club has asked KVCC if they would be willing to apply for a road closure order for the Shinty Cup Final in September. The meeting agreed Action JK

#### Felling of tree at the Dell

- RO outlined the proposal for the felling of trees and the plans for wetland by the RSPB. this is compensatory for land to be used at Insh Meadows for the dualling of the A9. There will be improved path works for walkers but John Robertson had pointed out to RO that some areas which are currently accessible to people will be lost. Until the notice arrived of the plans nothing was known about it. As with other things there has been no community involvement by the operator. LD said that the operator had contacted the school (KPS) re having the children plant trees but no decision had been taken as yet. RO suggested that KVCC contact the developers - Story and Andy Anderson and recommend that an event to share the plans be set up in the town. Action JK

#### Notice Boards

- EB has been doing some background work on the noticeboards. She has sent info to all members re prices and sizes. There was discussion about the siting of the board, cost, size and how they would be paid for. The Ward Discretionary Fund was suggested. JK asked PH if that would be an option given the recent grant. PH was certain that the grant was PBI funding although JK pointed out she had been advised to complete a Discretionary Fund application. JK will send an application to EB. Action JK GS was asked if he could give EB a hand re size etc and he agreed.

#### AOCB

- BASMA Hour Appeal .JK was contacted by Frank Anderson sec of the BASMA as to how a whole Badenoch and Strathspey approach could be pulled together to aid refugees who may come to our area. There will be a meeting shortly of all community groups and KVCC will be represented by EB. LD mentioned that the primary school is looking at plans .

#### Traffic at KPS

- LD reported that there are concerns about volume and speed of traffic on Ruthven Road outside the school in the mornings and afternoons. The Parent Council wanted to know if there was anything KVCC could do to assist. JK mentioned that much of the traffic in the area is actually created by parents

dropping off and picking up their children. A suggestion might be that parents arrive at school via Spey Street and avoid Ruthven Road . LD said a suggestion had been to site the lollipop lady on Ruthven Road but that had been rejected as the High Street is and A road. LD mentioned that KPS is encouraging children to walk via Walk to School events and through Health and Well Being. Suggestions of a zebra crossing or raised pavement as traffic slowing measures were mentioned. RO recommended that KVCC contact Richard Porteous and also the community police officer. Action JK

LD asked if there was any news re continued or extended Post Office hours in Kingussie but so far nothing.

RO thanked everyone for attending a very busy meeting and for everyone's efforts. He thanked TR and GS for attending.

Date of next meeting  
11th of April.

Sent from my iPad