

AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 21st October 2021

7pm at The Hub

1. Present

Al Dargie (Vice Chair), AVCC
Beth Hay, AVCC
Jeni Pacitti, AVCC
Elspeth Byrne (Secretary), AVCC

Sally Devlin, AVCC
Joe Kirby, AVCC (remote access)
Willie McKenna, CNPA
Johnnie Grant, Rothiemurchus

2. Apologies for absence

Peter Long, AVCC
Kathleen Cameron, AVCC

Bill Lobban, Highland Council
Kirsty Bruce, AGCT

3. Welcome and introductions – Al Dargie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. Covid precautions

Risk Assessments for The Hub had been emailed out. There was not a Risk Assessment for the Community Council but Government Guidance was followed.

5. Declarations of interest - none

6. Minutes of September meeting

Al Dargie proposed acceptance of the minutes. Seconded by Jeni Pacitti.

7. Matters arising from September meeting

Al Dargie said that objections to BT Openreach telegraph masts had to be made by individual homes.

Play park equipment at Burnside – Elspeth Byrne said that a letter had been sent to the school on 8th October.

Shift funding – Sally Devlin said that the funding had been received. The guided cycling sessions were proving very popular with around 13-15 participants each week. She hoped that further sessions could be arranged in the new year to attract a wider group of participants.

Notice board – Elspeth Byrne had put copies of the August minutes on the library's Highland Council and Community Council notice board and had asked for a notice board heading.

Short-term lets consultation – the consultation has started.

Action: Sally Devlin will share this on the Community Council Facebook page.

Al Dargie said that Peter Long had emailed Highland Council regarding Town Centre Renewal at Myrtlefield but he did not have an update from Peter at this time.

Elspeth Byrne has amended the Data Protection registration contact details to her name.

Al Dargie said that funding for the new speaker had been received.

Al Dargie said that Peter Long was obtaining an accurate plan of the Village Green.

8. Treasurer's report

Beth Hay proposed acceptance of the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Al Dargie.

9. Business

a. VABs meeting – carried forward to the next meeting.

b. Painted stones on Village Green

Action: Al Dargie will progress this at the weekend.

c. Charity bikeathon 2022 – carried forward to the next meeting

d. Christmas tree, carol service, Christmas Eve procession, etc

Action: Elspeth Byrne to order a 25 feet Christmas Tree for delivery to the Village Green on 18th November. It was suggested that this be done via phone rather than using the form. Elspeth to talk to James Mackenzie, Highland Council, at the Industrial Estate to see if he can arrange manpower for the tree to be put up on Friday 19th November. Elspeth to find out what lights we have from Peter Long.

Action: Beth Hay to find out from Jackie and James Mackenzie whether they can do anything to help with getting the lights put onto the tree.

Action: Elspeth Byrne to find out what Kathleen Cameron plans for Carols.

Christmas Eve procession. ACE are arranging this and will welcome help from the Community Council. We will get more information at the November meeting.

e. Dalfaber junction - Elspeth Byrne had written to AECOM asking for an update.

f. Water main Craigellachie

Action: Elspeth Byrne to draft a letter for Al Dargie acknowledging that the work was essential but asking that the path be restored to a good standard.

g. Planning

- 21/04344/FUL Erection of 9 houses, garages, re-alignment of road and landscaping Corrou Road

Al Dargie said that this was a redesign of an existing approved planning consent. There were the same number of properties but the plan had been amended so that it was better in terms of impact on existing houses.

Al Dargie proposed acceptance of the plan; Jeni Pacitti seconded.

Action: Al Dargie will respond before Tuesday 26th October.

- 21/04102/FUL Siting of caravans for staff accommodation Coylumbridge Hotel

The Hotel want to put 5 static caravans behind the Fun House for staff accommodation with up to 4 members of staff sharing each caravan. The Community Council had already told the planning authorities that it considers the use of caravans for staff accommodation to be inappropriate.

The supporting statement says that the caravans are needed as there is no staff accommodation on site and currently hotel accommodation is used, but a previous adequate accommodation block has now been turned into guest accommodation.

Al Dargie said that the environmental report says that there will be no effect on ancient woodland but this is because the hotel has already cleared the site.

Willie McKenna and Johnnie Grant were concerned at the social problems that arise from people living in inappropriate caravan accommodation.

The meeting agreed with that this was an important point of principle for the whole of the Scottish tourist industry and for CNPA.

