

AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE of a MEETING of the COMMUNITY COUNCIL, held in AVIEMORE COMMUNITY CENTRE, on THURSDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2015 at 7.30pm.

Present: Alastair Dargie (Vice Chair), Ray Sefton (Secretary), Kathleen Cameron, Audrey MacKenzie, Beth Hay, Joe Kirby, Cllr Bill Lobban, Willie McKenna (CNPA), PC Neil McIvor, Shona MacLachlan (Minute taker)

Apologies: John Grierson (Chair), Lorna McGibbon (Treasurer), Yvonne Birnie, Steven Wilson

Opening Remarks: Alastair Dargie welcomed everyone to this meeting of AVCC.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of AVCC which was held on Thursday 8th January 2015 were circulated and adopted. **Minutes proposed by Ray Sefton and seconded by Kathleen Cameron.**

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

No figures given due to Lorna McGibbons' absence.

3. BUSINESS

3.1 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) A9 Dualling - No further forward, and no update has been given as yet.

b) Public Access Defibrillator - No more updates given as yet.

c) Tesco's Land - Cllr Bill Lobban advised that 4 councillors met with Richard Holligan from Tesco, who advised that are prepared to sell the land, even competitor. It was made clear that this area was zoned for commercial use and not housing. Joe Kirby who had also been in discussion with Richard Holligan regarding a public goodwill gesture due to the disappointment of the public with Tesco now not going ahead with the build. If anyone had any ideas for the area to let him know. Alastair Dargie commented that we do have planning permission for a small lochan which is a substantial project, but Tesco would probably not want to spend a lot of money on the area, however may be worth putting forward.

d) Speyside Way Extension - Alastair Dargie advised that the work has now started on the south side of the village.

e) Christmas Eve Parade - Ray Sefton advised that this was brought up at the ABA. No further information has been given in regards to the de-brief.

f) BT Manhole - No further updates.

3.2 BUSINESS

Alastair Dargie welcomed PC Neil Mclvor to speak more about any police matters. PC Neil Mclvor mentioned there was no report sent round this month, however wanted to share statistics from the Aviemore area. A total of 216 calls were dealt with. The main areas; 21 Road Accidents, 2 Assaults, 2 Mountain Incidents, 4 thefts, 3 domestic related incidents, 1 drink driving, 2 deaths, 3 vandalism, 1 hate/racial, 2 drug related, 13 driver behaviour related incidents, 16 tickets issued for road traffic offences, 2 instances of counterfeit currency in the area. Alastair Dargie commented that there was a lack of presence on the A9, however Neil Mclvor commented that the road is now covered by road policing. Audrey MacKenzie asked PC Neil Mclvor to look into the signs in place at Dalfaber Drive as she is finding a lot of traffic thinking this is a through-road into Dalfaber. PC Neil Mclvor will look into and let Cllr Bill Lobban know if signage is required.

a) Cairngorms National Park Authority Elections - Ward 2 - Ray Sefton commented that he was unaware of who exactly was standing. However, he remarked that John Grierson was standing. Willie McKenna commented that he will be standing.

b) Aviemore Primary School Closures - Alastair Dargie commented that the community council received an email regarding the closures recently of Aviemore Primary stating there may have been a feeling amongst the public specifically when there was flooding in the kitchen that it was dealt with abruptly. Kathleen Cameron stated that she was at the school during the first snow closure and worked with the staff to ensure all children made it home safely. Cllr Bill Lobban commented that Highland Council have a no tolerance policy of abuse of staff and it will not be tolerated. Alastair Dargie also mentioned that the school has addressed issues quickly and put procedures in place. PC Neil Mclvor mentioned that there was no issues for safety of children, and that they were all looked after, and the school is now using the text alert system. Cllr Bill Lobban also commented that the heating system at the school which has caused previous closures, now have a backup system in place. Alastair Dargie to write to school to comment about no issues of safety and accept the steps the school has taken.

c) Footpaths - Kathleen Cameron advised that the footpaths in Aviemore were poorly ploughed during the latest snow fall and was considerably noticeable after visiting Kingussie/Newtonmore. Alastair Dargie also commented that the main streets in Kingussie/Newtonmore are done by BEAR, where as Aviemore has 1 plough do massive network. Cllr Bill Lobban advised to get in touch so it can be reported. Alastair Dargie also commented that the equipment Aviemore has to do this is very poor. Cllr Bill Lobban advised that the Highland Council winter maintenance system is being re-visited (road/pavement gritting). However if it is bad, please get in touch with him to let him know.

d) Bus Shelters - Ray Sefton advised that 2 years ago he had looked into getting standard bus shelters out with the village and proposes to look into starting this again. Ray Sefton mentioned that the areas in particular would be 2 at Glenmore, 2 at Hilton and 1 at Inverdrue. The majority of the group commented that plastic bus shelters would not be acceptable and perhaps to look at 2 shelters rather than 5 to start off with. Alastair Dargie mentioned that it would be a good idea to see if we could get both National Park/ Highland Council on board. Willie McKenna mentioned that this would be a really good opportunity, look at the redesigning of Glenmore, and possibly Forestry Commission.

Cllr Bill Lobban commented that the Highland Council would want to know numbers for the routes and will find out if there is any budget for supplying bus shelters and will liaise with Ray Sefton.

AOCB

a) Rural Open 3G - Joe Kirby mentioned that Newtonmore had recently submitted an application for the rural open 3G with Vodafone. Alastair Dargie mentioned that this was brought up at previous meeting in November but because Aviemore are already supplied by 3G from 2 other networks, they wouldn't be taking our application any further. It was agreed Joe Kirby would look into again.

b) Bus Route - Newtonmore - Kingussie - Kincaig - Aviemore - Inverness - Cllr Bill Lobban mentioned that this morning bus route was stopped on the 1st week in January, although it was a well used route, Stagecoach are advising it wasn't there for decided to take it off. Several other community councils have complained to both Highland Council and Stagecoach about the withdrawal. Kathleen Cameron also commented that many people had mentioned this to her. Cllr Bill Lobban will send over details and Ray Sefton will write letter.

c) Customer Services Review - Cllr Bill Lobban advised that he is a member of the customer service review board, and last year Highland Council put forward a proposal to decimate the customer service point network in the highlands, although this was stopped, a new review is in place. Aviemore is not directly affected, however Grantown/Kingussie will be downgraded to computer aided points. A consultation document is on the website and asks everyone to please fill this in.

d) Broadband Cabinets - Ray Sefton mentioned that he had sent an email to members in regards to planning for broadband telecommunication cabinets being installed. It was agreed that Ray would respond to e-planning giving the support of the AVCC.

e) Active Cairngorm - Ray Sefton mentioned that you can go onto the Cairngorms National Park website as there is a consultation going on about Active Cairngorm, and this is on until the middle of April.

5. CLOSE OF MEETING AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Alastair Dargie thanked those in attendance and the date of the next meeting is Thursday 12th March 2015 at 7.30pm in the Aviemore Community Centre.