

AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 9th December 2021 at 7pm
via Microsoft Teams

1. Present

Peter Long (Chair), AVCC
Al Dargie (Vice Chair), AVCC
Kathleen Cameron (Treasurer), AVCC
Beth Hay (Chair), AVCC
Jeni Pacitti, AVCC
Elsbeth Byrne (Secretary), AVCC

Bill Lobban, Highland Council
Willie McKenna, National Park
Johnnie Grant, Visitor

2. Apologies for absence - none

3. Welcome and introductions

Peter Long welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. Covid precautions – none as the meeting took place via Microsoft Teams

5. Declarations of interest - none

6. Carole Butler, Community Support Co-ordinator Badenoch & Strathspey – her role

Carried forward to the next meeting.

7. Minutes of November meeting

The minutes were accepted with a few minor amendments that had been requested.
Proposed by Jeni Pacitti. Seconded by Kathleen Cameron.

8. Matters arising from November meeting

8.1 Play park - Peter Long said that Highland Council had been in touch with a parent who will lead fund raising.

8.2 Myrtlefield - Bill Lobban had no update. He said that funds were available this financial year but need to be accessed quickly. Peter Long said that Joe Kirby had contacted the land agent for an update but had had no response.

8.3 Village Green - Peter Long is waiting for the lawyers to come back to him regarding the conveyancing.

8.4 Christmas Lights switch on - The meeting agreed that this was a successful event enjoyed by many.

Kathleen Cameron said that we need to improve the lights around the Village Green.

8.5 Bikeathon 2022 - Kathleen Cameron has sent a form to Rothiemurchus.

8.6 Planning - Peter Long said that the planning issues raised last month had been responded to.

8.7 Old sound system - Kathleen Cameron said that we have a buyer for the old sound system at a price of £200.

8.8 Manhole covers on Grampian Road requiring maintenance – Bill Lobban has not had a response yet.

8.9 Strip of land between Tesco and Laurel Bank untidy - EB has written to MacDonald Highland.

8.10 Broken bench at the burn/wishing well - Bill Lobban said that it is Highland Council policy to remove defective benches and not repair them. We need to have the bench repaired, purchase a new one or have the broken one removed. The meeting agreed that we want to retain a bench at the burn. First choice was to obtain a low-cost repair and the second choice was to complete the repair of the ACE bench at Peter Long's house and transport it to the burn.

Action: Peter Long asked Jeni Pacitti to obtain a quotation for repair.

9. Treasurer's report

9.1 Kathleen Cameron presented the report. She is keeping the Cyclists Club funding as a separate item so that the funding and expenditure is visible.

Kathleen said that the Covid funds had not been used since March and suggested giving the funds to the new food hub.

Proposed by Jeni Pacitti and seconded by Elspeth Byrne.

Action: Kathleen Cameron to arrange to transfer Covid funds to the new food hub.

9.2 Kathleen said that hire of the tents has taken in about £500 this year. She suggested that this should go into the Treasurer's Account rather than the Village Green fund as currently given that the tents are being used outwith the Village Green. Repairs would be paid from the Treasurer's Account including two tents requiring repair now.

Proposed by Elspeth Byrne and seconded by Jeni Pacitti.

9.3 Kathleen said that Glenmore Trust want to hire four tents tomorrow. She proposed that we charge £100 for all four, in line with having a discounted rate for local events using the Village Green. Peter Long said that this would be the guideline for the future.

Proposed by Elspeth Byrne and seconded by Jeni Pacitti.

10. Business

a. Proposed development of former Scottish Water pump house on Dalfaber Road as a café

Peter Long said that he had had a letter from someone who requests that they be tasked with investigating flooding in that area. The meeting agreed that this was a flood plain, that needs to remain for the sake of communities further downstream, and therefore the request should be declined.

Proposed by Al Dargie and seconded by Kathleen Cameron.

