

AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE of a MEETING of the COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in AVIEMORE COMMUNITY CENTRE, on THURSDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2013 at 7.30pm.

Present: John Grierson (Chair), Alistair Dargie (Vice Chair), Ray Sefton (Secretary), Lorna McGibbon (Treasurer) Kathleen Cameron, Karen Lawrie, Audrey MacKenzie, Yvonne Birnie, Cllr Bill Lobban, Will McKenna (CNPA), Kirsty Bruce (Minutes)

Apologies: Stevie Wilson

In Attendance: Bob Grant (CNPA) Johnny Grant (Rothiemurchus Estate) and Neil McIver (Aviemore PTA)

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of AVCC held on Thursday 12th September 2013 which had been previously circulated were **proposed by Alistair Dargie and seconded by Ray Sefton.** With the following changes:-

Matters Arising Item 3.b Litter Bins – should read; 7 new litter bins with and 3 old bins having been re-sited within the village.

New Business Item 4.c Cairngorm Closed System – first sentence should read; guided tours would be made permanent.

New Business Item 4.h High Speed Broadband – second paragraph should read; Cllr Bill Lobban advised that business premises, offices and residential areas would receive broadband but the fibre optic cable would end at the BT boxes in the street, it would then be a copper cable connection from there to the individual premises.

New Business Item 4.i Aviemore North and South Signs – last paragraph should read; Cllr Bill Lobban added that when AVCC had decided and agreed on a new location for the signs and he further added if Highland Council agreed to put up the signs then no planning permission would be needed. It was also to be minuted that AVCC thanked Alistair Dargie for all his hard work in painting and restoring the signs.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

Lorna McGibbon advised that the transfer of £703.20 from the Statue Account to AVCC current account in respect of monies paid to Brunel Engraving had been completed. Lorna McGibbon advised that the cheque from Highland Council for the amount of £1,588.35 had been received, giving a balance held on account of £7021.78. She commented that the monies received were £432.07 less than in the previous year. Lorna McGibbon advised that the balance on the statue account was £1323.40

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) **Parking in the Green** – Alistair Dargie advised that he hadn't seen the Warden and Cllr Bill Lobban said he had not received a reply from their Head Office to date

- b) **Damage to Poles on the Ski Road** – Yvonne Birnie said she had twice attempted to email photos to John Grierson which had “bounced back” she added she had printed copies of the photos which she passed to John Grierson.
- c) **Emptying of Waste Tanks on Busses** – John Grierson advised that he had written to Scottish Water and SEPA and waiting for a reply back.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Core Path Plan** - John Grierson welcomed Bob Grant, Recreation and Access Manager for CNPA who had come along in place of Adam Street-Smith to discuss the Core Path Plan. Bob Grant stated that the Aviemore Paths leaflets had now been completed and work and some discussion would need to be had with regards to signage to support the leaflet.

CNPA are minded at this stage to keep the High Burnside path in the core path network and Bob Grant said now the community obviously have a range of things they can do. AVCC can obviously sustain its objection or can withdraw the objection. He added that he understood that there may be some difficulty in AVCC changing their view as a community council with regards to a set time period, but if AVCC were minded to say they were willing to change their decision it in the future that would for CNPA be same as a withdrawal.

Ray Sefton said that under the first phase, AVCC had withdrawn their support and said the he didn't class that as an objection, but CNPA clearly do. John Grierson interjected that CNPA's letter states “firstly I am treating your response as an objection as it requires a change in the plan”. John Grierson said CNPA are treating it has an objection and Bob Grant replied “that is correct”. John Grierson pointed out that AVCC had not objected but had merely withdrawn support for it being a core path it was CNPA that were saying it was an objection. AVCC has supported there being a path, it is the designation as a core path that is not supported.

