

# AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**MINUTE of a MEETING of the COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH HALL, AVIEMORE on THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2012 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** John Grierson, Bil Lobban, Alastair Dargie, Ron Whyte, Audrey MacKenzie, Lorna McGibbon Willie McKenna (CPNA) Kirsty Bruce (minuter), Tom Ramage (press)

**In Attendance:** Julie Blake, Michael Blake, Caroline Boadle, Sheila McRobert, Allan Clark, Heather Clark, Martin Reid, Betty Stirling, Ross Dempster, Gary Johnston, PC Graham Erskine (Northern Constabulary)

**Apologies:** Neil MacNair

## 1. OPENING REMARKS

John Grierson thanked all those present for attending this month's meeting of the Aviemore and Vicinity Community Council.

## 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of AVCC held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2012, which had been previously circulated were **proposed by Alistair Dargie** and **seconded by Lorna McGibbon**.

## 3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Lorna McGibbon stated that the balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012 was £8,638.00. She further added that there were a number of un-presented cheques that would bring the balance to £5,538.00 and the balance of the statue account is £2002.58.

## 4. BUSINESS

### a). MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- i) **Strathspey Policing Report : Aviemore Primary School/Bike Safety** – John Grierson advised that he had written to the Head Teacher concerning bike and road safety.
- ii) **Forestry Commission** – John Grierson stated he had not yet replied to the Forestry Commission and he added that he was still to meet with them to have a discussion with regards to the notice board and hoped also to discuss the car parking charges at that time.
- iii) **Achintoul Pond** – John Grierson advised that he had written agreeing to the time extension.
- iv) **Badaguish Outdoor (Wigwams)** – John Grierson advised that he had written stating that AVCC had no objections to the time extension.
- v) **Aviemore Brownies** – John Grierson read out a thank you letter from Aviemore Brownies.

- vi) **Village Green Request: Big Dance 2012** – John Grierson advised that he had written to the organisers of this event to agree use of the village green.
- vii) **Aviemore Medical Trust** – John Grierson stated that he had replied to Ian Gray advising him to contact Aviemore Community Company.

**b). NEW BUSINESS**

- i) **Community Council Elections** – John Grierson advised that the Notice of Election was put out on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June and that all completed application forms had to be received in by 4pm on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June and after that an election date would be set for August.
- ii) **Strengthening our Communities** – John Grierson presented to the AVCC and those present details of the “Strengthening our Communities” event set for Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at Boat of Garten Village hall. He encouraged those present to attend.
- iii) **Information Session/Training for Community Councils** – John Grierson informed those present that on 27<sup>th</sup> June at 6.15pm that a Information and Training Session for Community Councils was to be held at Talla nan Ross, Kingussie.
- iv) **Aviemore Boys Club** – Betty Stirling of Aviemore Boys Club addressed the meeting. She informed AVCC that Aviemore Boys Club had been running for near 40 years and in all that time the club had managed to self-fund itself, primarily due to the fundraising that she had carried out and donations from local businesses. She stated that the club had 32 youngsters attending, four nights a week and met at the Dalfaber Country Club and she expressed her concerns for the future of the club as she was no longer fit to carry out the fundraising that she had previously done. AVCC agreed that Aviemore Boys Club deserved some advice and financial assistance and advised Mrs Stirling to contact the Badenoch and Strathspey Sports Association and VABS for guidance. Mr John Grierson further added that although AVCC could not assist the club with running costs it could possibly help with a financial donation for a planned event or specific costs such as equipment, transport, medals etc.
- v) **Planning Application – MAHR - 12/01815FUL Erection of 12 Holiday Lodges** – John Grierson stated that next item to be discussed was MAHR’s 12 Holiday Lodges, which had been called in by CNPA. Mr Willie McKenna left at this point of the meeting. John Grierson then invited Sheila McRobert to voice the concerns of a group of local residents. She stated “We feel strongly that this application contradicts the aims of the Cairngorm National Park Authority and does not comply with either the CNPA’s local plan or the local development plan”. She gave detail the areas of concern and reasons for strongly objecting to this application. (A copy of Sheila McRobert’s full objections are attached to this Minute). She concluded with “We’d like to know what the justification is for building these luxury properties in an area designated as amenity woodland and within a national scenic area.” She also commented on the lack of public consultation MAHR had with the community with regards to this project.

