

# AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTE of a MEETING of the COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in AVIEMORE COMMUNITY CENTRE, on THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2013 at 7.30pm.

**Present:** John Grierson (Chair), Ray Sefton (Secretary), Rev. Ron Whyte, Cllr Bill Lobban, Willie McKenna (CNPA), Audrey MacKenzie, Yvonne Birnie, Kathleen Cameron, Alistair Dargie, Karen Lawrie, Lorna McGibbon, Carole Butler (VABS), Joe Kirby (public), Tom Ramage (Press)

**Apologies:** Mark Allan

### 1. OPENING REMARKS

John Grierson welcomed all present and offered his congratulations to Rev Ron Whyte on his recent marriage.

### 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of AVCC held on 11th April 2013, which had been previously circulated were **proposed by Rev Ron Whyte and seconded by Kathleen Cameron.**

### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) **Olympic Plaques** – Alistair Dargie circulated to the Community Council a specification he had written with regards to the updating of the Olympic plaque. He summarised in detail the different materials, casting methods, sizes and costing's. This was followed by some discussion after which, it **was remitted to Alistair Dargie to obtain firm quotes from the two most favourable companies.**  
**Proposed by John Grierson and seconded by Karen Lawrie.**
- b) **Wall at Call Centre** – John Grierson asked whether anyone had noticed if the wall had been repaired. Kathleen Cameron advised that the wall had now been repaired and the gardens and grounds were being maintained.
- c) **Band Stand Cover at Village Green** – John Grierson reported the Community Council that the planning application had been successful.
- d) **Community Fundraising Event** – Yvonne Birnie asked whether there was any update and John Grierson advised that a further meeting of the group would be held later this month.
- e) **National Spring Clean Day** – Ray Sefton stated that the “Spring Clean Day” had been a success with over 30 volunteers, who had collected 69 bags of rubbish from around the area. He did comment that 11 of the bags of rubbish were collected from the Glenmore Road. Ray Sefton also said he would like to see the spring clean happen as an annual event.
- f) **Dalfaber Consultation** – John Grierson stated he had not written to the Convenor as this was a “live” application and the Convenor would not be able to make any comment on an ongoing application. **It was remitted to John Grierson to write at a later date.**

- g) **Litter Bins and Pavements** – Cllr Bill Lobban advised that Highland Council will be replacing 8 of litter bins in Aviemore, these would be new double bins, taking both recyclable items and general landfill litter.
- h) **MBT Skills Track** – John Grierson said that there was no further update at the moment.
- i) **Team Aviemore** – John Grierson said that Team Aviemore were no further forward.
- j) **Signage at Aviemore Brewery** – John Grierson advised that CNPA had issued an enforcement notice. It was noted that signage remained in place and that no retrospective planning application had been made. **It was remitted to John Grierson to follow up.**
- k) **Land at Grampian Road** – Audrey MacKenzie advised that she was no further forward in ascertaining who the owner of this piece of ground is. **It was remitted to Audrey MacKenzie to keep trying to find out who the landowner is.**

#### 4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Lorna McGibbon advised that the balance on account was £6104.86 and balance on the statue account was £2017.75.

#### 5. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **CNPA Proposed Local Development Plan** – John Grierson asked all members of AVCC whether they had read the document and asked for any comments. John Grierson questioned the settlement boundaries for Inverdruie and Glenmore, stating that he believed that by marking out a settlement boundary, then that would surely make the premise that the area is open for development. Cllr Bill Lobban stated that there was six weeks to make any comments on this Local Development Plan. After much discussion, Karen Lawrie asked whether the Community Council could have a separate meeting to discuss and gather comments. **This was unanimously agreed by all and a meeting was set for Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at 7pm. It was remitted to John Grierson to confirm and inform of the venue for this meeting. It was also remitted to John Grierson to ask for a paid official of the CNPA to attend. It was remitted to Ray Sefton to advertise meeting.**
- b) **Planning Sub-Group** – John Grierson reported that Karen Lawrie had agreed to join the planning sub-group. **This proposed by Alistair Dargie and seconded by Ray Sefton.** Yvonne Birnie asked if the members of the Community Council could have a note of the remit of the sub-group and some discussion took place with regards to when the sub-group was originally set-up and the remit of this sub-group. John Grierson explained to all, the process of planning applications, and stated that anyone could register with Highland Council to receive notifications of planning applications. Further discussion took place as to what should be expected of the sub-group. **It was remitted to John Grierson to look out the original remit of the planning sub-group.**
- c) **Floral Fund** – John Grierson advised that a request for financial assistance had been received from Jonathan Gatenby with regards to the Aviemore Floral Fund. It was agreed by all to make a donation of £500 towards the floral display for Aviemore. **Proposed by Lorna McGibbon and seconded by Rev Ron Whyte.**
- d) **Planning Application 13/1408/Ful Biomass Boiler at Medical Centre** – John Grierson passed around photocopies of the drawings for this planning application. Discussion took place with regards to the safety issues surrounding the storage of biomass pellets and the potential of fatal carbon monoxide poisoning. Alistair Dargie gave some advice on carbon monoxide and after discussion it was agreed

unanimously that the AVCC would not make any objection to this application but would comment on the safety and security of the pellet storage building. **Proposed by Alistair Dargie and seconded by Ray Sefton. Remitted to John Grierson to make comments.**

