

# AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES of a MEETING of the COMMUNITY COUNCIL, held in AVIEMORE COMMUNITY CENTRE, on THURSDAY 12th May 2016 at 7.30pm.

**Present:** John Grierson (Chair), Alastair Dargie (Vicechair/Secretary), Kathleen Cameron, Jan Gardner, Cllr Bill Lobban, Shona MacLachlan (Minute Taker)

**Apologies:** Wilma Grierson (Treasurer), Willie McKenna (CNPA), Beth Hay, Joe Kirby, Erin McBean, PC Neil Mclvor,

**Opening Remarks:** John Grierson welcomed everyone to this meeting of AVCC.

### 1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of AVCC which was held on Thursday 14th April 2016.

**Minutes proposed by Alistair Dargie and seconded by Jan Gardner**

### 2. TREASURERS REPORT

John Grierson produced receipts and payments report and advised that the balance of the account was £1832.15. The statue account (business reserve) is now £3533.73, after 14p interest. Kathleen Cameron advised that the Craft Fair payments should have been put into the Business Reserve Account. John Grierson to arrange the transfer.

### 3. BUSINESS

#### 3.1 Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting.

**a) Aviemore Thistle Funding request** - John Grierson advised he had received an email from Aviemore Thistle thanking AVCC for their support and funding. It was also published on social media and a photo was placed in the Strathspey & Badenoch Herald of the cheque presentation.

**b) Village Green Lease** - John Grierson advised that he had received contact from the Keeper of Registers of Scotland and the search reveals that the land belongs to the trustees for Aviemore and Rothiemurchus Village Council which no longer exist. It was agreed that John Grierson would consult a solicitor's about the legal aspect to changing ownership.

**c) Social Care - Lack of provision in the area- continued from previous meeting** - John Grierson advised that he is still looking into getting Boyd Peters to come along to one of the AVCC meetings.

**d) Rock Challenge - Kingussie High School** - Kathleen Cameron advised that the Rock Challenge at Eden Court was a great success and although Kingussie didn't win, they picked up 8 awards of excellence. The children will also be going to the Scottish Finals to watch the winners, and have already started preparations for next year.

**e) Badenoch and Strathspey Community Council Forum** - John Grierson advised he had received no reply as yet.

**f) Community Resilience** - John Grierson advised that he hadn't spoken with Steve Marden yet, but did speak with Karen Derrick who suggested speaking with a gentleman who is on the Association of Cairngorm Communités. John Grierson will speak with him when attending meeting next week.

**g) Proposal - Scottish Water** - John Grierson advised that the date has now changed from the 15th June to the 16th as the Community Centre cannot accommodate us then. John Grierson also commented that he had received an email from Judy Walker advising that there will be 5 drop in events across Strathspey and Scottish Water are inviting communities to come to these. Aviemore date is 2nd June between 4pm and 7pm at the Community Centre.

**h) Spring Clean** - Alastair Dargie commented that it had been organised for the first week of June. Will speak with Ray Sefton to find out exact date whilst Beth Hay is on holiday.

### **3.2 NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Motion to appoint Mike McArthur as an associate member** - The appointment is for the term of the present community council. All members present agreed. Proposed by Kathleen Cameron and seconded by Alastair Dargie.

**b) Summer bedding plants; withdrawal of planting for Aviemore** - Alastair Dargie reported that he had circulated the briefing note from the Highland Council. Alastair Dargie also said that he had put together a survey monkey questionnaire through social media and has received 47 responses from the community. More than half the replies agreed that removing the large whisky barrels near Myrtlefield could be done as these have not been used for some years now. The highest priority bed was the War Memorial and then the entrance to Aviemore. Cllr Bill Lobban also suggested getting in contact with the London & Scottish Developments who we believe own the land in which the whisky planters are situated on to see if they would be willing to contribute (John Grierson to email). In terms of maintenance side of things, Alastair Dargie said that possibly putting money aside for local small businesses to maintain the gardens every 3 weeks or so. Cllr Bill Lobban also suggested allowing the business to put a small sign in the garden to say Maintained By.... on behalf of AVCC. Alastair Dargie will contact Richard Porteous, and Kathleen Cameron will contact Jenny from the explorers to see about helping with planting as some still need badges.

