

# AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## MINUTES of a MEETING of the COMMUNITY COUNCIL, held in AVIEMORE COMMUNITY CENTRE, on THURSDAY 14th June 2018 at 7.30pm.

**Present:** John Grierson (Chair), Alastair Dargie (Vice Chair), Wilma Grierson (Treasurer), Kathleen Cameron, Cllr Bill Lobban, Karen Lawrie, Beth Hay, Willie McKenna, Erin Ferguson, Johnnie Grant, PC Neil Mclvor, Joe Kirby (Arrived 7.35pm), Dorothy Greaves (RBS) Shona MacLachlan (Minute taker)

**Apologies:** Ian Gray

**Opening Remarks:** John Grierson welcomed everyone to this meeting of AVCC.

### 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of AVCC which was held on Thursday 12th April 2018 were circulated.

**Minutes proposed by Alastair Dargie and seconded by Karen Lawrie.**

### 4. TREASURERS REPORT

Wilma Grierson produced receipts and payments report and advised that the balance of the account was £2145.75. The statue account (business reserve) is now £3523.19. Wilma Grierson advised that there was income of £120 from Craft Fair in May.

### 5. BUSINESS

**a) Police Report** - PC Neil Mclvor advised there had been a new system put in place so can advise now of approximately 145-160 incidents which were dealt with by the Police in Aviemore area over the preceding month. These included 21 fixed penalties for speeding, 3 drug related instances, 1 drink driving offence, 1 assault, 6 miscellaneous matters, 9 road traffic instances, 4 thefts, 1 concern for person call, 3 domestic disturbances, 4 warrant enquiries, 2 deaths, 5 Dalfaber Crossing instances, 1 drunk person instance, 1 disturbance, 1 missing person, 1 fraud, 1 breach of the peace, 1 vandalism, 3 mountain rescue, and 7 animal calls (dogs, sheep, cows etc)

PC Neil Mclvor advised that this has taken the total up to 7 instances at the Dalfaber crossing, only way to prevent these instances is to get barriers. Most of complaints are that motorists hear the bells but do not see the lights. There is an issue with the sun, and people not seeing the lights properly. Police have highlighted this to the Highland Council.

John Grierson also commented on the problems incurred by vehicles parking at the double white lines at the Dalfaber crossing.

John Grierson reported noted a comment which was handed in from a resident from Grampian View. They expressed the police cars were parking so close to the junction while carrying out speed checks on Grampian Road that this was making it very difficult for residents trying to get in and out. PC Neil Mclvor will follow up on it.

**b) RBS Community Banking Service** - John Grierson welcomed Dorothy Greaves from the Royal bank of Scotland to give us an update on changes and support available. Dorothy Greaves explained the branch has been closed for 2 weeks now, and that they have created a role of Community Banker, to assist with non-cash services such as support and advise. There is a weekly drop in session available in the Aviemore Primary School, Wednesdays 4pm - 6pm. Generally, over the last few weeks she has been helping people with online banking, mobile bank, telephone banking etc. The other side to this job is that she has a remit for education, this is not just for RBS customers but for anyone to use. This means that she can do talks with community groups, for instance Friends Against Scams (aiming to educate as many people as possible about scams out there) and Money Sense Scheme, which is for young people, so aiming to 2 schools per month. Erin Ferguson said that she will speak with Kingussie High School as Dorothy Greaves advised she hadn't heard back from them.

John Grierson asked why they chose the current location for the mobile van to visit. Dorothy Greaves advised that it was not the first choice, but Aviemore Retail Park did not get back in time and advised it would probably not be changed now due to the timetables being published. Alastair Dargie advised that the ease of accessibility to the mobile bank is an issue. There are other choices. The Co-Op carpark and the Aviemore Primary School carpark, where the customer base is should have looked at. Dorothy Greaves advised to bring it up with the bank, then there is potential for them to look at it again. John Grierson will write to Martin Girvan (Regional Manager).

### **5.1 Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting.**

**a) Bedding Plants** - John Grierson advised that they were due to be arriving tomorrow, and Alastair Dargie will be in touch with everyone in regards to planting.

