

AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTE of a MEETING of the COMMUNITY COUNCIL held in AVIEMORE COMMUNITY CENTRE, on THURSDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2012 at 7.30pm.

Present: John Grierson, Alistair Dargie, Ray Sefton, Rev. Ron Whyte, Mark Allan, Lorna McGibbon, Audrey MacKenzie, Yvonne Birnie, Kathleen Cameron, Cllr Bill Lobban, Willie McKenna, Tom Ramage (press)

In Attendance: Carole Butler (VABS), Kirsteen Rankin (public), Jennifer Allan (public)

Apologies: Karen Lawrie, Kirsty Bruce

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of AVCC held on 11th October 2012, which had been previously circulated were **proposed by Kathleen Cameron and seconded by Lorna McGibbon.**

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11TH OCTOBER 2012

- a) **Proposed High Burnside to Craigellachie Path** – John Grierson advised that he had written to CNPA and that they have asked for a meeting to discuss the matter. John Grierson has agreed to the meeting which is scheduled for around 22nd or 23rd November 2012. Ray Sefton will also attend and CNPA have asked Cllr Lobban to Chair the meeting.
- b) **Play Areas** - Kathleen Cameron advised that she had spoken to Haley Brown, however Ms Brown had yet to come back with the information. Ray Sefton questioned whether the old primary school could be turned into a kick-about-park. Discussion then took place with regards to this and other play areas within the village and in particular, to the area within the Robertson's development which has been set-a-side as green space but is still not suitable for playing on. Mark Allan advised that on the small section of this field that was available for use, a "No Ball Games" sign has been put up. **After discussion it was agreed that John Grierson would write to Albyn/Management Agents to ask about this area of land and the "No Ball Games" sign. Proposed by Yvonne Birnie, Seconded by Ray Sefton.**
- c) **Drainage in Burnside and other areas** – John Grierson advised that he had written but no reply has yet been received.
- d) **Christmas Tree Lights** – Yvonne Birnie advised she had contacted the relevant people with regards to tree lighting and passed all information to Ray Sefton. Ray Sefton advised that Highland Council will light the requested trees and that John Grant of Rothiemurchus will donate a tree for the Rothiemurchus area.
- e) **Christmas Carol Service** – Kathleen Cameron advised that this was all in-hand for the 8th December at 4.00pm. She advised that Aviemore Primary New Choir will be attending along with a brother and

sister pipe duo and that there would also be dance groups providing some entertainment. Refreshments of mince pies, hot chocolate and gluhwein will be available.

- f) **Bridge Repair** – John Grierson advised that unfortunately the timber for the bridge repairs did not arrive in time. However the bridge has been prepared for repair and the work was rescheduled to be carried out around the 12th November 2012. John Grierson advised that around the date of the original scheduled repairs there had been some flooding and the pump station at Scottish Water had overflowed into areas of the pathway. He telephoned Scottish Water to advise of this problem and within one hour, Scottish Water had been out and cleared up the affected area.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Lorna McGibbon advised that the balance held on account was £6489.86 with £2000 being ring-fenced for the countryside park project. She expected an expenditure of around £100 for invoices/expenses due to be received.

4. BUSINESS

- a) **Carole Butler OCAWF (VABS)** – Carole Butler stated that she had come along to the AVCC meeting to introduce herself as the new Community Development Officer with VABS and advised that she would be working on the “Our Community a Way Forward”(OCAWF).
- b) **Dogs** – Kathleen Cameron advised that she had been approached by a member of the community who had informed her of an incident involving her dog being attacked by another dog. The person concerned did contact the local Police and was advised that if there was no injury to the dog then no action that could be taken. A brief discussion took place with regards to this and it was agreed that this was not a matter that AVCC could take forward, however they did advise the person concerned to contact Highland Council's Dog Warden.
- c) **Affordable Housing** – John Grierson advised that AVCC had received communications from Highland Small Communities Trust who had been tasked to look at affordable housing for An Camas Mhor. John Grierson stated that he had circulated this to all AVCC members and asked whether anyone understood the information supplied and the questions being asked and did anyone wish to make a comment. It was agreed that the information was difficult to understand and it was suggested by Willie McKenna that a representative from Highland Small Communities be invited to a future meeting of AVCC. **It was remitted to John Grierson to write and invite Highland Small Communities Trust to attend.**
- d) **Village Green Licence** – John Grierson advised that further to last month's meeting and the suggestion of holding a Christmas craft fair to compliment the Carol Service that he had contacted Highland Council with regards to this. AVCC would have to apply for a licence to hold such an event and this would cost £173 for a 6-week licence or £347 for a 3-year licence. It was agreed that this item should be added to next month's meeting for further discussion as to how AVCC would like to proceed with this and what kind of events/markets to host etc. **Remitted to Ray Sefton to add to Decembers Agenda.**
- e) **Bus Shelters** – Ray Sefton stated that he felt that the Glenmore road was lacking in bus shelters and suggested that consideration should be made to requesting that at least 3 bus shelters should be installed on the Glenmore road at Rothiemurchus, Coylumbridge and Glenmore. Lorna McGibbon stated that within village bus shelters that the timetables are difficult to read and that they are often out of date. **It was remitted to Ray Sefton to contact Bus Network through Highland Council to**

enquire about the possibility of new bus shelters and to also inform of problems with out-of-date bus timetables. Proposed by John Grierson and Seconded by Lorna McGibbon.

