

AVIEMORE & VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 8th April 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

1. Present

Peter Long (Chair), AVCC	Al Dargie (Vice Chair), AVCC
Kathleen Cameron (Treasurer), AVCC	Elsbeth Byrne (Secretary), AVCC
Beth Hay, AVCC	Joe Kirby, AVCC
Bill Lobban, Highland Council (HC)	Jeni Miller, Visitor
Sally Devlin, Visitor	Jess Creber, Visitor
Willie McKenna, Cairngorm National Park Authority (CNPA)	Kirsty Bruce, Aviemore & Glenmore Community Trust (AGCT)

2. Apologies for absence - none

3. Welcome and introductions

Peter Long welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

4. Meeting etiquette

Peter Long reminded everyone about meeting etiquette: speak through the Chair; keep your speaker muted until invited to speak; put your hand up if you want to speak; non-AVCC attendees are allowed to speak; go slowly.

5. Code of conduct

Peter Long asked all AVCC members to abide by the voluntary code of conduct which is similar to that of elected officials on Highland Council ie selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, leadership and respect.

6. Declarations of interest

Al Dargie declared interest in Agenda Item 12i. Peter Long, Kathleen Cameron and Beth Hay declared that they were also directors of ACE and Joe Kirby also a director of AGCT.

7. Minutes of last (March) meeting

Al Dargie proposed acceptance of the minutes and Kathleen Cameron seconded.

8. Matters arising from last (March) meeting - none

9. Minutes of December 2020 meeting

Kathleen Cameron proposed acceptance of the minutes and Beth Hay seconded.

10. Matters arising from December meeting - none

11. Treasurer's report

The Covid fund held less than £400 which would be used to help people who contacted AVCC. Help requests had tailed off since new year and the phone line had been cancelled.

An interim solicitor's bill of £1,140 had been received for work to establish title to the village green. In October 2019 AVCC agreed using the Business Reserve Account (BRA) for this. Kathleen Cameron proposed use of the BRA. Seconded by Al Dargie.

12. Business

a. Co-option of Jenny Miller to AVCC

Al Dargie proposed and Kathleen Cameron seconded.

b. Retaining Al Dargie as Vice Chair for AVCC

Joe Kirby proposed and Kathleen Cameron seconded.

c. Erection of 23 self-catering apartments, shops, hotel & underground parking

Support or opposition can only be on planning grounds. The CNPA zoned the site for retail and commercial use at ground floor level and it has a medium/high flood risk. The development has been called in by CNPA who decide if it goes ahead. Response required by 26th April 2021.

Information about this development had been put on Facebook and responses summarised for the meeting. Peter Long invited AVCC members to comment on the development.

Discussions about size/appearance: Al Dargie said differences between the billboard and the plans were minor other than cladding/rendering, which looked much nicer on the billboard. The building would be no higher than the previous house. Al could support the development if the rendering were changed. Elspeth Byrne thought the building looked too tall and was unattractive. Kathleen Cameron did not like the rendering. Peter Long did not like the look of the building and would prefer greater use of natural materials. He had received emails from people who did not like the look of the development.

Discussions about traffic: Elspeth Byrne, Kathleen Cameron and Al Dargie were concerned about impact on traffic on Grampian Road. Elspeth would have preferred entrance via the rear of the development but Bill Lobban said that the developer did not own that land. Al Dargie thought commercial vehicle use would be OK given the current urban environment.

Discussions re holiday & retail vs homes: Beth Hay and Peter Long had received emails expressing concern at balance between holiday accommodation and retail vs. local housing.

Discussions re community engagement: Joe Kirby suggested a Zoom presentation from the developer. Al Dargie agreed that we needed to talk to people but was not in favour of Zoom as a large part of the community would not be able to attend.

Peter Long suggested that AVCC write to CNPA by 26th April, indicating support for the development, but with reservations about height, rendering and traffic management.

Al Dargie and Peter Long to draft letter. Joe Kirby proposed. Kathleen Cameron seconded.