The discussion continued and moved on to the designation of the Thieves Road. Bob Grant added that CNPA received an objection for the inclusion of Thieves Road in the Core Paths Plan. John Grierson invited John Grant of Rothiemurchus Estate to give his views on Thieves Road. John Grant stated Rothiemurchus are currently content with the path the way it is and the particular section he was thinking about is the section from Loch and Eileen through to Drakes Bothy. This is the narrow bit that you can't walk two abreast and is currently used by single track bikers, who are in the know and mostly local and they appreciate the path the way it is and it's also used by people more his age that are looking for a quieter experience out in the forest. As he understands it, the proposal is that the path should remain the same but be designated a core path. John Grant stated that as recreational managers as soon as that happens, the people who make their living out publishing guide books and websites will promote this. This would change the character of the path and it would then become like the Old Logging Way. It would be become a very popular round trip cycling route coupled with the Speyside Way. John Grant asked if AVCC wanted the path the stay the same or to be of a different in character. An extract of the response from AVCC to CNPA was read out "AVCC supports GR17 the Thieves Road, historically used by thieves and travellers and it was a drove road for hundreds of years. There will have to be careful planning and management as the path goes through an environmentally sensitive area." John Grant thanked AVCC for the discussion saying it was very helpful but asked that it be minuted that the date of the decision was not known at tonight's meeting.

Willie McKenna asked the Chairman if he thought AVCC had consulted enough with the community over this path and he said he thought it would be advantageous to have a public meeting about this path. John Grierson responded that his feelings were that as AVCC had made a decision it should just let things run as they are and if it goes to public inquiry then it's somebody independent who decides. He believed that it will go to public inquiry because there are others objecting.. Yvonne Birnie stated she would like to add that she supported Willie McKenna's suggestion. There were no other voices of support.

Cllr Bill Lobban pointed out that as AVCC had come to a decision and it would be unconstitutional for it to change that until 6 months after the decision was made.

John Grierson thanked both John Grant and Bob Grant for attending tonight and acknowledged Bob Grants departure from CNPA and thanked him of his counsel in previous years and wished him well in his new role. Both John Grant and Bob Grant left the meeting at 8.25pm.

- b) Aviemore Primary: Supply Teachers** – Neil McIver explained to AVCC the problems that Aviemore Primary School and indeed many schools within the Highland were having in sourcing supply teachers. John Grierson advised that a copy of the letter from Kirsten Rankin of Aviemore PTA to Highland Council had been circulated by email to all members of AVCC. The problems of sourcing supply teachers and the detrimental effect this has pupils was discussed in detail. Cllr Bill Lobban said there was a problem with the shortage of supply teachers, one of the main reasons being that supply teachers are not paid at their full rate until they get a position of 5-days. This he said disproportionately effects communities further away from bigger places. The problems with shortage of supply teachers were discussed in full and it was agreed that AVCC would write to Highland Council with regards to this serious problem. **Remitted to John Grierson and proposed by Alistair Dargie and seconded Ray Sefton.**
- c) Licensing Board – Overprovision Consultation** – John Grierson read through the document and AVCC agreed on the response. **Proposed by Kathleen Cameron and seconded by Alistair Dargie.**
- d) Planning Application 2013/0302/DET 2 x Biomass Boilers 2013** – AVCC considered and discussed this planning application and after consideration it was agreed to object to this planning application on the grounds of location, design and flu height. **Proposed by Ray Sefton and seconded by Karen Lawrie. Cllr Bill Lobban and Willie McKenna took no part in these discussions.**
- e) Planning Application 2013/0303/DET Variation to S42 Agreement** - AVCC considered this planning application with regards to raising the floor levels and after discussion it was agreed that AVCC would make no comment. **Proposed by Alistair Dargie and seconded by Ray Sefton. Cllr Bill Lobban and Willie McKenna took no part in these discussions.**
- f) Christmas Event and Christmas Donations** – The annual Christmas Carol event was discussed in brief and it was agreed that Kathleen Cameron, Alistair Dargie and Ray Sefton would organise this event. AVCC's annual donation to Aviemore Senior Citizens and Children's Christmas parties would continue with a donation to £200 to each. **Proposed by Ray Sefton and seconded by Alistair Dargie.**
- g) Remembrance Sunday** – Ray Sefton reminded AVCC that the Remembrance Sunday service was being held on 10th November 2013. Audrey MacKenzie asked about the flower boxes at the war memorial. **It was remitted to Alistair Dargie to obtain the number of Highland Council gardener and pass this Ray Sefton.**
- h) CNPA Planning Standards** – John Grierson reported that he had circulated an email with regards to CNPA Planning Standards. He summarised the planning process and the time limitations on

