

# **AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Council held in Aviemore Community Centre on Thursday 10th October 2019 at 7.30pm.**

**1 Present:** John Grierson (Chair), Wilma Grierson (Treasurer), Alistair Dargie (Vice Chair), Joe Kirby, Beth Hay, Kathleen Cameron, Karen Laurie, Iain Gray, Neil McIvor (police), Cllr. Bill Lobban, Willie McKenna, Johnnie Grant (public), Douglas Graham (public), Kenny Rogan (Public), Matthew Kirkwood, (public), Angela Orriss (minutes)

**2 Apologies:** none

### **3 Opening remarks**

John Grierson thanked everyone for attending this meeting of AVCC.

### **4 Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of AVCC meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2019 had been circulated. Proposed by Joe Kirby and seconded by Alistair Dargie.

### **5 Treasures Report**

Wilma Grierson (treasurer) produced a report showing that there is £123.41 in the treasures account and £10,251.53 in the business reserve account. Wilma Grierson stated that funds are low in the treasures account and the Community Council needs to look at fundraising.

### **6 Business**

#### **6.1 Matters arising:**

##### **a) An Camus Mor**

Johnnie Grant said that there is an intention to send an invitation to the National Park Board to visit Rothiemurchus. This is supported by Cairngorms Business Partnership and the Highland Small Housing Trust and he asked for support from AVCC. It was agreed that the Community Council should support the initiative.

##### **b) Flooding**

John Grierson said that he understood Eilidh McLeod and others affected had been visited by a rep from the Highland Council and had received a letter outlining her responsibilities.

##### **c) Traffic lights**

John Grierson said he had contacted Richard Porteous who will be look into it.

##### **d) Old School Grounds**

John Grierson said that he had reported the state of the grounds and fencing to Highland Council.

##### **e) Public Toilets**

Bill Lobban stated that there are no plans to close the public toilets.

##### **f) Lighting / Dell**

There have been reports of a lot of complaints about the lighting, but nothing has been done about it. Alistair Dargie recalled seeing an article about this in the local paper about 3 years ago.

#### **g) Old Logging Way**

The issue of signs and road marking has been passed onto Richard Porteous.

#### **h) Laurel bank**

John Grierson said that a building warrant was being applied for to demolish the property.

#### **i) Police Report**

PC Neil McIvor stated that there were 132 emergency calls for the month. The road closure for the Half Marathon (end of October) was discussed – It was not necessary to close the road last year and no major delays, this will be discussed with the organisers.

### **6.2 Village Green**

John Grierson reported on a meeting he had had with the solicitor;

There are two options available:

1. Go to QLTR (Queens Land Transfer Registry) with evidence that there is no owner & make an application to take over. QLTR will value the ground and we would have to pay the valuation purchase price together with legal fees.
2. Apply through Register of Scotland as we have occupied the land for over 40 years with the Highland Council maintaining the ground and AVCC managing it. We will have to produce evidence that nobody owns the land.

There are obvious costs involved in option 1. Option 2 would result in a limited ownership, which could be challenged for 10 years. It was agreed to investigate if the ownership could be conveyed to ACE.

All agreed that we would proceed with option 2, **proposed by Joe Kirby, seconded by Alistair Dargie.**

**iii) Bank account** – we may have to use the second (village Green) account for the running account, as funding is low at the moment. All agreed to use this, if necessary, for Admin costs. **Proposed by John Grierson, seconded by Joe Kirby.**

#### **iv) Winter Festival**

Kathleen Cameron was due to attend a meeting but was unable to make it. She has been invited to the next scheduled meeting and will attend and report back.

#### **v) Alastair & Betty Stirling**

Joe Kirby informed the meeting that Alistair and Betty Stirling are retiring from The Boys Club this year, which could result in The Boys Club folding. Joe has been asked if he can help to cover. There appears to be little interest for someone to take over, Iain Gray said that he would consider it if he had plans to be permanently in the area but said this is not guaranteed. It would be a great shame to let the club slip. A letter to Alistair and Betty was discussed. Alistair had started the Boys Club in 1959 which deserves a recognition in honour of what he has done for the local community over the years, supervising 2 nights a week. **Joe Kirby proposed, and John Grierson**

**seconded a letter of thanks.** It was also mentioned that the Highland Council would possibly support recognition to the couple.

**vi) CBNSC Winter Track Cutting**

Alistair Dargie announced that the project was moving forward despite the Calor gas application wasting 3 months. A £5k award was applied for but was unsuccessful. The Highland Council have been informed that they had difficulty contacting and we have been advised to re submit, VABS are supporting this and other grants. The charity has sold the trek cutter and there should be enough money by the winter for Mountain Rescue training. There will be crowd funding launched late November which will be Gift Aid qualified. 25% of machine deposit was paid to fix the price.

