

AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Council held in Aviemore Community Centre on Thursday 12th December 2019 at 7.30pm.

1 **Present:** John Grierson (Chair), Wilma Grierson (Treasurer), Beth Hay, Kathleen Cameron, Bill Lobban, Willie McKenna, Karen Lawrie, Peter Long, Louise Hughes (Cairngorm Connect), Victoria Hamilton (Cairngorm Connect), Angela Orriss (minutes)

2 **Apologies:** Alistair Dargie, Joe Kirby

3 **Opening remarks**

John Grierson welcomed everyone attending this meeting.

4 **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of AVCC meeting held on 10th October 2019 had been circulated. Proposed by Kathleen Cameron and seconded by Karen Lawrie.

5 **Treasures Report**

Wilma Grierson (treasurer) produced a report showing that there is £11.94 in the treasures account and £10,326.92 in the business reserve account. Wilma Grierson stated that there was little movement, the annual WEB fee had been paid and a payment of £500 from Reidhaven received.

6 **Matters Arising**

- **Traffic lights**

John Grierson had contacted Richard Porteous who had said that the traffic lights had been affected by frozen weather in the past and that this fault had been noted.

- **Old School Grounds**

There has been evidence that some of the area have been tided up.

- **Christmas lights**

See notes below

7 **Business**

a) **Village Green Lights**

Kathleen Cameron said that the event was well attended but the tree lights are a disgrace. She was disappointed with them, but all went well with the light turning on gathering. It was noted that just the white lights are ours. It was agreed to look at putting the lights on the tree ourselves next year. The PA system has a lead missing, one speaker is not working, and a stand is broken (the stand is repairable). As only one speaker was working, Peter Long commented that it was quiet at the back. £125 was collected on the evening. It was busier than last year; 45 children were on the stage indicating that more families would have been in the audience. John Grierson thanked everyone who took part and organised the event.

b) **Local Electricity Bill**

John Grierson said that this Bill would support locally generated electricity, buying from local energy companies. This is a UK Bill subject to agreement with Wales and

Scotland. It was agreed to support the Bill. Proposed by John Grierson, seconded by Peter Long.

c) Steps and path at The Del

Joe Kirby had sent an email stating that two people have fallen on the bad paving and steps in the area near The Vault entrance. Bill Lobban said that there is money set aside to repair the path and the lighting in the tunnel, but it is not practical to tarmac in the winter months.

d) Meeting held 14th November

John Grierson showed a grid of notes made at the unofficial meeting, all agreed that these appear to be correct.

e) Appoint an associate member

Willie McKenna was appointed as an associate member. Willie has an extensive knowledge of the locality and is also on the CNP Board. He will remain a member until the end of the AVCC term or his tenure at the CNP Board ends, whichever comes first. John Grierson proposed, seconded by Peter Long. All agreed.

f) Youth Membership

The Community Council can appoint 16 to 18-year olds who live in the area. They will be full members for a term of two years. John Grierson said that they don't need to be on the electoral role, and they don't need to be in education, we don't have to appoint anyone as yet, we need to be more informed. Kathleen Cameron said she has spoken to Fraser, Youth Forum Group in Kingussie and will speak to him again to gain more information.

g) Data Protection

It was agreed that Alistair Dargie is the person to ask about this, he is not at the meeting this month, but should be present in January.

h) Planning Applications

- a) Planning applications 2019/0363- Development site on former filling station Grampian rd Aviemore. The former filling station in Grampian Road – the plans have been redesigned as a block of 3 rather than 4, it is reduced in height by one habitation level therefore not as intrusive as the original plans. They have covered all the objections previously made by the Community Council. It was decided not to object. Proposed by John Grierson and seconded by Peter Long.
- b) Planning Application – 2019/0364/DET- Temporary installation of Tree Tent along with ancillary deck – MacDonald Aviemore Resort. MacDonald Hotels have made an application for a 'Tree Tent' to be erected near the lodges. This would be a temporary structure for 3 months as a trial. It was decided not to object. Proposed by John Grierson, seconded by Peter Long.

i) Village Hall

Beth Hay said that a lot of people are mentioning a need for a village hall. and asked if we could go forward with this? Kathleen Cameron agreed. Possible areas were discussed, the area near the Cadets, the Dalfaber road site maybe insufficient space and possible problems regarding a parking area and access. Frank Spaven Drive could be perfect but was being designated as a protected garden space in the next Local Development Plan. Two studies have been done asking where people have indicated the need for a village hall. The school is said to be the Village Hall replacement, but

the community does not have control over it and the facilities fall far below what could be in a specifically designed community hall. Willie McKenna pointed out that the community stopped using the old village hall as it became expensive, a dancing group walked away despite a discount. Would people be prepared to pay hire costs? A village hall is expensive to run and maintain. For it to be sustained it would have to be run as a business, as is the one in The Boat of Garten. Willie McKenna suggested approaching VABS to see how to produce a project manager and plan how costs would be paid for. John Grierson will look at this with Beth Hay with a view to see how a community company could run a village hall like the one in The Boat of Garten.

