

AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Council held in Aviemore Community Centre on Thursday 13th June 2019 at 7pm.

Present: John Grierson (Chair), Alistair Dargie (Vice Chair), Wilma Grierson (Treasurer), Kathleen Cameron, Willie McKenna, Karen Laurie, Joe Kirby, Iain Gray, Beth Hay, Bruce Cook (public), Mike Dearman(public), Duncan Swarbrick(public), Mike Gale(public), Johnnie Grant(public), Neil McIvor(Police), Angela Orriss (minutes)

Apologies: Bill Lobban, Erin Ferguson

1. Opening remarks

John Grierson thanked everyone for attending this meeting of AVCC.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of AVCC meeting held on 9th May 2019 had been circulated. Proposed by Alastair Dargie and seconded by Kathleen Cameron.

3. Treasures Report

a) Wilma Grierson (treasurer) produced a report showing that there was £402.00 in the Treasurers Account and £7437.38 in the Business Reserve Account.

b) Wilma Grierson said that the Community Council was unable to make BACS payments on the Treasurers Account. John Grierson said this was historical due to the Highland Council Scheme requiring that two signatures required on payments. He said that Liz Cowie had been contacted and suggested that another account be opened in order to make direct bank payments. All those present agreed and it was decided to open another bank account.

4. Business

a) Village Green

The planning application for the bandstand has not been made yet, A preliminary application for funding has been made. The intention is to move bandstand further back, relocate the statue to the front of the Green and install a 'wishing well'. Beth Hay asked if there could be a new noticeboard. John Grierson said that it did not form part of the application.

b) Aviemore & Glenmore Community Trust and CMT

Mike Gale from AGCT circulated a proposed Memorandum of Understanding between AGCT and CMT. He highlighted the need for a unified front as a community working together. He invited all present to take a copy away and welcomed feedback. Mike Gale said that they had applied for a Grant to fund a Project Manager and an Admin Officer. The long-term plan is for Cairngorm Mountain to be handed over to the community - this was estimated to take 5 years but it was agreed that this could be much longer. The funicular has been successful but being out of action has made it

difficult. A letter was written last February suggesting a release of funding if the community as a whole have the same objectives. It would be useful to know realistically, how long it will take for commitment and decisive action. Approval would be needed before it can be published. The long-term plan would be to see the business as it was when it first started in the 60's & 70's. Mike Gale thanked everyone for listening and asked that regular communication via email to be continued.

c) Police report

Neil McIvor announced that there had been 128 incidents in the past month and gave a breakdown. John Grierson commented on vehicles driving over pavements and grass areas causing safety issues, Neil McIvor said that this would be addressed as and when these occurrences become apparent. Coach parking was also discussed. There have been issues with parking along Santa Claus Lane. Neil McIvor commented that there is limited space for coach parking and presents a problem as to where to send the coaches to park. It is important to promote good PR for the village including bus tours. It was agreed that there is a need for passengers of coaches to have access to the village. The police continue to look at traffic speed.

d) An Camus Mor

Johnnie Grant said that the Highland Council & Counsellors want this to happen. It is important to keep the project on top of the agenda. The design of An Camus Mor is led by professionals who are all for conservation using minimum land take and maximum tree cover, all important for local heritage, visitors and a sustainable community. The project has been in consultation since 2008 and is crucial to the local community by providing affordable housing to buy and rent. Available accommodation in the area is becoming more difficult so it is important to keep writing. John Grierson said that he has had encouraging replies but the need to continue to show a united community. Mike Gale asked why it has been held up. Johnnie Grant said that it is difficult for people outside of the area to understand what situation we have here. Businesses find it difficult to get staff because of the lack of accommodation and even nurses, paramedics and other service professionals cannot find suitable housing. The area thrives on visitors but visitors need services and leisure activities all of whom need an affordable housing infrastructure.

e) Bedding plants

Alistair Dargie said that the plants are arriving this week. A squad needs to be organised for weeding and then planting. The 'planters' are to be collected from John Grierson's garage, Beth Hay has found someone who can lay slabs down for the large planters @ £360. The slabs will prevent damage to the planters by grass cutting. It was agreed that the cost should be paid out of the Business Reserve Account., Beth Hay is to organise a team for weeding and planting.

5. AOCB

a) British Legion

The legion has obtained a grant for Christmas lights from the Armed Forces and also fundraising. A letter was circulated. The Legion in Aviemore has not had any renovations for 27 years. It was agreed that this was a well worthwhile project. However, the Community Council was not in a position to donate at present. John

Grierson to contact Alison Higgins to see if there is any other way the Community Council can help.

b) CNP Meeting with Community Councils/Groups

Beth Hay said that the meeting she attended was a good day. Information was brought in

c) School Grounds

Beth Hay said that the grounds surrounding the school is full of weeds and what could be done? John Grierson said that this is the Highland Council's responsibility. He has written to them before about the subject and he will write again.

d) New Hospital

John Grierson said that the ceremonial cutting of the turf for the new hospital is on the 28th June. He will need help putting up 2 tents, tables and chairs. Representatives from Grantown and Kingussie will be there also a local school child.

e) Fireworks

Bruce Cook highlighted the problem of fireworks in the area. Bonfire night, Christmas, New Year, Harley weekend, Chinese New Year and other events. The occurrences are becoming more frequent and bigger. He expressed his concern on the impact to domestic animals, wildlife, horses and farm animals. There had been reports of fireworks being set off as late as 4am. The police would have followed up any complaints, these would not be organised events but private parties. There are restricted hours for fireworks between 7 and 11pm. John Grierson will contact Police to pass on concerns.

6. Close of meeting and date of next meeting

John Grierson thanked all those for attending. The date of the next Meeting of AVCC was set for Thursday 11th July 2019 at 7pm.