Action: Peter Long to reply to the request.

b. Our web site

Elsbeth Byrne had received comments to her email to Community Council members regarding the web site. The meeting agreed that we must continue to have a web site, agreed with the comment that mobile phone access to the web site should be improved and liked the idea of a calendar for community events but not for planning issues. Cost of running the web site is around £200 per year.

Action: Elspeth Byrne to get a quotation for web site improvements.

c. Use of Village Green in 2022 (KC)

Kathleen Cameron has been approached by a local business asking for use of the Village Green during the 2022 Thunder in the Glens event. The meeting agreed that West Coast Harleys should be given first refusal for use of the Village Green.

Action: Al Dargie to contact West Coast Harleys to give them first refusal and to ensure they know who the office bearers are.

The meeting agreed that the lights on trees around the Village Green were untidy and need to be changed. The lights behind the stage are insignificant and should be moved to the side. Bill Lobban suggested that fairy lights on the row of trees at the front of the Village Green would look great. Al Dargie said that any change to the power supply should avoid digging up large parts of the Village Green and be restricted to surface works where possible.

Action: To be discussed in the New Year.

Bill Lobban and Peter Long both expressed concerns about the state of the electrics around the stage. Peter Long said that this was a safety issue and needed to be fixed very quickly.

Action: Peter Long to send photographs of the damage to the installer to ask for a quotation for more robust sockets.

The meeting discussed future years' delivery of the Christmas tree and getting lights onto it. Peter Long said that it would be useful to find out what the Estate could offer in terms of delivery timescales and guaranteed date. The meeting agreed that use of a cherry picker was the preferred option for getting the lights onto the tree.

d. Help with the Christmas Eve Procession

Kathleen Cameron said that preparations for the torchlight Christmas Eve procession were underway but that helpers were needed on the day eg for keeping the road clear of pedestrians and carrying a collection bucket. The collection buckets be taken down the route in advance of the procession. Peter Long said that he and Craig Sutherland were coordinating arrangements.

Action: Contact Peter Long if you and your family and friends can help.

e. Preferred route for NMR to Carrbridge

Elsbeth Byrne said that the selected route was that preferred by the Community Council. Bill Lobban said that this was a good example of the benefit of the National Park, community and Highland Council working together.

f. Cairngorms Partnership Plan

Willie McKenna said that he would not lead the discussions as he wants our views. He will take any views expressed at this meeting to the National Park meeting tomorrow, in

advance of the deadline for comment of 17th December. Peter Long urged people to submit responses as individuals.

Peter Long said that the Plan sets out high level targets and metrics for the next generation. It is broken down into nature, people and places. The National Park are particularly keen to see responses re people and places. There is also an Interactive Map for people to submit quick responses.

The meeting discussed specific responses on the People and Places sections.

Action: Peter Long will send in a formal response based on the points raised in the discussion.

11. Reports from other organisations

a. **CNPA report** – none as Willie McKenna had had to leave the meeting.

b. Highland Council report

Bill Lobban gave the report on what he said had been a busy month.

The next stage on Short Term Lets was wide public consultation and then the matter would then go to Scottish Ministers.

Salt stocks were high as there had not been a requirement for a lot of gritting so far this winter and our roads were in good condition.

The Highland Council increased funds to food hubs to provide additional food supplies.

There was a presentation and discussion last week about the 20mph speed limit and how it could be expanded. Further plans will be provided.

As part of A9 dualling work, there is the potential for extending lower speed limits further north of Aviemore, with a 40mph speed limit from the north junction past the refuse site and the caravan park. This would make pedestrian crossing safer than the current 60mph speed limit.

There was a presentation about building council houses on the old school site but this had not gone to planning yet. There had been discussions about the best access road.

The Highland Council are spending a lot money on play park repairs. The Council can assist with a new unit for Burnside play park but do not have enough money to fund the whole thing. The Council has agreed to fund £30,000 of repairs at other play parks.

c. **ACE board member report** – Kathleen Cameron said there was nothing new to report.

d. **AGCT report** – none.

12. **AOCB** – none.

13. **Date of next meeting** – Thursday 13th January 2022 at 7pm via Microsoft Teams.

14. **Close** - 9pm.