**b) Sluggan Drive - Pot Holes** - Joe Kirby advised that although the pot holes had been filled in, there are large ones appearing at the traffic calming area before you turn into Sluggan Drive. Cllr Bill Lobban will follow it up.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Rothiemurchus Campsite - Alterations and extensions to existing campsite, pre-application consultation** - John Grierson welcomed Johnnie Grant to the meeting. Johnnie Grant shared round the table additional information on the planning consultation. Johnnie Grant advised it has been about 30 years since the campsite had any green organisation and feel now is a good time to expand. The licence is for 50 holiday caravans, 22 tents and 17 motorhomes. This plan is divided into two, the south end is not currently part of the caravan park, the idea is to extend into the south area. There were no questions from members and Alastair Dargie commented that the Lairig Ghru path could do with self closing gates which would assist with cyclists, and would help with the overall access of the site.

John Grierson also asked for an update on An Camus Mor; Johnnie Grant advised that a lot had been happening. There has been clarity about a week ago at a meeting where various issues came up. Education, Capercaillie and Foot Cycle Bridge are the things holding it up now. With regards to education, he said he was unsure as to why this is holding things up because the Highland Council has a clear policy on education. The contribution has been increased from £2.5 million to £8-10 million. There is a clause in policy which requires a viability test. As long as it's written in to the

section 75 agreement then it won't impact whether An Camus Mor proceeds or not. Still waiting to get that in writing from Park Authority.

With regards to Capercaillie. There is an issue with details of the offsite mitigation of Capercaillies. When people leave An Camus Mor to go elsewhere, there is a possibility that more people will go to new places and disturb them. A recreation management plan has been done which demonstrates that won't happen. The habitat regulations assessment has been done and approved.

With regards to the Foot Cycle Bridge. During the application the Foot Cycle Bridge was turned into a condition which makes it more difficult to deliver. However, there is new understanding that the bridge would help the Kinveachy capercaillie. It was also that the Foot Cycle Bridge should be above all flood levels but it is now believed impractical.

There were no questions from the floor. John Grierson thanked Johnnie Grant for his input and Johnnie Grant then left the meeting.

Cllr Bill Lobban then commented that he was very disappointed to hear that developer may possibly renege on the education requirement for schools in the Aviemore area.

Karen Lawrie queried that it's a development that the community wants, and they have to pay for education? Cllr Bill Lobban advised that all developers contribute per dwelling, this is a new development, it's their financial responsibility to assist with building the new school.

**b) Scotrail Timetable changes - Information on proposal** - Alastair Dargie advised that we may have missed the timing on this, but Scotrail proposed various timetable changes, which causes a small reduction in Kingussie and Newtonmore. This however meant that there were more times added to the Aviemore timetable. Alastair Dargie will write letter of support.

**c) Potential Use of Village Green by West Coast Harley Davidson** - Alastair Dargie advised he had received a telephone call last month from West Coast Harley Davidson. They used to use Papa Rocks car park, which is now Blacks and now no longer available to them. Enquiry came in to potentially use village green, erect marquee, hard standing area this would then be pulled down by the Monday after the Harley weekend. Only through day, and not in evenings. Majority agreed. Joe Kirby also suggested damages waiver. **Alastair Dargie proposed, John Grierson seconded.** Alastair Dargie to write with agreement of use.

**d) Planning Application 2018/0177/DET (Cairngorm National Park Website) - Ptarmigan Restaurant Glenmore, Aviemore. Renovation and erection of extension to building.** John Grierson asked if everyone had seen the application online. Alastair Dargie commented that the glass tower has no gain and what else could have been done, also premature. John Grierson advised will write to CNPA Planning with above comment. **John Grierson proposed, Karen Lawrie seconded.**

**e) Planning Application 2018/0183/MS 2018/0184/MS South and North West of Dalfaber Farm (Cairngorms National Park Website)** - John Grierson phoned planning department as last planning application went on so long the planning permission had lapsed. There had been two sets of appeals and therefore two planning permissions. The present application is identical to the last one. John Grierson proposed putting in same objection as last time. Alastair Dargie suggested also incorporating the recent feedback from police highlighting the issue of the crossing. John Grierson to object as before and include comments about the railway crossing. **Proposed by John Grierson and seconded by Al Dargie**

**f) Scottish Land Commission / Reidhaven Estates - Land Ownership call for evidence.** - John Grierson got a letter from Will Anderson (Chief Executive) from Reidhaven Estate to advise that there was a Scottish Land Commission set up by the Land Reform Act and recently called for evidence for concentrated land ownership. Questions included; In some parts of Scotland, most land is owned and controlled by a small amount of people, is there any benefits to this? And, have you experience any positive experience from that concentrated land ownership? Alastair Dargie commented that with Reidhaven in particular they have always assisted with the community.