Action: Elspeth Byrne to phone Highland Council tomorrow to find out if we are still in time to comment on this proposal. If so Elspeth to lodge an objection on the grounds that staff should not be accommodated in caravans, the land was cleared before the application was submitted, the environmental impact of that land clearance and the fact that the hotel has removed the previous adequate staff accommodation.

Proposed by Al Dargie, seconded by Joe Kirby.

h. Rescheduling of Community Council meetings (JK)

Joe Kirby objected to this meeting having been rescheduled from 11th October and suggested that the number of meetings drop to 10 per year. Al Dargie said that the meeting date was moved as it would not have been quorate. Dropping to 10 meetings per year was not practical as planning applications would not be discussed in time. If the Community Council membership increased then this would not be a problem in the future. **Al Dargie proposed that in future the decision to change the date of scheduled Community Council meetings be put to all members. Seconded by Joe Kirby.**

i. Litter pick

Action: Elspeth Byrne and Beth Hay to arrange another litter pick for a suitable date.

j. Small grants for Community Active Travel Projects – traffic calming at north end of Aviemore

Action: Elspeth Byrne to contact Bill Lobban to ask if the Highland Roads Dept could help draw up plans, then get a quote from McGowans (industrial estate) to get outline costs. Elspeth Byrne to contact the Roads Department and Vikki Telfer to find sources of match funding and to find out if the landfill tax fund could provide match funding.

10. Reports from other organisations

a. CNPA report

Consultation on Park Plan

Willie McKenna said that a park officer had reported that the consultation was weak on input from ordinary members of the public, most being from landowners and farmers etc. He asked if the Community Council could help with this.

On being asked to comment about the lack of participation from Aviemore and Vicinity people in the draft Park Partnership Plan consultation, Johnnie Grant noted that is the CNPA that has the duty to consult, so you might consider asking CNPA if they would

like the Community Council to sound out how best to involve people for Aviemore and Vicinity.

Action: Elspeth Byrne to draft a letter for Al Dargie, to CNPA – Gavin Mills and Murray Ferguson at Grantown.

New hospital.

Willie McKenna had been contacted by someone who was having problems pushing a wheelchair through the railway tunnel due to the poor surface. The tunnel is an important pedestrian access route. Funds had been provided to Highland Council by CNPA but Network Rail would not give permission for Highland Council to carry out the work.

Action: Elspeth Byrne to contact Bill Lobban to see how this might be resolved.

Old Ambulance Depot.

Willie McKenna suggested that this might be a good venue for Scouts etc.

Al Dargie declared an interest and did not take part in this discussion.

Beth Hay said that other charitable organisations were intending to use the premises.

b. Highland Council report - none

c. ACE board member report

ACE would arrange the Christmas Eve procession. The hanging baskets had been taken down and the outdoor classroom ordered. A race night would be held on 19th November.

d. AGCT report - none

11. AOCB

Al Dargie expressed the Community Council's thanks to Jeni Pacitti and Beth Hay for their work in weeding the roundabouts.

Beth Hay said that several people said that they wanted a Village Hall. The Food Hub has a very small room and people find the HighLife Highland facility too expensive. Al Dargie said that the old ambulance station was not appropriate and that organisations had to be aware of the costs of running a facility. The Boat of Garten hall was run successfully as a business but Aviemore would need double the space and manpower to run it.

Elsbeth Byrne had received an acknowledgement to her letter to Network Rail requesting that Aviemore station remain manned.

An email had been received from Highland Council introducing Carol Butler and suggesting that Carol could be invited to Community Council meetings to explain her role.

Action: Elspeth Byrne to invite Carol Butler to the first part of the November meeting.

A new Community Councils' Complaints Procedure would be trialled if need-be and feed-back provided by March.

Joe Kirby said that some of the roads at Rothiemurchus were getting overgrown at their edges eg the turn off for Loch an Eilein.

Action: Johnnie Grant would look at this and let Joe Kirby know whether this was a Rothiemurchus road or Highland Council.

Joe Kirby gave an update on Town Centre Funding. Joe Kirby, Bill Lobban and the land management agent had a positive meeting at the Myrtlefield site, discussing potential funding and future development. He said that he is awaiting updated information and that when this has been received he will update the Community Council.

12. Date of next meeting – Thursday 11th November

Al Dargie gave his apologies in advance.

13. Close 20:50