

AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the COMMUNITY COUNCIL, held in AVIEMORE COMMUNITY CENTRE, on THURSDAY 8th May 2017 at 7.30pm.

Present: Alastair Dargie (Vice Chair/Secretary), Cllr Bill Lobban, Kathleen Cameron, Beth Hay, Joe Kirby, Wendy Holton (Aviemore Primary School), Karen Lawrie (Public)

Apologies: John Grierson (Chair), Wilma Grierson (Treasurer), Shona MacLachlan (Minute taker)

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 13th April 2017.

Minutes proposed by Beth Hay and seconded by Kathleen Cameron.

2. TREASURERS REPORT

Wilma Grierson had previously circulated receipts and payments report and Alastair Dargie advised that the balance of the account was £3626.30. The statue account (business reserve) is now £4378.96 after 3p interest.

3. BUSINESS

a) Police Report - PC Neil McIvor advised there had been a total of 142 calls dealt with by the Police in Aviemore area over the preceding month. These included 6 miscellaneous matters, 24 road traffic incidents, 4 silent 999 calls, 3 search of person/vehicle, 5 theft, 4 drug related, 8 fixed penalties, 1 noisy neighbour incidents, 10 animal related calls, 12 disorder, 14 driver behaviour related calls, 6 false calls with good intent, 1 drink driving, 2 domestic incidents, 2 drunk person call, 2 alarm activation, 6 road accidents, 1 civil matter, 2 concern for persons, 4 noise related calls, 4 vandalism, 3 warrant enquiries, 1 VIP visit, 2 fraud, 4 adverse weather/snow gates calls, 2 assaults, 1 lost/found property, 1 fire, 1 air weapon surrender, 2 insecure premises, 1 nuisance call, 1 vulnerable person, 1 mountain rescue incident, 1 suspicious person

Alastair Dargie queried if the police had enough information should the noise complaints at the redevelopment of the garage reoccur. It was highlighted that this was not a police matter, but a Highland Council issue, however out of hours contact was difficult if not impossible, especially at weekends. At the time of the main complaints the police had visited the site and were shown paperwork that suggested they were operating with agreement.

3.1 Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting.

a) Cairngorms Community Broadband - Alastair Dargie advised that we had not yet received any information on membership.

b) Village Green Lease – Awaiting further information.

c) A9 Dualling - Update - Alastair Dargie advised that he was not aware of the community council having received any response to the objection letter submitted.

d) Tree Cutting- Alastair Dargie advised that he had been forwarded communications from a resident at Railway Terrace that suggested that the large area of trees that had been felled may have been done in error and that the area of land was not owned by network rail. The Strathspey Steam Railway were not aware of it being their land, but if it was might be interested in building further storage buildings for rolling stock. It was suggested that Alastair Dargie right to the estate to ask if the land was theirs and if so were they aware that the tree felling had been carried out. The resident had stressed that his was a significant wildlife habitat before having been clear felled.

e) Aviemore Community Survey - Alastair Dargie advised that the public meeting had been held on the 4th May, but that turnout had been disappointingly low. VABS are still compiling the summary report which will be circulated and discussed once published.

a) Craft Fairs - Kathleen Cameron advised that the next Craft Fair will be on the 21st May. Kathleen Cameron and Beth Hay will attend and Joe Kirby hoped to attend to help set up before leaving.

3.2 NEW BUSINESS

Co-option of Iain Gray - Joe Kirby pointed out that as the Agenda had not been circulated 7 clear days in advance we needed to consider if this was appropriate to carry out now. Bill Lobban pointed out that if we felt that the issue was felt to be non contentious then we could propose and agree to standing orders being suspended for this item. This was proposed by Joe Kirby and Seconded by Kathleen Cameron . The Members unanimously agreed the suspension of standing orders for this individual item

It was confirmed by Alastair Dargie that Iain Gray was willing to join the community council. The motion to co-opted Iain Gray to the Community Council was made by Beth Hay and was seconded by Alastair Dargie. No counter proposal was put forward and it was passed by unanimous vote that Iain Gray would be co-opted.

Alastair Dargie stated that a community councillor had highlighted to him that Erin MacBean had not attended a Community council meeting since August last year. This was an absence of 9 months. He then read out article 11.2 under section 11 Disqualification of Membership from the Highland Scheme for the establishment of Community Councils “11.2 If any Community Councillor fails throughout a period of six consecutive months to attend a meeting, he or she will, unless the failure is due to some reason approved by the Community Council, cease to be a member of the Community Council.” Alastair Dargie proposed that there was not much choice but that we ask the Chair John Grierson to write to Erin to the above effect, this was seconded by Joe Kirby.

