

AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Community Council meeting via Zoom Thursday 10th December 2020

Attendance: Peter Long (Chair), Joe Kirby (at start), Kathleen Cameron, Beth Hay, Elspeth Byrne, Wilma Grierson, Cllr Bill Lobban and Willie McKenna.

The meeting was held on Joe's Zoom account. Joe handed over the host role to Peter.

Apologies: Alistair Dargie, Angela Oriss (Minute sec) and Cllr. Muriel Cockburn

Peter explained that Angela had called off due to illness at short notice, he asked Carole Long to take the minutes. Joe suggested that we could record the meeting and he would compile the minutes. There were objections to this, and it was agreed that Carole should take the minutes.

Joe left the meeting as he had work commitments and gave his apologies.

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record, with one amendment, we were not seeking to replace the hanging baskets, proposed by Kathleen, seconded by Beth.

Kathleen proposed acceptance of the minutes, seconded by Beth.

Treasurers Report: Wilma had circulated her report prior to the meeting. We have received £300 from the Community Café for the Covid Fund.

The report was approved, proposed by Kathleen, seconded by Beth.

CNPA Report: Willie had nothing new to report but was seeking assistance from the Community Council as he will be attending a seminar hosted by Scottish Rural Action. This seminar will be looking at how people in rural areas were dealing with Covid. He had already spoken to a few local people, Beth agreed to talk to him on her experiences in her varied roles within the village.

Highland Council Report: Cllr Lobban confirmed that money for the Dell of Spey will be reinstated at the next meeting. There will also be money released to upgrade/repair play parks. On the question, will the survey drive the funding, Bill said that this would not be the case, we have more playparks than other areas and the funding is proving to be sensitive issue.

Aviemore Community Enterprise Company: Kathleen gave an update; the new winter lights have arrived and the child's light. The site for the Outdoor Classroom has been identified, the project is waiting for Tullochs and MacDonald Resorts to decide who owns the land. There are plans for an Aviemore cookbook in the pipeline, should be ready by September and a spring fair.

There is a shortfall in the money for the Village Green and the company are looking for the CC to pay the extra amount. There had also been a decision made that naming the Riverside park shelter after Audrey McKenzie should be progressed.

There were no questions on the report.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

1 20mph update: this has been agreed, there is no guarantee that this will be in place by Christmas. There is funding for 18 months and it will be reviewed at that point.

2 Cadet Hall: To be used for the food bank and the food share. Beth had discussed using this with Tony Brown, who confirmed that there were currently no firearms in the building. Subsequently Beth contacted the MOD, she has not had a response from them. There were a couple of suggestions, contact Caroline Caddick, who has an interest in the cadet hall and ask the bowling club. Both options have been tried before and failed, but it is worth a try. Historically, when the cadet hall was built there was an assurance that the Brownies, Beavers etc would be able to use the hall, this assurance did not materialise.

3 Declaration of Interest: This item should appear on every agenda in future, there were no declarations of interest on any item on the agenda.

4 Audrey McKenzie/Karen Lawrie: Kathleen asked the community council to cooperate with ACE to get the shelter named after Audrey, this had been agreed previously but was not actioned. Agreed unanimously. She also noted that we had not thanked Karen on her resignation, the board wholeheartedly agreed, ACE will share the costs

Action Point: Kathleen and Beth will visit Audrey and her family to establish if they are okay with this plan and devise a suitable inscription.

Thanks for Karen's contribution to be formally recorded in the minutes.

5 Planning Applications: Cllr Lobban and Willie McKenna indicated that they would not participate in any discussion on planning applications.

a) **Braeriach:** there was a general discussion, Joe had circulated the application on Facebook and had advised those against the plan to register this with the council. Peter advised that most of the responses on the Planning Portal had been negative. There was a discussion and the following points were raised: 1 the proposal could be a potential asset for residents and visitors 2 the existing stone-built house was being retained, this was welcomed 3 the proposed extension was relatively unobtrusive from Grampian Road, and that the proposed glass frontage was felt to be attractive.

Beth proposed that we support his application, seconded by Elspeth, this was carried.

