

AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the COMMUNITY COUNCIL, held in AVIEMORE COMMUNITY CENTRE, on THURSDAY 14th MAY 2015 at 7.00pm.

Present: John Grierson (Chair), Alastair Dargie (Vice Chair), Ray Sefton (Secretary), Lorna McGibbon (Treasurer), Audrey MacKenzie, Cllr Bill Lobban, Beth Hay, Kathleen Cameron, Tom Ramage (Press), Sam McNaughton (Transport Scotland), Rory Gunn (Transport Scotland), Robert Hicks (Stopover Festival), Helen Chalmers (Stopover festival), Shona MacLachlan (Minute taker)

Apologies: Steven Wilson, Joe Kirby, Willie McKenna (CNPA), Yvonne Birnie, PC Neil MacIvor

Opening Remarks: John Grierson welcomed everyone to this meeting of AVCC. He said as there were guests who had come to give presentations he intended to re-arrange the agenda and take the guests first.

A9 Dualling Update:

John Grierson introduced Sam McNaughton and Rory Gunn of Transport Scotland. Sam McNaughton advised that the A9 Perth to Inverness is broken down into 12 projects, and the areas are sectioned off; south of Drumochter to Perth has been awarded to Jacobs, Drumochter Dual Carriageway up to Kincaig is being done by CH2M Hill Fairhurst, and Kincaig & Dalraddy has still to be confirmed.

The process is broken down into 3 stages of design:

- 1: The dualling carried out on corridor within 200m on existing carriageway. All junctions will be grade separated and any minor junctions such as farm entrances will be left turn out and in only.
- 2: Looking at options for alignment and junctions; set process of option to analyze preferred solution. (Hoping to be completed by end of 2016)
- 3: Detailed design; looks at footprint/ structural design. (Hoping to be completed by beginning of 2018)

At the end of stage 3, the orders will then be published for the public. The target for the whole completion of the dualling program is 2025.

There will be exhibitions for the public. Soil investigations will be carried out. There will be discussions with land owners regarding access/boundaries and use of land. Rory Gunn commented that they are looking for areas of importance; particular areas of interest and would like the AVCC to think of any concern that may arise.

Rory Gunn continued to explain that there will be various measures in place to avoid disruption.

John Grierson commented that one of the issues which we will face is the heavy traffic/HGV's who will be leaving the A9 at Kingussie and continuing through Aviemore especially if heading towards Elgin.

Rory Gunn advised that this would probably happen especially to those who are local and know the back road is there, and unfortunately there was not much they could do to prevent the traffic using the back road. He also commented that there would be exhibitions in the area (similar to Dalwhinnie) Both Rory Gunn and Sam McNaughton expressed that they would like a list of concerns that the AVCC think may arise from this work to enable them to look at these before work commences. John Grierson agreed and asked this to be put on next month's agenda.

John Grierson thanked Sam and Rory for their input and they then left the meeting.

Gentleman of the Road - Stopover Festival:

John Grierson welcomed Robert Hicks (Licence Holder) and Helen Chalmers (Event Manager) who are organising the 'Gentleman of the Road Stopover Festival'. Robert Hicks went on to explain that the tickets are selling well, and have reached international level, with Argentina, New Zealand and South Africa all having sales. The key for this festival is to leave a legacy and they have had tremendous support from local businesses. Robert Hicks explained that they have been dealing with the police and medical centre and believe there will be no disruption to services, especially with them having their own medical centre on-site. They have also slightly amended the capacity due to the continual flooding near the fishery grounds, and at the moment have sold 14,000 tickets. They are currently looking for groups to help with stewarding about 15-20pax, who can assist with car parking in the area. The festival will start the setup onsite from Monday 20th July and should be completely dismantled by the following Wednesday.

John Grierson thanked Robert and Helen for their input and they then left the meeting.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of AVCC which was held on Thursday 9th April 2015 were circulated.

Minutes proposed by Alastair Dargie and seconded by Ray Sefton.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT

Lorna McGibbon produced receipts and payments report and advised that the balance of the account was £2778.71. The statue account is now £2257.73.

3. BUSINESS

3.1 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) National Spring Clean Day – Alastair Dargie commented that there was quite a lot of littering down by the river beside gravel beach, especially broken bottles. Ray Sefton advised that he would be unsure of exact numbers until the day, but will send people down that way providing he has enough volunteers.

b) Water Outside Old Tesco Site - John Grierson advised that Richard Porteous is looking into. Cllr Bill Lobban also commented on the Dell Spey (car park beside public toilets) is also gathering water in one end of the car park and he had reported it.

c) McInnes Place - Park and Play Facilities- John Grierson has contacted Albyn Housing, but as yet has had no reply. Also contacted Highland Council to obtain the planning conditions for this area.

c) Burnside Playpark - Removal of Facilities- Kathleen Cameron advised that there is a new items in place and they are looking great, kids are really enjoying it.

d) Community Enterprise Company - John Grierson has spoken with VABS in regards to progressing with this, so still ongoing.

e) Grantown 250th Birthday – Alastair Dargie advised that the oar is currently in the construction process as had discussed with Willie McKenna.

f) Rothiemurchus Forest Plan - Ray Sefton attended meeting along with a few other organisations such as RSPB and the National Park Authority. One part of the plan mentioned was to keep view points at Tullochgrue Moor. Ray suggested thinking about various other viewing points that can be put into place.

g) Aviemore North Sign - Alastair Dargie advised that there is still no further progress.

h) Macdonalds Swim Parties - John Grierson advised there was no further progress.

i) Work Party Village Green - Alastair Dargie advised that they made good progress with the work party. The rabbit fencing has been knocked down, so Alastair has obtained wire to hold this in place, and fertilizer will be bought to sort out green.

j) Rock Challenge - Kathleen Cameron advised that Alness group had won the competition, but Kingussie were given awards of excellence for concept, light enhancement and entertainment. They will be performing again in the Badenoch Centre on Wednesday 20th May between 4.30-5.45pm and everyone is welcome.