**g) Atkins Mouchel - Response to minute notes-** John Grierson advised that the response to the minutes were circulated that came back from Stuart Bongally. Alastair Dargie commented that his representative said 15km and he agreed. They are now stating 2.5km. Still no policy in place. John Grierson advised will reply, stating that consultation definitely said 15km. Reiterate again how it was as if they were not there. MP, MSP, Highland Council, CNP and Transport Minister to be copied in. John Grierson has also written to George Hogg at SNH, no reply as yet. John Grierson also to write to forestry officer after the organisation was told there was a tree protection in place.

**h) Glenmore Parking/ Traffic Management - Ongoing problems / way forward** - Erin Ferguson advised that during the lovely weather, cars parked on both sides of the roads at Glenmore, buses couldn't get through and everything came to a standstill, took over 45-60 minutes to get into Aviemore. John Grierson advised that Pete Crane (CNPA) was also stuck in the traffic and asked if we had any comments/suggestions as they are currently looking at funding. He will come along to next meeting to discuss. Alastair Dargie commented on the lochside parking and that a plan is to close the entirety of this off so there will only have the carparks. Willie McKenna advised that this had not been decided yet. Cllr Bill Lobban also advised that the verge would belong to Highland Council. John Grierson said there is a public meeting on Thursday 21st June Glenmore Forest Centre at 5.30pm. and urged anyone that could attend to go along. After further discussion John Grierson said he would write to advise that parking charges along the main road through Glenmore should be implemented.

**i) MacDonald Highland Resort / Highlife Highland Swimming Pool Access** - Joe Kirby advised that the talks are still ongoing. Seems as though just using Highland Highlife as income stream. Since scheme started, no improvement to services offered and now Highlife Highland and Hotel users are they only ones who can use the facilities. Approx 6 weeks left for decision. John Grierson will write to Brian Porter and Donald MacDonald advising how valued the provision is in the Aviemore area, and if they have any further update.

## **7. AOCB**

**a) New Hospital** - John Grierson advised that the planning application should be coming in tomorrow. Has asked project leader to come along to next meeting to discuss the plan.

**b) Seat on Village Green - Lucky 2B Here Memorial** - John Grierson received an email from Fiona Weirs asking to put a bench on the village green. After discussion, she was looking at the Wild Furniture benches from Dulnain Bridge. She will come back to John Grierson with firm idea.

**C) Deckchair** - John Grierson advised he received an email from Ross Coulter from landmark asked if a large deckchair could be placed on village green. John Grierson said that in view of the ongoing

legal issues he had advised Ross that we could not agree to it at the moment. It can be re-visited when the legalities are concluded.

**d) Village Green** - John Grierson advised problems have arisen because they cannot get any of the 'executive' from old village council. A way forward is to show that the Community Council have been managing it for some time, paying electricity etc. Unfortunately the cost of a solicitor will be £200 an hour. John Grierson will check how many hours will be required.

**e) Restrict Meeting 1 Month** - Joe Kirby suggested that as last month's meeting had to be cancelled due to not enough members, that we restrict 1 month a year to avoid ending up in that situation. Kathleen Cameron advised it could still happen no matter what month as all volunteers. It was decided to continue with monthly meeting. **Proposed by Kathleen Cameron, seconded by Karen Lawrie.**

**f) Fountain** - Willie McKenna asked about the fountain. Cllr Bill Lobban advised that it now has a new pump, but also that there were originally 2 pumps. There was a backup pump for when the level dropped it would then fill the upper chamber. Company who supplied pump have supplied level control, so that the waterfall will just stop during drier months; will run Easter to October and be switched off in winter.

**g) Grass Cutting Old School** - John Grierson asked if the grass could be cut at the sides of the path at the old school, its badly overgrown. Cllr Bill Lobban will follow up on that.

## **8. CLOSE OF MEETING AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

John Grierson thanked those in attendance and said that the next meeting for the AVCC will be on Thursday 12th July 2018 at 7.30pm in the Aviemore Community Centre.