- f) **Remembrance Sunday** – Ray Sefton reminded all present that Remembrance Sunday was this Sunday and that he would be laying a wreath at the war memorial on behalf of AVCC. Audrey MacKenzie raised the point that the flower tubs at the war memorial were empty and that she was disappointed that Highland Council had removed the flowers which she believed were in good condition. She had attempted to purchase flowers herself to replace those but was unable to source any suitable stock. She had however taken the time to transplant some heather's and add some flowers to the tubs for the Remembrance Sunday Service. Cllr Lobban and Ron Whyte also questioned whether the road would be closed for the Service and Ray Sefton advised that it would be Royal British Legion who should be dealing with the request of a road closure. John Grierson stated he would telephone the local police office to enquire whether the road would be closed.
- g) **Cemetery Path** – Mark Allan raised concerns over the condition of the paths at Laggantygown Cemetery. In particular to areas of grass not being cut around some of the older graves and that the some footpaths are not wide enough for wheelchairs or mobility scooters. **It was remitted to John Grierson to write to Highland Council TEC Services with concerns raised.**
- h) **The Highland Council Consultation on Application 12/04131/FUL** – John Grierson advised that this application was in respect of a clubhouse at the Spey Valley Championship Course and asked AVCC whether they had any comments to make. Lorna McGibbon stated that it was much better than the first one. This was agreed by all.
- i) **Safety at Aviemore Primary School** – Kirsteen Rankin and Jennifer Allan of Aviemore PTA informed AVCC of child safety concerns within the school car park and on the routes used to access the building. Kirsteen Rankin stated that there was not actually a safe way for children to come into the building due to road layouts and crossings. Comment was also made by the Members of Aviemore PTA and AVCC about the poor and inconsiderate driving and parking standards of parents accessing the school area. Cllr Lobban and John Grierson stated that they had attended a meeting earlier with regards to this and that all the same points that Ms Rankin had raised, had been raised at this meeting. Cllr Lobban advised that lots of sensible suggestions had been made and many of these suggestions came from children themselves. He advised that all parents will be issued with a survey on safer routes and once this survey (a statutory requirement) had been completed, a course action would be taken.

5. AOCB

- a) **Highland Council Funeral Policy for Badenoch and Strathspey** – Ron Whyte read to AVCC a letter from Presbytery with regards to Highland Councils changes to funeral policy. The letter said that undertakers now have to give at least four days notice of a funeral and that only one burial could be accommodated each day. Cllr Lobban asked Ron Whyte to forward this letter to him to allow him to pass this to Alistair Kelly head of TEC Services at Highland Council and he would advise of responses received. **It was remitted to John Grierson to write to Presbytery to express AVCC support.**
- b) **Road Markings** – Ray Sefton advised that the Company who had been contracted by Highland Council to reinstate the road markings had gone into receivership and a new contract had been awarded and works were schedule for around 12th November 2012.
- c) **Notable Dates** – Ray Sefton advised that there will be an exhibition on the Duelling of the A9 Carriageways between Perth and Inverness. This is scheduled for Tuesday 11th December, to be held

at the Cairngorm Hotel from 1200 to 1900hrs. He also advised that the Ward Forum Meeting was set for Wednesday 21st November.

- d) Updating of Olympic Statue** – Yvonne Birnie asked whether the Olympic Statue would be updated with new Olympic achievements. Cllr Lobban suggested that consideration be given to something that could be updated easily without the excessive cost of bronze casting. **It was agreed that this item should be added to AVCC's Agenda for Decembers Meeting and it was remitted to Ray Sefton to do this.**
- e) Biomass Heating System: Purchase of Heating** – John Grierson advised that he had received a concern from a member of the community living within the Robertson/Albyn development with regards to purchase of biomass heating credit. The problem being, that heating credit can only be purchased from the Aviemore Service Point by debit card. The unsuitable hours of the service point and the restrictions on type of payment, make it difficult for those of work full time hours or work out with the village to purchase heating credit. John Grierson felt that it was not appropriate for AVCC to get involved in landlord issues but they would write to Highland Council with regards to the reduced hours of the Service Point.
- f) Trees** – John Grierson advised that over 400 trees had been received from the Woodland Trust for planting on the Community Company ground at the end of Morlich Place and at the back of the old primary school. He advised that the school have agreed that each Aviemore primary school child will plant a tree. He was looking for volunteers for assisting with the tree planting and anyone interested should contact him.
- g) Badenoch and Strathspey Health Development Group** – John Grierson advised that he had attended a meeting with regards to the future of social and healthcare services within Badenoch and Strathspey and AVCC will be asked to take part of in the surveying of all residents with regards to this subject. **It was remitted to Ray Sefton to add this item to the Agenda for December's meeting.**
- h) Dimming of Street Lights on Grampian Road** – Mark Allan stated he had been asked to raise the question of dimmed street lighting on Grampian Road. Cllr Lobban stated that he had enquired and found that there has been no dimming of lights on Grampian Road.
- i) Charges at New Community Centre** – Mark Allan raised a question with regards to charges at the new community centre, in particular to a local dance group who have moved their classes to the hall in Kincaig. Both Cllr Lobban and Willie McKenna gave the background to this group and on-going discussions and negotiations. Willie McKenna gave an explanation to charges at the new community centre.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of AVCC was set for Thursday 13th December 2012 at 7.30pm to be held in The Aviemore Community Centre.