8) AOCB

a) Strategic Transport Project review:

John Grierson has received a email link to the forum. Transport Scotland is conducting an online survey. John Grierson suggested members to have a look at it, it includes the rail and bus services.

b) Notice Board

Bill Lobban said that £500 is available to the Community Council and requested that we think on what to spend it on. Last year the money was spent on new flower tubs – something to keep. The repair of the notice board was mentioned, it badly needs repaired. Kathleen Cameron pointed out that there is an old notice board from the school/Co-Op. There is also an old notice board at the railway station; do we know who this belongs to? Possibly Badenoch Enterprise, or was it Natural Retreats? John Grierson said he would get quotes to repair the old one and will put it on the agenda for next month.

c) Orbital

Roots and Shoots want to plant 130 trees near the railway to the top of the road near the burn. Reidhave Estate owns the land and has said that as long as the Community Council is happy, they have no objection to trees being planted. It was agreed that the Community Council has no objection.

d) Vegetable plots

Beth Hay said that Mary Stewart has asked the Community Council if they can plant seeds and is asking if we have any ground suitable as a vegetable plot/allotment. A few areas were discussed.

e) De-Fib training

Beth Hay said that there has been 15 defibrillators distributed around the village. Beth suggested that we could go into schools for training. Kingussie High School has had training.

f) Walls

The wall opposite the Indian restaurant has been knocked down with part of the fence. It is not known who owns the wall.

g) Manholes

Willy McKenna noted that the manholes in the Main Street near the public toilets are badly worn – do these belong to BT, The Council, or Scottish Water? John Grierson said the easiest way to find out would be to report them to Highland Council.

h) Stage

John Grierson said that Aviemore Community Enterprise has had a grant offer to replace the old stage and seating. An electric supply will be installed. The money from the Council should be enough to cover this. Tenders are out and responses received. We will know next month who will do the work. It should be finished by the end of April, weather depending.

i) Streetlights

John Grierson asked Bill Lobban about the replacement streetlights. Bill Lobban said that the lights at the south end of the village would likely be replaced with 'standard' lights and that a more ornate version was being considered for the village centre. It will be early springtime before this work is done.

j) Banners

John Grierson said that when the lamp posts carrying the banners had been taken down the brackets had been disposed of. Some of the lost brackets have been found, but not enough to put all the banners up.

k) Winter Festival

Willy McKenna said that the Festival last year was good and is on 20th December this year.

l) Cairngorm Connect,

Louise Hughes and Victoria Hamilton from Cairngorm Connect introduced themselves with a view to tell us what they are about. Louise is a ranger and part of her role is going door to door to speak about habitat restoration and asking opinions. Looking for different messages. Connecting with local schools & families.

Cairngorm Connect is a habitat restoration project working with RSPB, Forestry, SNH and Wild Land; covering Insh Marshes up to Ben MacDui. They are a team of 10 sharing skills in different areas. The survey runs for one year. Focusing on Eco-system, they are taking a hands-on approach looking at restoration work, monitoring species and change. They are conducting a survey on social economic & how community see it and understand the importance. 260 houses are included in the survey, Bill Lobban asked how the 260 houses were chosen, and Louise Hughes said they were extracted into random dwelling households. A sample of the survey questions was passed around; the survey will be repeated in 2 years and again in 5 years to compare changes in opinions.

Cairngorm Connect want to work with the community and believe in empowerment involvement of the local community. Peter Long asked if they would give us feedback once the data is collected – the answer was that they would give us the results. Bill Lobban pointed out that statistic data collection could be dangerous & misleading and cannot take small% as the whole community he also pointed out that tourists and site visitors would not give a true reflection. Bill Lobban also pointed out that as the survey is postal as well as door to door, there could be a high chance of duplicated data. A survey company such as DELIO could have a negative impact. GDPR data has to be public and data should be kept as proof. Bill Lobban said that he cannot see any reason for data not to be available; if a request was made then it should be able to be shared. Peter Long pointed out that the survey is taken on a very small selection of households, he believes if you were to ask social scientists, 260 is not enough.

Peter Long suggested something to make more awareness of Cairngorm Connect and other indicators to share with us – publicise more on what they do rather than just

announce themselves. John Grierson suggested that if the project was to be taken further, a public meeting in 2 to 3 areas to collect comments while engaging people or even an internet survey. Peter Long said his final thought was that it was a good starting point to attend this meeting and good for Cairngorm Connect to get the peoples view.

It was noted that there could be direct effects in the village on any change at Inch Marshes including flooding. Cairngorm Connect should look at a feasibility study. Louise Hughes asked for an opinion as to how to host a meeting, it was suggested that a 'drop in' would be better than just a public meeting with speeches. It was agreed that AVCC would give input later.

9) Date of next meeting 9th January 2020 at 7:30pm

10) Closure - John Grierson thanked everyone for attending.