- b) **Café Kiosk:** after discussion it was agreed that no response from the CC was required.
- c) **Water Tap:** Kathleen proposed that we support this, seconded by Beth, this was agreed.
- d) **Non- Motorised Route:** Elspeth attended a webinar, which was a very good presentation. There are two routes being considered:
Blue: mainly follows the road between Aviemore and Carrbridge, approx. 10 km
Purple: goes via Boat of Garten, approx. 15km
Elspeth has submitted the following questions:
i Will there be safety barriers?
ii Is there a mobile signal throughout the routes?
iii Consider if gates should be placed at junctions?
iv How will winter maintenance be carried out, gritting etc?
v What plans are there to deal with the areas prone to flooding?
There was a discussion about the merits of both routes and agreed that the blue route would be most suitable.
Action Point: Elspeth to respond on the CC's behalf

6 Twinning: Joe will be calling a meeting in the New Year to see if there is an appetite for this. If there is, a steering committee will be formed. The board agreed that this was not something the CC could take on board.

The meeting was interrupted as Joe ended the Zoom link at 19.50

Peter set up another meeting with a new link.

The meeting re-started at 19.55

Kathleen, Wilma, Beth and Cllr Lobban re-joined the meeting

Peter apologised for the interruption; he had been unable to contact Joe to establish what had gone wrong. In future the CC Zoom will be used to host meetings.

Peter then informed the meeting that he had just received an e-mail from Joe informing him that Joe was resigning as secretary with immediate effect.

Action Point: The election of a new secretary would be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

7 Village Green: The project is complete, and the final invoice has been received. There is an overspend of £6142.98. ACE have arranged with Allan Munro Homes for the invoice to be split so the money received from the council can be paid. Both the CC and the ACE board were aware that there had been a misunderstanding at the beginning re VAT but had been assured that there would be no shortfall, and that if there was, an anonymous donor would make the difference up. This does not appear to be the case. The CC has an account specifically for the village green. There was a discussion about this issue, and it was made clear that the ACE board are unable and unwilling to meet the shortfall as all financial decisions were made by the CC.

Action Point: John Grierson hopes to be able to clarify if any help is available. If not, the CC reluctantly agreed that the shortfall will be paid from the Village Green account.

8 Painted Stones: Joe arranged for June Armstrong (a local artist) and Carole Long to visit the village green and work up a plan for the placement of the stones. The suggestion was to put them on the vertical face of the first statue stone, in a heart shape, and call it '*The Heart of the Community*'. This was agreed.

Action Point: Joe, June and Carole to see the project to its conclusion.

9 Town Centre Funding: applications must be in by the 9th January.

There are 3 projects being discussed: Phase 2 of the Village Green, Myrtlefield, and the ground at the War Memorial.

Aviemore British Legion are preparing a bid for the War Memorial.

A plan for the Village Green has been circulated – maximum estimated cost £45,000.

After discussion it was agreed that we should only apply for the following priority items for the Green: Hard surfacing of the disabled access ramp and path, stone seating round the sides of the green and a new notice board.

An estimate for planters on Myrtlefield has been circulated, it was felt that they seemed too big and would not leave much green space. Joe has contacted the owners of the shopping centre to get permission for work to be carried out and he has spoken with David Cameron who will get his landscaper to draft a plan for the area. The sticking point of this plan is the uncertainty about ownership. It was agreed that this should be put on the back burner for the moment, but if the ownership issue is resolved prior to the 9th January a bid can be put forward.

Any Other Competent Business

Covid19 Bank account: Wilma has been trying to open an online account since June. The bank had given various reasons for refusing to open the account. The latest is that they need a signed copy of our constitution. This would have to be done by Highland Council. It was agreed, that as it had been managed up until now no account should be opened.

Residents Group: as there will be no Christmas Party for the village seniors, the plan was to deliver a parcel to every senior in the village, with chocolate, biscuits etc and that every child at Aviemore Primary School would be give a sweetie. They were seeking a donation from us. Wilma proposed a donation of £300, seconded by Beth, this was agreed.

Christmas Tree: Joe has been unable to locate the lights, so the office bearers agreed to purchase lights from Home Hardware, who gave us a discount because we are the CC. The lights will be installed on Saturday by Kathleen, Peter and Carole.

It was agreed that we should arrange for Hamish Ball, the designer of the polar bear light, to switch on the lights on Sunday. There will not be an event and a Covid risk assessment will be done.

Action Point: Kathleen will try to locate the magic switch.

As there was no other business, the meeting closed at 20.45 Peter on behalf of the CC formally thanked Karen Lawrie for her service to the Community Council.

Peter thanked everyone for attending, he gave his best wishes for the festive period.