Mr Grierson then invited MAHR's Agent, Gary Johnston to reply. Mr Johnston stated that "people can surmise about what we are doing, but we are doing it with the best of intentions". He added that CNPA has asked for an environmental assessment but that takes time. He stated that MAHR would be happy to meet with the public either through the community council or at an exhibition to let the public see what MAHR is planning. John Grierson responded with that he believed MAHR had avoided a full consultation with the community knowing what the strength of local opinion would be. He also stated he was concerned that the statutory time of 42-days allowed for objections would be expiring while belated consultations took place. He stated that 63 objections have already been lodged.

**After discussion AVCC unanimously agreed to object to the planning application on the grounds that it was contrary to the local plan as was not as stated vacant ground and would support the environmental concerns raised.**

- vi) Planning Application – The Granish Farm Partnership – 12/02019FUL – Touring Caravan -**  
Discussion took place with regards to the above planning application. John Grierson asked AVCC for their thoughts. Alastair Dargie and Lorna McGibbon suggested a neutral position and Audrey Mackenzie objected to the application. However, Ron Whyte and John Grierson were in favour of supporting this application with a comment that a link/pathway to the village would be needed. The casting vote from the chairman was to support the application.
- vii) Planning Application – Rathven Investments – 12/02013/FUL Change to Planning Approval -**  
John Grierson invited Rathven Investments Agent, Mr Gary Johnston to outline the changes to the planning approval. Mr Johnston said that both Mr Cameron and Mr Munro were keen to complete the site and that the proposed change was to finish the site with affordable housing, play area being moved and enlarged and some additional small commercial units. Discussion took place with regards to the mechanism of "affordable housing" and the make of up of property sizes. After discussion it was agreed not to make any objection to the change to planning but however to comment on the lack of affordable 3-bedroom properties. **Proposed by Alistair Dargie and Seconded by Lorna McGibbon. It was to be noted that Audrey Mackenzie abstained.**
- viii) Skate Park –** Ross Dempster of a new community steering group was invited to update the AVCC on this plan. Mr Dempster gave a brief history of Concrete Wheels and of recent community interest to revive the idea of a local skate park. Which would be a non profit community facility with a concrete base which would be low maintenance, for use by anyone. John Grierson advised Ross Dempster that the project had got the support of AVCC and after some further discussion **it was remitted to John Grierson to write to Highand Council to request that they allocate ground by the proposed cadet hall.**

## **6. AOCB**

- a). POLICING REPORT –** PC Graham Erskine of Northern Constabulary gave an update on the Strathspey Policing report and advised that crime detection was at 70% with the hardest to detect crimes being vandalism, damage to property and dishonesty crimes.

- b). **OLYMPIC TORCH** – John Grierson stated that he believed that the Olympic Torch Procession and the mini Olympics had been a great success and thanked all of those who had been involved in the arrangements which resulted in over 550 primary school children being in Aviemore for the event. It was something they would remember for a long time. He also asked PC Erskine to pass on thanks to the local constabulary and to both the Metropolitan and Strathclyde Forces for friendly and creditable policing of the event.
- c). **NEW STREET NAME/AVIEMORE PRIMARY** – After a brief discussion it was agreed that it was not necessary for there to be a new street name for the Aviemore Primary School and it should remain as Muirton.
- d). **SIGNS AT BOTTOM OF DALFABER** – John Grierson commented on the 3 signs that had appeared at the bottom of Dalfaber Road. Both John Grierson and Bill Lobban had written to HC with regards to this but neither had received a reply. John Grierson stated that he was trying to get a meeting with Highland Council and CNPA with regards to signage within the park area.
- e). **EXISTING SCHOOL HALL** – Ron Whyte asked if the existing school hall would be made available for use by community groups. **It was remitted to John Grierson to ask this question.**
- f). **ROAD MAINTENANCE** – Willie McKenna commented on the large and dangerous potholes on the Tulloch Ghru road and that the tarring road repairs at Dellmhor has not been successful. Audrey Mackenzie also commented on the potholes on Dalfaber Road. Willie McKenna suggested that Highland Council be “pressed” to adopt the section of Dalfaber Road that run from the end of the housing, past the underpass and up to the steam train. **It was remitted to John Grierson to write with regards to this.**
- g). **ROBERTSONS FIELD** – Bill Lobban reported that work had been carried out to the green field within the Roberstons' development. He reported that the field had been re-cultivated, stones removed and reseeded.
- h). **DALFABER NEIGHBOURHOOD SHOPPING CENTRE** – Bill Lobban commented on the lane between The Chippy and Costcutters has no drop kerb and **it was remitted to John Grierson to request that one be installed.**

## **7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting of AVCC was set for Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2012 at 7.30pm to be held in St. Andrews Church Hall.