AVCC would not publish the results of discussion until a form of words is decided on.

d. Path funding opportunity from Nature Scot: Improving Public Access

Peter Long said that this was an opportunity for community groups to access significant grants to enhance existing, or create new, footpaths and also included funding for items that would be required on a footpath eg gates and bins. Deadline for applications is 30th June.

The meeting discussed the balance between new footpaths and bringing existing ones up to standard and new/safer footpaths and cycle routes. All agreed that the lack of revenue for maintenance was a serious problem. Willie McKenna raises this at CNPA meetings.

Al Dargie proposed forming a sub group to look at the footpath funding opportunity, to report back May/June and to seek AVCC input. Seconded by Kathleen Cameron.

Jess Creber, Sally Devlin, Jeni Miller, Joe Kirby and Beth Hay volunteered for the group.

e. Re-establishment of AVCC planning sub-committee

Joe Kirby proposed looking at re-establishment of a AVCC planning sub-committee in a few months' time. This was seconded by Kathleen Cameron.

f. Enabling Neighbourhoods and Communities (ENC) fund

This is for grants of up to £5,000, normally £1,000 to £2,000, for community/voluntary groups. This was noted for the future.

g. Kids' painted stones

Project completion by 22nd April with the stones cemented into a wooden heart and lacquered in weatherproof sealant. Co-ordination needed with contractors developing the village green.

h. Flowers

After discussion it was clarified that AVCC is responsible for all flower beds and planters and ACE manages the hanging baskets. It was agreed to re-plant last year's wild flower seeds at the Village Green.

Action: Beth Hall to apply to HLH urgently for the flowers supplied free of charge.

Action: Beth Hay to contact British Legion regarding flowers at the War Memorial.

i. Strathspey Land Management Public Consultation - Glenmore Forest Plan

From April to October wildlife havens are planned for areas including Loch Morlich, the Green Loch, Sluggan and Badaguish. The planned mountain bike track from Cairngorm mountain to Glenmore might not be possible without forcing bikes onto the main road. There was concern about access to areas being prohibited. There was also concern that core trails are not being maintained and that there is no mechanism for ensuring this.

Action: Peter Long: AVCC to respond saying that existing trails should be maintained and that it should be possible to get from Glenmore up Cairngorm without using the main road.

j. Public participation in AVCC via Zoom

The meeting discussed the best way to encourage public participation in AVCC meetings held on Zoom. The Agenda should invite members of the public to contact AVCC for a Zoom invitation. The Agenda, minutes and information about AVCC Zoom meetings could be made available via notice boards when these are available.

Sally Devlin said that there are lots of groups and it is difficult to know who does what.

Action: Peter Long to agree document to go on AVCC Facebook page.

k. Publicising AVCC meetings

Notice Boards are not currently in use but, when allowed, we can use the Post Office and Co-op (including one outside). Sally Devlin said we could use AviemoreBikes notice board.

13. Reports from other organisations

a. CNPA report

The National Park plan had been adopted. In placed like Aviemore 45% of new houses must be 'affordable'. The National Park continue to try to get social housing built.

b. Highland Council report – Bill Lobban had nothing to report

c. ACE board member report

Storage of the winter lights was in progress. The Outside Classroom was with Planning. ACE were looking at banners again. ACE were hoping for news from CNPA about a Community Centre within the next 2 weeks.

Re Audrey's plaque, Wild Furniture will charge £180 for the plaque and £75 for the wording. AVCC to contribute up to £150. Proposed by Al Dargie and seconded by Kathleen Cameron.

d. AGCT report

AGCT were working on the Ice rink project and working with ACE on Dalfaber Drive.

14. AOCB

Peter Long said we had received the police report from PC McIver. There were no questions.

Peter Long said that around 200 people would take part in the Lairig Ghru walk on 26th June.

Kingussie Community Council had asked for old benches from the Village Green at no cost. It was agreed that we would keep 2 of the benches and let Kingussie have the rest.

Elsbeth Byrne asked for more dog poo/rubbish bins. Bill Lobban said this is against HC policy.

15. Date of next meeting - 13th May at 7pm

16. Closure 9pm