

# AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES of a MEETING of the COMMUNITY COUNCIL, held in AVIEMORE COMMUNITY CENTRE, on THURSDAY 13th April 2017 at 7.30pm.

**Present:** John Grierson (Chair), Alastair Dargie (Vice Chair), Cllr Bill Lobban, Kathleen Cameron, Willie McKenna (CNPA), Beth Hay, Brian Tolson (Cairngorms Community Broadband), Johnnie Grant (Public), Duncan Ferguson (Public), Erin Ferguson (Public), Shannon McKay (Public), Lee Haxton (CNPA), Shona MacLachlan (Minute taker)

**Apologies:** Wilma Grierson (Treasurer), Joe Kirby

**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 9th March 2017.

**Minutes proposed by Alastair Dargie and seconded by Kathleen Cameron.**

### 2. TREASURERS REPORT

John Grierson produced receipts and payments report and advised that the balance of the account was £3670.34. The statue account (business reserve) is now £4378.93 after 4p interest.

### 3. BUSINESS

**a) Cairngorms Community Broadband** - Brian Tolson explained that the organisation has been set up to provide high speed broadband to the very rural parts of the Cairngorm National Park and surrounding areas. This is a brand new company, set up last year and is all about the digital connectivity. Brian Tolson went on to explain that they have lots of objectives, but first of all they wanted to look at the physical infrastructure; serving the areas that BT can't or won't serve.

Brian Tolson advised this is a membership company; can join for no fee. It gives individuals, community groups, and businesses the opportunity to have their say on how this business is run and how it develops. Membership will be starting soon.

Brian Tolson also advised that approximately £1.6 - £1.7 million will be required to lay down the network. It will be designed, built and operated by a third party contractor, but it will be community owned. BT, Sky etc all contacted in tendering process. First connections could be late Summer 2018. Postcodes affecting this area are Glenmore and the Cairngorm Mountain. Brian Tolson concluded that the project will stand or fall depending on the support of the community and advised he would stay in touch in regards to new website, newsletter etc. Facebook site is already live and would appreciate likes/shares.

Duncan Ferguson commented that up at Glenmore they are running on 0.7mb and his daughter Erin Ferguson commented that they are given Chromebooks from Kingussie High School to support studying, but she has to ask for printed copies of the assignments as cannot get any decent

broadband speed. Erin Ferguson also asked if it could be something that the school could also get behind. Kathleen Cameron to send Brian Tolson contact for school and come back with an update.

Lee Haxton asked about signing up and when it would be possible, Brian Tolson advised membership should be ready towards the end of the month. John Grierson proposed that we sign up to support ,seconded by Kathleen Cameron. Brian Tolson to advise when this is ready.

Alastair Dargie asked where the planning permission for the required infrastructure fits into the timescale; Brian Tolson commented that this would only be required when you need a new mast, but there is a lot of infrastructure out there already, SSE, Scottish Water etc or even existing masts, so will try and use this in the first instance.

### **(Electronic version of Brian Tolson's presentation attached to minutes)**

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

**a) Village Green Lease** - John Grierson advised that there was no further update at the moment.

**b) Cairngorm National Park Authority** - Lee Haxton advised there was a meeting last week, which unfortunately no one from the Community Council was able to attend due to short notice, but Yvonne Birnie from Aviemore Community Enterprise attended. Lee Haxton advised the key point from this was to discuss creating a small housing trust for Badenoch and Strathspey, if that's the right way forward or if we use an existing organisation.

**c) Planning Application - 16/05426/FUL - Speyside Trust, Badaguish** - John Grierson advised that he had objected to the planning application as per last month's proposal. John Grierson advised he received an email from Andrew Mackenzie advising he will address the points and plans will be revised by architect in due course. John Grierson commented that unless there are any major changes it is difficult to change our stance on the matter. John Grierson advised he would write to the Highland Council advising that the Community Council maintains their objection.

**d) Rock Challenge** - Kathleen Cameron advised everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. Aviemore Primary had a great time and also photos in Strathspey and Badenoch Herald this week. 8 Awards given to the Primary School. Kids will be performing again on 5th May at 2pm at the Aviemore Primary School.

**e) A9 Dualling - Update** - John Grierson advised that prior to the meeting an email was circulated to everyone of the letter he had sent. Everyone had agreed it was a great letter. Kathleen Cameron also shared it on social media.