**vii) Planning Application - 2019/0298/DET**

This was withdrawn but has now been re-submitted. Iain Gray said that planning proposed two entrances in the hospital. Any building work on the road should be completed before the hospital is opened. The hospital is due to open in May 2021. John Grierson said that planning doesn't have a say as to when building starts so long as it is within the standard 3-year criteria. Agreed AVCC would continue to support by way of sending a letter. **Proposed by Alistair Dargie, seconded by John Grierson.**

**viii) Planning Application - 19/0411/FUL**

Al Dargie produced plans and said that an email has been received for AVCC to respond with our thoughts. Alistair Dargie said that he believes it is the way to go forward given that the landfill site is nearly full and there is the odour element to consider. The building in the plans looks substantial but out of site, located behind the Go-kart trek. All agreed. **Al Dargie proposed our support, seconded by Joe Kirby.**

**ix) Planning Application - 19/04057/S42**

Al Dargie said that the application related to conditions set in a 2001 permission. Circumstances had changed and this was a minor variation to the type of disposal. Agreed to support the application. **Alistair Dargie proposed, Joe Kirby seconded.**

**x) Turning on Christmas tree lights**

Kathleen Cameron asked if we are having a tree lighting event, it was confirmed. She asked when will the tree be expected. It was agreed that the event it will be earlier in November as last year was a bit late. Kathleen Cameron said that there will be no choir from Aviemore Primary School this year. Gail will help to look for another alternative, perhaps the High School? There is no spare money for hats this year. Joe Kirby expects to have the lights up over 2 nights, he has organised a party of 7 people to help. Joe said that he will notify the Council. Kathleen Cameron enquired about a PA system – perhaps Geordie Peters could help. Joe Kirby said that he would ask him.

**xi) Pensioners Christmas party**

Joe Kirby asked that, in view of the Community Council's financial status, the subject was removed from the agenda.

**xii) Highland Council Tourism Levy Consultation**

It was agreed that the 'Survey Monkey' was not user friendly especially for a group to comment, it appears to be aimed at individuals. It would be difficult for AVCC to

comment. After discussion, John Grierson proposed that everyone does their own completion of the survey. Seconded by Beth Hay.

## **7 AOCB**

### **i) Aviemore to Carrbridge NMU Route.**

Transport Scotland have proposed two routes, one directly from Carrbridge to Aviemore and another via the Speyside Way. After discussion, it was decided that AVCC should maintain its objection to the lack of a definite route but give support for the direct Carrbridge to Aviemore proposal. **Proposed by John Grierson and seconded by Al Dargie.**

### **ii) Letter ACCT Aviemore & Glenmore.**

ACCT have written a complaint to Highlands & Islands Enterprise that they are not listening to proposals and therefore not responding with feedback. It is difficult to comment when we are not party to any meetings. There is a lot of negativity regarding rebuilding the train on 'The Hill'. Alistair Dargie said that priority should be given to publicising support of winter and summer activities. If the train goes there is not much money left to replace it with an alternative. Bill Lobban has been invited to the next meeting regarding Cairngorm Mountain Scotland at Highlands & Islands Enterprise. Bill Lobban said that skiing is scheduled to start 10<sup>th</sup> December this year.

### **iii) Litter Pick**

Beth Hay said that a litter pick should be planned for early 2020. All agreed that there is not much litter about just now.

### **iv) Flowers**

Beth Hay said that the flowers are still looking good. Highland Council removed the bedding plants last year. John Grierson said that he would ask the council. Bill Lobban asked if we could ask Highlife Highland if they can help with baskets next year. Baskets belong to ACE.

### **v) Craft Fayre**

Beth Hay said that October will be the last one this year

### **vi) Gardens**

Bill Lobban announced that the Highland Council have said that if we want to maintain the flowerbeds, they will supply the flowers. It was proposed that a new 'Man Shed' could be erected near the new hospital.

### **vii) Post Office**

There has been an article in the Strathy that the Post Office is closing? If it does, could there be a community buy out? John Grierson asked who would pay for it and who would run it.

**viii) A9 Dualling** Douglas Graham said that an email regarding the A9 dualling is going to a public enquiry, he is looking for more people to object than just him. John Grierson said that AVCC has consistently objected to the planned route and layby locations. He also said that MacDonald Hotels had also objected but he was not sure if Scandinavian Village had.

**8 Date of next meeting** 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7:30pm

**9 Closure**