**c) Cairngorm National Park Design Award; nominate a project?** John Grierson asked the table for suggestions for the award, but there was nothing at the moment the group wished to nominate.

**d) Gala Day Entertainment** - Kathleen Cameron advised that the date was agreed as the 16th July. As yet there has been no committee meeting to discuss. Alastair Dargie suggested putting this to Aviemore Thistle to see if they would organise 5 aside and any monies made could go back to them. John Grierson to email Colin Smith from Aviemore Thistle.

**e) Scottish Rural Parliament Survey** - Alastair Dargie advised this survey comes in each year and that questions such as 'Do you have an issue?' , 'What could be achieved by solving this issue?' were asked. After discussion it was decided that there was no necessity for AVCC to reply.

### **5. AOCB**

**a) Scottish Natural Heritage** - John Grierson advised that there is an opportunity to meet board members and senior staff at the Boat of Garten Hall on 17th May, 6pm - 8pm.

**b) London & Scottish Developments** - John Grierson said that he had received an email from Chris Collins, the development surveyor from London & Scottish Developments who would like to brief the AVCC with regards to plans for the site. John Grierson will get back in touch with him and invite him to the next meeting.

**c) Economic Survey** - John Grierson advised that Mike Gale from G2 Outdoors emailed as he had been asked to put forward a quick economic survey from local businesses on the future impact that Natural Retreats may have or already have on businesses. After discussion it was decided that the Community Council should reply saying that it is extremely concerned about the situation that is unfolding at Cairngorm Mountain. Natural Retreats appears to be moving away from winter sports towards retail and conference facilities. The tourist industry in Aviemore was built up on the back of the winter sports industry and benefits not just Aviemore but the whole of Badenoch and Strathspey. Winter sports are integral to the economic and social wellbeing of the area and the 'downgrading' of such an important part of that jigsaw can only lead to a diminution in the attractiveness to tourism. As far as could be seen, Natural Retreats has not done anything that would give any confidence in their ability to manage a ski resort. **John Grierson to write to Mike Gale expressing our concerns**

**d) Spey Catchments Management Plan** - John Grierson commented that he had received a letter from Liz Henderson advising that on Monday 20th June, they are holding an event in Boat of Garten Hall to which representatives of the community council are invited to attend.

**e) Craft Fair - 22nd May** - Kathleen Cameron advised neither Mike McArthur or herself are able to do be at the fair. George Gordon will assist with setting up the open mic event but someone else would be needed. Jan Gardner agreed to help set up.

**f) Loch Morlich** - Jan Gardner said that the area is very well maintained, clean and free from litter and the toilets can be used at Willie's cafe at Glenmore. Alastair Dargie commented that there are toilet facilities at Loch Morlich, these are in the woodland area.

**g) Craigellachie - Cleaning up after dogs** - Alastair Dargie that it was on social media that Tony Vastano recently collected 56 bags of dog faeces from a well used dog walking area. Cllr Bill Lobban advised that this is not only an issue here, but in other areas of the village. Alastair Dargie suggested highlighting this for the Spring Clean, targeting difficult areas.

**h) Lucky2BHere Charity** - Alastair Dargie commented that he had received a message yesterday from the charity, which originally was set up to buy a defibrillator for a local shinty club in Skye. They now train people on how to use the apparatus, and deliver this training throughout Scotland. Alastair Dargie said that they have one set aside for Aviemore, but they normally like to have small donation towards it. It was suggested that it could be put outside the Police Station. Alastair Dargie suggested asking the charity to write to us. John Grierson said that Tesco have just announced that they will be putting defibrillators in all of their stores. Kathleen Cameron suggested contacting the Aviemore store to see if they would consider moving theirs to outside to have 24 hour access.

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

John Grierson thanked those in attendance. The next meeting is the AGM on Thursday 9th June 2016 at 7.00pm followed by an ordinary meeting at 7.30pm all in the Aviemore Community Centre.