- e) **Overhanging Trees on B970 at Inverdrue** – Rev Ron Whyte advised of a problem with overhanging tree branches on the right hand bend by Inverdrue House. **It was remitted to John Grierson to write to Highland Council, Roads Department. Proposed by John Grierson and seconded by Ray Sefton.**
- f) **Parking Charges at FC Visitor Centre** – Rev Ron Whyte commented on the parking charges applied by FC to visit the Forestry Commission visitor centre. He believes this charge would give visitors a “rip-off” perception. It was noted that the visitor centre is close by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013. It was also noted that since the implementation of FC car parking charges this has caused a problem of road hazards and obstructions with the public parking on the roads.
- g) **Sewage Leaking from Hilton Hotel** – John Grierson advised that he had received a letter from Mr and Mrs Keegan with regards to sewage leaking from the Hilton Hotel into their back garden. Yvonne Birnie gave some detail on the sewage problem, as did Cllr Bill Lobban, as he too had been contacted by Mr and Mrs Keegan. **Cllr Bill Lobban advised that a CCTV inspection of the sewer was due to be carried out next week by Scottish Water and it was remitted Cllr Bill Lobban to follow up on this.**
- h) **A9 Dualling Public Exhibition** – Ray Sefton advised that he had circulated an email giving details of an exhibition of A9 Dualling. This was set for 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2013 at the Cairngorm Hotel.

## 6. AOCB

- a) **Visiting French Scout Group** – John Grierson advised that he had received an email from a French Scout Group, looking for help in finding a place to pitch three tents, which would be close by to toilet facilities and close to transport links. **It was remitted to John Grierson to reply.**
- b) **Planning Application for North Dalfaber** – John Grierson reported that there had been at least two reported sightings of wildcats in this area. These sightings were reported to CNPA and SNH. **It was remitted to John Grierson to write to both of these agencies for an update. Proposed by John Grierson and seconded by Karen Lawrie.**
- c) **Old Library Building** – Rev Ron Whyte enquired about Highland Council vacating the old library building, as a local butcher had expressed an interest in the unit. Cllr Bill Lobban stated that he could not discuss in detail as this was commercially confidential but did advise that Highland Council are negotiating with the landlord with regards to ending the lease.
- d) **Community Sports Hub** – Yvonne Birnie advised that an event was being held on 12<sup>th</sup> May between 10.30am and 1pm, whereby people could come and try new sports. She also passed a leaflet to Ray Sefton for display on the Community Noticeboard.
- e) **Pot Holes on Road to Steam Railway** – Audrey MacKenzie commented on two large potholes which are now almost one very large pothole on the road into the Strathspey Railway sheds. Alistair Dargie questioned whether this section of road was actually a “core path”. **It was remitted to John Grierson to write to the Strathspey Steam Railway and the CNPA. Proposed by Alistair Dargie and seconded by Ray Sefton.**
- f) **Tree Cutting Opposite Dalfaber Drive** – Cllr Bill Lobban reported that trees opposite the entrance to Dalfaber Drive had required to be cut down. He stated that this tree cutting was necessary as the trees had become rotten from the inside out, as some individual had been cutting at the trees. He

further stated that HC take a very dim view and should these actions continue HC would consider it an act of vandalism and appropriate action would be taken.

- g) **Shining Stars Nursery** – Carole Butler advised that the Shining Stars Nursery was to close at the end of May and this would potentially leave 30 children under the age of three needing to find alternative child care. She felt saddened that a village the size of Aviemore would be losing this facility. Cllr Bill Lobban advised that there would soon be a new child care facility opening at the Hilton Hotel and he stated that the Shining Stars Nursery had the one of the worst care commission reports in Highland Council. Carole Butler said she and the majority of the other parents did not believe that the care commission report was not accurate of the care and service provided and she also pointed out that anyone wishing to use the Hilton Hotel provision would need to able to drive. John Grierson said that although that the loss of child care in Aviemore was not good a thing, the Community Council could not comment on a commercial enterprises.
- h) **Annual General Meeting** – John Grierson advised that the Annual General Meeting of Aviemore and Vicinity Community Council was scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 at 7.00pm to be held at the Aviemore Community Centre.
- i) **Rev. Ron Whyte** - John Grierson thanked Rev Ron Whyte for his service and support of the Aviemore and Vicinity Community Council over the past years and wished him a happy retirement.

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

John Grierson thank all those for attending, and the date of the next meeting of AVCC was set for Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at 7.30pm to be held in The Aviemore Community Centre. Audrey MacKenzie gave her apologies in advance.