3.2 BUSINESS

a) Moray Firth Mobile Library - Ray Sefton distributed a list of stops to the group, and it was agreed that as Aviemore holds a fully resourceful library, there is no need for a mobile library in any other areas. There is also a transport company who can help take people to the library. **Proposed by Ray Sefton and seconded by Alastair Dargie.**

b) Planning Application 15/01145/FUL - Installation of two additional pole structures to hold equipment for Laggan wifi project - Alastair Dargie advised that this would be beneficial to the area and would help support the coverage at Glenmore/Alvie area. **Proposed by Alastair Dargie and seconded by Kathleen Cameron. (Cllr Bill Lobban did not participate in this item)**

c) Legion Gala Day 11th July - Kathleen Cameron is attending a meeting on the 18th with the organiser and wanted to know if the AVCC would like to support the event by allowing the use of the marquees for stalls. It was also suggested that the AVCC could bring in some entertainment for the day, and Bubble Soccer was suggested, Kathleen Cameron will investigate and look into prices and come back to the next meeting. Ray Sefton to check public liability cover with the Highland Council. **Proposed by Kathleen Cameron and seconded by Alastair Dargie.**

d) May Craft Fair - Organiser wanted for Craft Fair and open mike - Kathleen Cameron advised she would be unable to take the craft fair on the 24th May and asked if anyone around the table could take her place. Beth Hay, Alastair Dargie and John Grierson all available to cover.

e) Waste Bins - Audrey MacKenzie advised that 4 blue bins were constantly overflowing and looked incredibly dirty, one even has hole in it. (Beside Old Bridge Inn underpass, opposite Harkai's, Dell of Spey, and near the engine shed for Steam Railway) Cllr Bill Lobban will follow up.

AOCB

a) Dell of Spey Area - Audrey MacKenzie commented that the road conditions were terrible, huge potholes and generally uneven surface. John Grierson mentioned that this was a private road, not owned by Highland Council. Cllr Bill Lobban commented that this may belong to Seafield Estate. John Grierson will speak with CNPA Outdoor Access Officers and get advice.

b) Application Planning Recycling Centre - John Grierson advised that the planning proposed is for a construction and demolition area behind the Granish dump. No objections were made, but John Grierson will forward comments about the weight of trucks coming over the bridge and that it will not interfere with the path that leads to Loch Nan Carraigean. **Cllr Bill Lobban did not take part.**

c) Community Council Association - Ray Sefton and John Grierson attended a meeting organised by the Ward Manager to look at the possibility of forming a Community Council Association or a forum. There were reps from Boat of Garten, Kingussie, Kincaig, Newtonmore, Dulnain Bridge, Cromdale and Nethybridge. They looked at the different options that were available, such as a constituted association or a more loose discussion forum. It was decided that the best way forward would be to start a community council forum which would meet around twice a year and at other times if necessary. The forming of a constituted association could be looked again in the future. The main intention of the forum is to have increased and more effective communication between community councils. A Facebook page has already been setup for the forum.

d) Retirement Apartments - Leaflets were distributed around the room showing the plans to erect retirement apartments on the grass area next to Grampian Court. John Grierson and Ray Sefton attended a meeting with the developers and it was apparent that this application formed part of a new masterplan for the Centre. Ray Sefton encouraged everyone to attend the public consultations as the Masterplan had completely changed.

e) Waterfall - Email was distributed to members from Claire Bell of the Development & Infrastructure Services regarding the waterfall at Dell on Spey about saving money. Ray Sefton thanked Cllr Bill Lobban and Willie McKenna for challenging the system.

f) Cairngorm/Glenmore Masterplan - Ray Sefton attended the meeting with Alastair Dargie and Cllr Bill Lobban. Alastair Dargie advised that they were going to canvas what should be going into their plan, a formal consultation will be in the autumn.

g) Community Empowerment Bill - Cllr Bill Lobban advised that Highland Council are progressing a 'localism' agenda as part of efforts to strengthen local democracy and community participation. To this end B&S Ward Members, as an experiment, have agreed to transfer £30,000 of the Ward Discretionary Budget to the direct control of local communities. To ensure a fair geographic spread across the Ward £10,000 each will be zoned to three areas. South (Dalwhinnie, Laggan. Newtonmore, Kinussie, Kincaig), Central (Aviemore, Boat of Garten, Carrbridge) and northern (Grantown, Dulnain, Nethybridge, Cromdale, Advie).

During the financial year 15/16 separate Community events will be held in Newtonmore, Carrbridge & Nethybridge where community organisations will be able to 'bid' for funding – the decision on the

allocation of funding being made, at the events, by the communities themselves not Highland Council.

Should this model of community participation work out then potentially more funding could be devolved such as the Carbon Clever Communities Fund or even the Area Community Services budget.

5. CLOSE OF MEETING AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

John Grierson thanked those in attendance and said that the next meeting will be the AGM on Thursday 11th June 2015 at 7.00pm in the Aviemore Community Centre followed by the monthly meeting.