

# AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTE of a MEETING of the COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH HALL, AVIEMORE on THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** John Grierson, Alistair Dargie, Ray Sefton, Lorna McGibbon, Audrey MacKenzie, Ron Whyte, Mark Allan, Yvonne Birnie, Karen Lawrie, Kate Cameron, Cllr Bill Lobban, Kirsty Bruce (minuter), Tom Ramage (press)

**In Attendance:** Ian Malcolm

**Apologies:** Willie McKenna (CPNA)

## **1. OPENING REMARKS**

John Grierson opened the meeting and said;

" I would like to congratulate our new members in their success at the interim elections and welcome them to the community council. It is always the case that there have to be winners and losers in elections and I would like to offer my commiserations to the unsuccessful candidates. I think the fact that 14 stood for election, and that there was an excellent turnout of voters, is a sign of the importance that the community gives to the community council.

It is important to know how we reached this point. In May Bill Lobban, a long serving member of the community council, was elected to the Highland Council. This brought the community council down to less than five elected members. We requested that the Highland Council undertake an interim election on our behalf.

At the time, as the Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils and the Constitution were unclear on what the community council could or could not do in those circumstances, I sought guidance from Highland Council. I was told that as we could still form a quorum of elected members we could carry on.

However, in late August the Highland Council modified their opinion and recommended we suspend. It is obvious the Highland Council are not sure of the position and this is why it was a recommendation and not an instruction.

Suffice it to say that Aviemore and Vicinity Community Council acted in good faith on advice given by Highland Council. On that advice being modified the Community Council took immediate action.

The Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils is a mess and needs to be re-evaluated and changed. What has happened is nobody's fault. The document was fully consulted upon and passed by the Highland Council. The anomaly was not spotted. I would hope that Highland Council revisit the scheme as

a matter of urgency as, now that it has been looked at again in light of our experiences, it has been found that there are other anomalies that need to be addressed. "

## 2. OFFICE BEARERS

John Grierson advised that Ron Whyte wished to resign from the position of Secretary to AVCC and that the post of Vice Chair was also open. After a brief discussion, the following were elected as office bearers:-

Ray Sefton as Secretary, proposed by Ron Whyte and seconded by Karen Lawrie. Alistair Dargie as Vice Chairperson, proposed by Audrey MacKenzie and seconded by Mark Allan.

## 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Lorna McGibbon advised that the balance was £4,755.28 with cheques in respect of expenses of £50 to be written and signed tonight and the balance of the statue account is £2004.61. John Grierson advised that the annual funds from Highland Council had to be applied for. **It was remitted to Ray Sefton to contact Louise Clark, Ward Manager for the funding.**

## 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of AVCC held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012 and 12<sup>th</sup> July 2012, which had been previously circulated were accepted in good faith, were proposed by Ray Sefton and seconded by Ron Whyte

The Minutes of AVCC held on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2012, which had been previously circulated were accepted and proposed by Ron Whyte and seconded by Alistair Dargie.

## 5. BUSINESS

### a). MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2012

- i) **MAHR: Erection of 12 Holiday Lodges** – John Grierson advised that AVCC had received an invite from G H Johnston Building Contractors (the agents acting on behalf of MAHR) to look at the proposed planning. This was scheduled for Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm. John Grierson asked that those wishing to attend, to email him and confirm whether they would be able to attend.
- ii) **CRAGG** –John Grierson advised that there were 2 member spaces currently available to AVCC on CRAGG and he proposed that Yvonne Birnie should be nominated to attend on behalf of AVCC along with himself. **This was accepted by all.**
- iii) **Community Council Planning Representatives Network** – John Grierson advised that he had received a telephone call to say that The Association of Cairngorm Communities would be looking at more suitable dates and times for future meetings.
- iv) **CNPA Development Plan Settlement Maps** – John Grierson advised that he had received a response from Karen Major in respect of AVCC's question as regards to the significance of boundary lines, which he read out to all present. AVCC considered the Aviemore Settlement Map, Rothiemurchus and Inverdrue Settlement Map and the Glenmore Settlement Map. **It**

was proposed by John Grierson and seconded by Alistair Dargie that the following comments should be made. Agreed by all.

#### *Aviemore*

- *Identify land to the north of Aviemore as community development site.*
- *Identify land at old primary school site as community development site.*
- *That the boundary settlement be left unchanged.*
- *That a comment should be made with regards to the term “safeguarded”. It should mean just that, land safeguarded from development.*

#### *Rothiemurchus and Inverdrue*

- **The triangle of land at Rothiemurchus be marked as “safeguarded recreational/open space” and the area of land opposite Dellmhor by the road to Black Park, be marked as “safeguarded recreational/open space” as long as planning permission has expired. Proposed by Lorna McGibbon and seconded by Audrey MacKenzie. Agreed by all.**

#### *Glenmore*

Discussion took place with regards to the boundary settlement markings on the Glenmore plan. John Grierson commented that he strongly believed that CNPA are looking at Glenmore as an area for development. Ian Malcolm added that he thought it was extremely strange that all other development plan settlement maps had the development boundaries drawn tightly to the existing development/settlements, with the exception of the Glenmore map.