Joe Kirby expressed that it might be worth while exploring social media or the Strathy to promote the need for additional community councillors to be co-opted rather than being reliant on the usual network of contacts that might be willing to help. This was broadly agreed, if we fail to fill the current space (a maximum of 3 spaces can be co-opted). It was highlighted that Erin Ferguson had expressed an interest in attending meetings and although only 15 could be added as an associate member until she was 16 when she could be co-opted. Alastair Dargie proposed that we ask the Chair John Grierson to write to Erin Ferguson to offer to invite her to become an associate member with the aim of her becoming a co-opted member, this was seconded by Joe Kirby and unanimously

agree by all present and commented that it would be positive to have someone young involved in the community council.

Karen Lawrie (public) stated that she would like to join the community council if possible having previously served in the past. It was proposed by Alastair Dargie and Seconded by Kathleen Cameron that the co-option of Karen Lawrie should be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

4. AOCB

a) Primary School consultation on 4.5 day week. Alastair Dargie commented that several people had approached him in the community expressing concern, both at the proposal and how it was put across. The consultation sought the views of parents on the potential early closing at lunch time on a Friday by increasing the school day throughout the week and possibly shorter lunch breaks. Some parents had felt it suggested a preference to close early on the Friday and did not give enough information on what potential opportunities and costs there were regarding childcare for working parents, especially with the unknown changes to the Aviemore Community Children's Group (ACCG).

Wendy Holton assured those present that there had been no intention to lead parents to one decision or another and stated there were no financial benefits to closing early as far as she was aware. Wendy Holton pointed out that all the other primary schools in the Kingussie Associated Schools Group (ASG) had or were undergoing a similar consultation and that she felt it only fair that Aviemore parents were given the same opportunity. Originally Wendy had not intended to consult on the potential change as she was concerned that there were already changes within the community that might unsettle families. Wendy Holton also highlighted that unless there was considerable support for the change it would not go forward this time. Joe Kirby commented that the community council should support the school with whatever the response to the consultation was.

Alastair Dargie pointed out that the original move for High Schools to move to 4.5 day weeks had come as part of a cost saving exercise from the Highland Council. It was agreed however that in this case there would not be a cost saving. Alastair Dargie also pointed out that there are significant costs involved for working parents who may already be considerably stretched financially and there is the potential that some children may end up left home alone without supervision at too young an age.

Beth Hay asked Wendy Holton about the possible changes to the nursery and afterschool provision currently provided through ACCG. Wendy confirmed that the Highland council would take over the provision of the nursery after the school summer break – August 2017. Wendy Holton said that they are anticipating some changes, but at the moment not everything was agreed or finalised and therefore she was not in a position to pass detailed information on to parents and staff. Wendy Holton could confirm that the nursery provision would be for 3 and 4 year olds and would not include 2 year olds as the present operators do, as this was Highland Councils policy. Wendy Holton's message was that if it isn't broken, she would not be in a rush to fix it, providing that whatever 'it' is, is in keeping with Highland Council ways. Wendy Holton said that it was likely that breakfast club and afterschool provision would continue, although over time there will be an increase of up to 30 pence. It is not yet clear whether this will be incremented but she has suggested to Highland Council that this might be best for the community. She highlighted that the Council does not generally provide holiday club style care like the ACCG currently does, although some form of holiday provision was being planned and discussed as far back as when the new school was being

commissioned. Discussions are indicating that about 50% of the holidays might be provided, such as 1 week at October, 1 at Easter and 3 or 4 in the summer. Alastair Dargie pointed out that in an area like Aviemore with so many parents employed in the tourism sector, holiday childcare was essential and this change would have a significant negative effect. It was pointed out that negotiations are still ongoing on all these issues with the Highland Council and that they hoped there would be no change to holiday provision for the October holidays this year.

b) Litter Pick – Beth Hay queried if we could arrange a litter pick it was agreed that this was needed and Alastair Dargie suggested that Joe Kirby would be able to help organise, especially the social media side of it. They agreed to work together on it and a date was set for the 1st July which suited both.

c) Notice Board Maintenance – Beth Hay pointed out that she could not open the notice board due to the door lock being too stiff. Alastair Dargie suggested that the hinge might have dropped a bit and would try to look at it and see if it could be fixed.

d) Dog Poo – Beth Hay raised the issue of dog poo especially on the orbital path and queried whether more bins could be added. Bill Lobban pointed out that the bins have to be accessible by council vehicles and that it was unlikely any further could be added. It was also pointed out that the owners of dogs that allow their dogs to foul the path are no more likely to pick up after their dog if there were more bins.

e) Community Council Grants – Joe Kirby suggested that the Community Council could investigate a grant scheme similar to one that Carrbridge Community Council are launching. It was highlighted that Carrbridge has significant revenue streams including many thousands of pounds from community events, which at present Aviemore does not have. It was agreed that we should have further discussion on the subject at the July meeting when Joe Kirby could be present to look at the possibility of a grant scheme and a community event that might bring revenue into community groups.

5. CLOSE OF MEETING AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Alastair Dargie thanked those in attendance and said that the next meeting for the AVCC will be on Thursday 8th May 2017 at 7.30pm in the Aviemore Community Centre. This would be preceded by the Community Council AGM at 7.00PM also in the Aviemore Community Centre.