responding to planning application. The planning process was being discussed by CNPA Planning Committee at its meeting scheduled for Friday 11th October. It was agreed that John Grierson should write to CNPA explaining where the difficulties lie with regards to the Community Councils and these time limits. **Proposed by Alastair Dargie and seconded by Ray Sefton.**

- i) **School Play Park** – Cllr Bill Lobban said that there no progress to report.
- j) **Inverdrue Green**- Ray Sefton gave an update on the use of Inverdrue Green and discussion with Keith Ballam and Hilton Coylumbridge. It was agreed that if a business wished to use the green then a suggested donation of £50 would be expected and £25 from other local groups and charities. **Proposed by Yvonne Birnie and seconded by Ray Sefton.**
- k) **Traffic Wardens** - John Grierson advised that he had circulated by email a copy of correspondence received from Police Scotland with regards to the proposal to withdraw the role of traffic wardens across all divisions.
- l) **Police Station Opening Hours** – John Grierson advised that he had circulated by email a copy of letter from Police Scotland detailing the proposed opening hours and that Aviemore would be a category B police station with opening hours of 0700 – 0000 7-days a week.
- m) **Cairngorm Closed System** – The response Ray Sefton had received from Mrs Wright of HIE was discussed and it was agreed that Ray Sefton draft a reply letter to the Chairman of HIE with regards to Miss Wrights response. **Proposed by Kathleen Cameron and seconded by Karen Lawrie.**

5. AOCB

- a) **Road Safety Conference** – John Grierson advised that this event was scheduled for 22nd November 2013 in Inverness and that he would be attending.
- b) **Dalfaber Drive Puffin Crossing** – The placement of the puffin crossing was briefly discussed and AVCC were happy with placement of this. **Proposed by Ray Sefton and seconded by Alistair Dargie.**
- c) **CNPA Murray Ferguson and Simon Harrison** - John Grierson advised that AVCC had received correspondence from Murray Ferguson in connection to CNPA’s newly appointed Head of Planning, Simon Harrison and a visit to Aviemore, which AVCC were invited to attend. It was agreed that the most suitable date would 20th November and **John Grierson would reply to Murray Ferguson. Proposed by Alistair Dargie and seconded by Ray Sefton.**
- d) **Commonwealth Games Torch** – Willie McKenna suggested that AVCC write with regards to the Commonwealth Games to suggest Aviemore should be on the Torch Route. **It was remitted to Yvonne Birnie to ask Badenoch and Strathspey Sports Association if they write with regards to this. Proposed by John Grierson and seconded by Kathleen Cameron.**
- e) **Village Green Craft Fair** – *Kathleen Cameron advised that a craft fair was to be held on Village Green on Sunday 20th October and good interest from potential local crafters had been received. It was remitted to Kathleen Cameron to continue to organise this event. Proposed by John Grierson and seconded by Alistair Dargie.*
- f) **Community Rail Partnership** – Cllr Bill Lobban reported that he had attended a meeting in Pitlochry of the Community Rail Partnership. The concern of Community Rail Partnership is with regards to the train companies pushing to increase journey times between Inverness and Perth and easiest way to do this would be to close some of smaller stations. Cllr Bill Lobban advised that this group would be holding a meeting in Aviemore next month and advised AVCC to attend.

6. 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 14th November 2013 at 7.30pm to be held in The Aviemore Community Centre.