Alastair Dargie commented that there is a preference to stick to one side for a financial basis, but they need to be justifying exactly where they cannot for environmental reasons be moving to the northbound side.

Cllr Bill Lobban advised there could possibly be a public local inquiry into the matter after speaking with a major tourism operator. Cllr Bill Lobban also commented that all previous sections of the A9 have been sub-divided into smaller areas, they have just done this as one larger complete area.

John Grierson advised would keep up pressure and see what happens.

**f) Tree Cutting-** John Grierson advised there was no reply in regards to his query in regards to the tree cutting alongside the railway. Alastair Dargie commented that he did not realise the extent of the area that was cleared. 50 Meters from track, possibly 2 acres of land has been cleared and can't see any justification for it. Cllr Bill Lobban advised they are only allowed to clear within the rail boundary or if they have permission from land owner.

### **3.2 NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Aviemore Community Survey** - Alastair Dargie advised that the feedback exercise will be happening at 7pm on 4th May at Aviemore Primary School. Alastair Dargie expressed the need for as many people as possible to be there and show support as this will be essentially the projects that will be taken forward by the community council or community company in the first instance. Lee Haxton also advised that there had been 316 online responses so far.

**b) Travelodge** - Kathleen Cameron advised after the recent article in the Strathspey and Badenoch Herald, a member of the public had asked Kathleen if there was any way to stop this as they felt there was no need to have both a Premier Inn and a Travelodge. Alastair Dargie advised until planning permission comes through, there is nothing that can be done.

### **5. AOCB**

**a) Craft Fairs** - Kathleen Cameron advised that the first Craft Fair of the year will start on 23rd April. Unfortunately Kathleen Cameron is unable to attend, Beth Hay will assist in her absence.

**b) Community Council Forum** - Cllr Bill Lobban advised that there was rumours Highland Council were stopping this due to funding. Cllr Bill Lobban continued that it was agreed VABS would be paid to run the secretarial side of things for a few months until they got on their feet, but not long term. Cllr Bill Lobban commented that they find it extremely valuable and if it is decided to keep this, then the Highland Council would find a budget somewhere to pay for venues etc. Dave Fallows had also offered to do secretarial duties for free.

**c) Email Planning** - Cllr Bill Lobban advised that he had emailed previously to the meeting in regards to planning. Cairngorm National Park continue to treat you as a statutory consultee, the Highland Council will only treat you as a statutory consultee if you ask to be. Cllr Bill Lobban advised to email the Highland Council and say you want to be a statutory consultee for every single item that comes in.

**d) New Walls - Dalfaber** - Cllr Bill Lobban asked if anyone knew what was going on with the walls at the entrance of Dalfaber. Alastair Dargie advised there was a planning application which came in a while ago that the Community Council objected to. John Grierson to email Malcolm MacLeod at Highland Council and find out what is happening.

**e) New Member** - Beth Hay asked since Jan Gardiner had left the Community Council were we looking for someone to take her place. John Grierson advised that we can take on a co-opted member, Beth Hay advised that Iain Grey was interested to get involved.

**f) Traffic Warden** - Willie McKenna asked if it was wise to put a warden into Aviemore, rather than allowing the village to have a free carpark. Cllr Bill Lobban advised that it has been a chargeable carpark for many years. Alastair Dargie commented that the parking issues will be changing in the

next 10 months anyway with the new retail development giving about 4 hours free parking and over 300 spaces.

**g) Pre Application Consultation Phone Mast** - Alastair Dargie commented that this had just come in from Telephonica Uk/Vodafone, proposing mast at Steam Railway towards back of Police Station. All agreed no comment as there was nothing to add.

**h) Application for Logo** - John Grierson advised Johnnie Grant got in touch and asked if he could use the Aviemore and Vicinity Community Council logo for his document for An Camus Mor, this was agreed.

**i) Coylum House** - John Grierson advised that the new house have built a huge wall which is visually obstructive. Cllr Bill Lobban advised planning officers had been advised and currently looking at.

**j) LGBT** - John Grierson advised that he had a request from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender group wanting to use the village green with a charity tent. They had spoken with Richard Porteous at the Highland Council who then put them in touch with John Grierson, but once emailed for which date they were after it was too late, but they might come back in future.

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

John Grierson thanked those in attendance and said that the next meeting for the AVCC will be on Thursday 11th May 2017 at 7.30pm in the Aviemore Community Centre.