- **Proposed to draw the development/settlement boundary close to the existing settlement, excluding the Norwegian Lodge. Proposed by John Grierson and seconded by Ron Whyte. Agreed by all.**

- v) **Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill** – John Grierson went through the questions within the Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill Questionnaire and **all responses were agreed by AVCC and it was remitted to John Grierson to complete and return.**

## **6. AOCB**

- a). **PLANNING** – John Grierson summarised the procedure AVCC had adopted in dealing with planning applications. It was agreed that John Grierson, Mark Allan and Ray Sefton would look at planning applications and decide which applications should be brought before AVCC for discussion. **Proposed by Ron Whyte and seconded by Yvonne Birnie.**
- b). **PLANNING: COUNTRY PARK** – John Grierson advised that the Country Park had been recommended for approval and that following that a details of the park would be displayed within the Aviemore Library from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September and that he along with Cllr Bill Lobban and Liz Henderson would be available to answer any questions. John Grierson proposed that £2,000 be red-circled as “money in kind” funds to assist with funding applications for the project. **Proposed by John Grierson and seconded by Alistair Dargie.**
- c). **COMMUNITY CAFE** – Ron Whyte advised that the Community Café which runs from the St. Andrews Church Hall every Wednesday, have decided to host and provide Christmas lunch to those members of our community who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day. A donation of £200 towards the

cost of providing Christmas lunches was agreed, **proposed by Audrey MacKenzie and seconded by Karen Lawrie.**

- d). **CHARGES AT NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE** – Ron Whyte advised AVCC that charges at the new community centre were extremely prohibitive and would stop many community groups being able to use the facility. He gave for an example “Messy Church” which hosts a free fun afternoon followed by a meal to 90 to 120, Aviemore primary school aged children and that the group had been quoted a price of £300 and that was with a discount. He stated that Messy Church had been able to hire the use of the Cairngorm Shining Stars Nursery for £14 per hour. John Grierson also added that he had enquired about using the new facility to hold AVCC meetings however the cost of a meeting room was £36 as opposed to £25 for St. Andrews Church Hall. **It was proposed by John Grierson that AVCC continue to meet at St. Andrews, seconded by Alistair Dargie.**
- e). **ATC HALL** – Ron Whyte advised AVCC that land for the ATC Hall had been secured for the next 75-years at the cost of £1. He also advised that the funding to build the new hall was in place and that all that was now required was the planning permission. He extended his thanks on behalf of ATC to John Grierson, Bill Lobban and AVCC for all their support with this project.
- f). **COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD** – John Grierson advised that the Tourist Office were no longer able to be key holders for the community notice board. **It was remitted to Ray Sefton to collect the key and make new arrangements for use of the community notice board.**
- g). **GATEWAY TO AVIEMORE** – Audrey MacKenzie commented on the south entrance to Aviemore and felt it was important that this should be an attractive and tidy gateway to Aviemore. **Remitted to John Grierson to speak Alistair Grant and Simon Jackson of MAHR.**
- h). **OLD BRIDGE INN** – Audrey Mackenzie commented on the unsightly gas canisters at the old bridge which she felt should be screened away and that there was still no “no vehicle access” sign at the underpass into the village. **Remitted to John Grierson to contact those responsible.**
- i). **OLD SEWAR WORKS AT DALFABER** – Audrey MacKenzie felt that old sewer works should be concreted over and suggested making the site into a winter curling pond. **Remitted to John Grierson to ask landowner to consider gifting land to the community.**
- j). **TREES AT DALFABER ROAD** – Audrey MacKenzie commented on the state of the trees on Dalfaber Road. **Remitted to John Grierson to contact TEC services.**
- k). **AVIEMORE FLORAL DISPLAYS** – Audrey MacKenzie felt that AVCC should thank those responsible for the summer floral displays. **Remitted to John Grierson to write thank you letters to those concerned.**
- l). **OLYMPIC STATUE** – Audrey MacKenzie stated that the Olympic Statue plaque would need to be updated. **Remitted to Audrey MacKenzie to supply John Grierson with a list of names and a quotation for updating the plaque.**
- m). **CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE** – Audrey MacKenzie stated she no longer wished to organise the Christmas Carol Service. Bill Lobban thanked Audrey for all years where she had put together a great event. **After discussion it was remitted to Ray Sefton, Kate Cameron and Alistair Dargie to liaise with Audrey and plan this year’s Christmas Carol Service.**
- n). **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY WREATH** – It was **remitted to Ray Sefton** to organise remembrance Sunday wreath.

- o). BOUNDARIES COMMISSION** – Cllr Bill Lobban advised that boundaries commission have now decided not split Badenoch and Strathspey and that they would remain within the Inverness boundary, he also said that Skye would be added onto the Inverness boundary.
- p). ASSOCIATION OF CAIRNGORM COMMUNITY COUNCILS** - Ian Malcolm stated that it was really pleasing to have a full community council. He also explained his role on the Association of Cairngorm Community Councils and asked that no change be made at the moment. **John Grierson proposed that Ian Malcolm remain AVCC’s representative on ACCC and this was seconded by Ray Sefton.**
- q). FUTURESAPES PROJECT** - John Grierson said that Catherine Vis-Christie of RSPB has asked to speak to the community council about the Futurescapes Project. She will attend the next meeting on Thursday 11th October. John Grierson intimated that the meeting would start at 1715 to accommodate the presentation.

## **7. CLOSE OF MEETING AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting of AVCC was set for Thursday 11th October 2012 at 7.15pm to be held in St. Andrews Church Hall.