

AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Council held in Aviemore Community Centre on Thursday 8th August 2019 at 7.30pm.

Present: John Grierson (Chair), Wilma Grierson, Alistair Dargie, Joe Kirby, Beth Hay, Kathleen Cameron, Johnny Grant (public), Eilidh McLeod (public), June Armstrong(public), Matthew Kirkwood(public), Angela Orriss (minutes)

Apologies: Bill Lobban, Willie McKenna, Karen Lawrie,

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 11th July 2019 had been circulated and agreed. Proposed by Joe Kirby and seconded by Wilma Grierson.

3. Treasures Report

Wilma Grierson (treasurer) had produced a report showing that there was £910.22 in the treasures account and £9648.14 in the business reserve account. The council grant had been received and she pointed out that around £400 will have to be kept for insurance.

4 Business

4.1 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a) Bedding plants

The bedding plants have been weeded looking good. John Grierson thanked Beth Hay for organising this and asked her to pass on the Community Council's thanks to those who helped.

b) New Hospital

Building has started, access to the site has been blocked for health and safety reasons.

c) Planning applications

Planning for 11 Houses and 4 Flats near the new hospital has been withdrawn with the option to re-submit within one year.

b) University Survey

Beth, John and others from the café had taken part in the survey spoken about by a student at July's meeting.

4.2

a) Fundraising Cycle

Kathleen Cameron said that now that the Community Council grant had been cut it had to try and raise money from other sources and as a starter could try a bikeathon type charity cycle. Local businesses could be involved. Locations possible were suggested such as Rothiemurchus, Glenmore or the Aviemore orbital. It would need

to be a small trek suitable for families/children. A suggestion of a 'Superhero' theme could be a fun addition. All present agreed it was a good idea and would be possible to organise for next year.

b) Christmas Lights

Highland Council are no longer going to be putting up the Christmas lights. It is now up to the community to organise it. The community will become responsible for storage, insurance, maintenance upkeep and installation. Joe Kirby said that he had started fundraising and had been in discussion with Highland Council. He had also spoken with Festivalights Ltd, a company which sells or leases festive lights. There are several options available however, buying or leasing lights was not something the Community Council should do because of the liabilities it would bring. John Grierson suggested an approach to Aviemore Community Enterprise (ACE) to take on the lights.

Joe Kirby asked if the Community Council could purchase collection boxes. Kathleen Cameron said that she has collection buckets stored and it was agreed that smaller collection tins would be purchased and placed throughout the village.

Joe Kirby to speak to ACE. Proposed by Joe Kirby and seconded by John Grierson

c) Planning Consultation 19/03322/FUL Engineering works, Cairngorm Mountain.

John Grierson said that the application related to the re-grading and smoothing of an area of ground to the east and south of the Day Lodge. The re-grading will mean that less snow has to be moved around during the season and that the 'snow factory' will be more effective. It would also assist uneven ground causing problems at the beginner's ski area near the car park. All agreed that this makes sense. John Grierson to respond supporting the application. Proposed by Al Dargie and seconded by Joe Kirby.

5 AOCB

a) An Camus Mor

Johnny Grant stated that a letter had been sent to the Scottish Government requesting a civil servant replacement as the previous person appointed has left. There will be social and economic report encouraging homes for local people, returning higher education students, meeting areas to fit in with Cairngorm National Park policies. The proposal has had overwhelming support. Johnny Grant had spoken to Drew Hendry MP highlighting Cairngorm Mountain as being as important as the Wallace Monument in Stirling and the Aviemore community plays an important part in looking after the Cairngorms. A letter has been received from CNPA sending mixed messages. Despite previous confirmation of sufficient land available for An Camus Mor, it was suggested that there was not a need for it. Alistair Dargie said that if An Camus Mor did not go ahead it would be very costly to start over again. It was suggested that continued written communication requesting support especially from Xander McDade and invite him to one of the meetings.

b) Economic Action Plan 2019/20

John Grierson referred to the consultation on the CNPA Economic Action Plan and said it would be on the agenda for the September meeting.

b) Flooding

Eilidh McLeod expressed her concern about an excess amount of flooding during very heavy rainfalls recently. She questioned if the Milton Burn Development may have had an impact on the private gardens on the lower part of Craig na Gower Avenue. She has written to SEPA and is waiting to hear from them. It was pointed out that the burn used to be dredged but this had not been done for over 30 years. Eilidh also questioned planning to put housing on flood ground – it was pointed out that this had been a planning issue and the Community Council had objected to it but had been overruled by the CNPA. John Grierson has been in touch with the Council regarding flooding and said that a member of the council would be contacting individuals who have been affected. He said he will also speak to CNPA planning about the Pony Field development to ensure that the flood plain is not affected by the development.

c) Traffic lights

Kathleen Cameron pointed out that the lights at pedestrian crossing are taking too long. John Grierson said that he had spoken to the authorities in the past but had been told the timings were normal and in line with others near schools. He will contact Highland Council again with our concerns.

d) Old School Grounds

Joe Kirby pointed out that there have been children playing in the old school grounds, a fence is torn. John Grierson to contact Highland Council.

e) Over - grown paths

It was pointed out that the council appear to be using log cutters rather than strimmers resulting in path areas to the rear of Burnside Avenue are becoming very overgrown and unsightly.

f) Lighting

The tunnel at the Dell is dark because all of the lighting is not working. Promises have been made to rectify this, but nothing has been done to date. John Grierson to raise issue with Bill Lobban.

g) Public toilets

Beth Hay said that she had had several reports the public toilets in Aviemore may be closing. John Grierson to raise the issue with Bill Lobban.

h) Village green

Beth Hay has been approached regarding a stall on using the village green during the Harley Davison weekend. Al Dargie said that the Green was already pre-booked.

i) Old Logging Way

Matthew Kirkwood, Rothiemurchus Estate, said that the markings on the Old Logging Way have faded badly and could possibly cause accidents. John Grierson will report this to the Highland Council.

j) Eilidh McLeod questioned plans to develop Lauren bank. It was pointed out that plans have not been submitted yet so unable to comment.

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 12th September 2019 at 7.30pm.