

AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Council, held in Aviemore Community Centre, on Thursday 13th October, 2016 at 7.30pm.

- 1. Present:** John Grierson(Chair), Alistair Dargie, Jan Gardner, Wilma Grierson, Beth Hay, Willie McKenna, Cllr Bill Lobban, PC Neil McIvor, Johnnie Grant (public)
- 2. Apologies:** Joe Kirby, Erin McBean and Kathleen Cameron

Opening Remarks: John Grierson welcomed members to the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th September 2016 were agreed
Proposed by Wilma Grierson and seconded by Beth Hay.

4. TREASURERS REPORT

Wilma Grierson had circulated a receipts and payments report prior to the meeting. The balance of the account was £2333.02. The Business Reserve account had a balance of £4122.54.

5. BUSINESS

5.1 Policing Report from PC Neil McIvor - PC McIvor said that there had been a total of 176 incidents dealt with by the Police in the Aviemore area over the preceding month. He then gave a more detailed breakdown.

Alistair Dargie asked about speeding vehicles at the north end of Aviemore. A lot of the vehicles entering Aviemore are not slowing down early enough and some do not slow down until they reach the school warning sign. By this time they will have passed 4 junctions. There is a problem for pedestrians crossing the road near the brow of the hill. PC McIvor said that he would take our concerns back and submit a road hazard report.

John Grierson highlighted problems with phoning the Police. When reporting incidents on the non-emergency line people were being asked for postal codes for locations and have to describe it so that it can be found on a map. This was leading to frustration and he was aware of at least one incident where the person reporting had hung up.

PC McIvor said that he would take back the Community Council's concerns.

5.2 Albyn Housing Presentation - Proposed Inverdrue Development - John Grierson introduced Yvonne Simpson and Ian Lovesly from Albyn Housing. Yvonne and Ian then gave a presentation on a proposed social housing development at the junction of the Glenmore road and the Blackpark road in Inverdrue. The proposal was for 4 semi-detached, 2 bedroom houses, and 2 detached, 1 bedroom houses. The houses will be of a modular construction. It is anticipated that a planning application will be made around the end of October 2016. There was discussion around the design of the houses, parking and waste disposal. John Grierson thanked Yvonne and Ian for attending. They then left the meeting.

5.3 Matters Arising From the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

a) **Village Green** - John Grierson said that he nothing further to report.

b) **Uneven Footpath from Torr Lodge** - Cllr Bill Lobban said that he had nothing further to report. John Grierson commented that he had recently used the path and thought that it didn't seem as bad. Possibly something to do with the dry weather.

c) **Signage** - John Grierson reports that, although it has been reported to Highland Council and to Cairngorms National Park Authority, nothing has happened. The signs are still there.

d) **Aviemore Railway Station** - John Grierson said that he had not sent the letter as he would be attending meetings of the Highland Mainline Community Rail Partnership meeting later in the month and that John Yellowlees and senior management would be attending. He will bring up our concerns there.

e) **Flower Beds** - Alistair Dargie reported that he had received correspondence from Highland Council regarding the clearing of the beds. Highland Council are scheduling week starting 24th October for emptying beds / planters, and commencing collection Monday 31st October. They will arrange delivery of refuse bags for your area. **John Grierson to organise volunteers to clear the beds.**

f) **School Trampoline** - John Grierson said that the photo opportunity had not take place due to teacher illness. Another date is being arranged.

5.4 Representation on ACE - John Grierson said that the agenda item was at the behest of Joe Kirby and it was only fair that he be present. The item was deferred to the November meeting.

5.6 Removal of Public Payphones - Response to Consultation - John Grierson said that BT were consulting on removal of some public payphones all over the Highlands. Highland Council were asking communities to comment. There were only three payphones at risk in the Aviemore and Vicinity area. (1) Coylumbridge, Aviemore, (2) Glenmore, (3) Lower Ski Lift, Cairngorm.

After discussion it was agreed that the Community Council would;

(1) **not object** to the removal of the payphone at Coylumbridge. The payphone had not been used in a year and there was good mobile phone coverage and a number of houses nearby.

(2) **object** to the removal of the Glenmore payphone. Mobile coverage in Glenmore is poor to non-existent. This is confirmed by its usage (over 160 call in a year). There is a public safety issue.

(3) **object** to the removal of the Lower Ski Lift payphone. The phone is in an isolated area and is more than 3 miles from the nearest phone (also under threat of removal). Although in an area of good mobile reception, not all people using the mountain carry mobile phones or the batteries may be run down. There is an obvious public safety issue. The phone could be changed to emergency use only.

5.7 Christmas Lights Turn On - The Christmas tree lights are to be switched on on Sunday 27th November. There will be a craft fair during the afternoon. Kathleen Cameron and Alistair Dargie will be organising.

5.8 Proposed Consultation Draft Policy Statement 2017-20 - After discussion there were no objections to the policy. **John Grierson to respond to the consultation.**

6 AOCB

(1) **Community Resilience** - John Grierson reported that he had attended the last Badenoch and Strathspey Community Council Forum along with Alistair Dargie. The main subject of the forum had been Community Resilience and the formulating of a Community Resilience Plan. A presentation had been given by Highland Council. After discussion it was decided that a sub-group consisting of John Grierson, Alistair Dargie and Beth Hay be set up to take forward a community resilience plan for Aviemore.

(2) **Semi Chem Defibrillator** - John Grierson said that Semi Chem have agreed that if the Community Council request they will install their defibrillator on the outside of their building. It was agreed John should write making the request.

(3) **Fergus Ewing Article in Strathy dated 6th October 2016** John Grierson commented on the article written by Fergus Ewing in the Strathy dated 6th October and how it encapsulated what the Community Council had been saying for a long time. John Grierson suggested that a letter to the Strathy from the Community Council supporting Fergus Ewing's standpoint might be appropriate. **After discussion it was proposed by John Grierson and seconded by Alistair Dargie and agreed that John Grierson should write to the Strathy.**

There was further discussion about housing in Aviemore, with input from Johnnie Grant, on the apparent misunderstandings of demand and housing need, the housing register, the way development is being 'sectorised' to look at one part of the market, how Aviemore has always been having to catch up with its housing needs, the need for more 'social' housing and business space, the sustainable communities initiative and the need for the An Camus Mòr development to go ahead. As a result of the discussion it was agreed to write to CNPA, Fergus Ewing, Nicola Sturgeon and John Swinney to express our concerns.

5. CLOSE OF MEETING AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

John Grierson thanked those in attendance and said that the next meeting of AVCC will be on Thursday 10th November 2016 at 7.30pm in the Aviemore Community Centre.