

AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 13th January 2022 at 7pm via Microsoft Teams

1. Present

Peter Long (Chair), AVCC

Kathleen Cameron (Treasurer), AVCC

Al Dargie, AVCC

Beth Hay, AVCC

Sally Devlin, AVCC

Jeni Pacitti, AVCC

Elsbeth Byrne (Secretary), AVCC

Bill Lobban, Highland Council

Willie McKenna, CNPA

Carole Butler, Visitor

2. Apologies for absence

Joe Kirby, AVCC

3. Welcome and introductions – Peter Long welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. Declarations of interest – none.

5. Carole Butler, Community Support Co-ordinator for Badenoch & Strathspey

Peter Long introduced Carole Butler. She explained that her role was concerned with community support – helping the community to help themselves. Projects included emergency planning and assisting the food bank. She works alongside Liz Cowie. She invited questions.

Carole Butler said that she just covered Badenoch & Strathspey. When asked for examples of the types of work currently being undertaken, she said she was involved with Place Based Investment Funding, capacity and helping projects along. She has helped with the redevelopment of the food hub, set up of resilience groups, checking that community groups were still there and set up of the volunteering forum. She had been involved with the Climate Hub, bringing ecological groups together.

Carole Butler said that community resilience planning was to ensure that there was a plan in place – something to provide details of local contacts in the event of a serious local situation eg a major road accident on the A9, snow, etc. Bill Lobban said that there will be a major incident at some time and that it would be useful, eg, for Inverness to know who to contact in the local area. Peter Long asked the meeting what role everyone thought the Community Council had in putting together an emergency plan around Aviemore. Al Dargie said that it should be involved in creating the bare bones of a plan eg to address the ongoing risk of evacuating the caravan site in the event of flooding and the risk of motorists being stranded on the A9 in the winter. Carole Butler said that she could provide a template for Aviemore to use. Al Dargie said that there was a major incident in Grampian due to Storm Arwen and that the communities that had a plan had fared better than those without one. Fire, ambulance and police would work together but it was useful to be able to link in with the local community.

Action: Carole Butler would send the community resilience template.

6. Minutes of December meeting

Bill Lobban had requested a couple of amendments. **Acceptance of the amended minutes was proposed by Jeni Pacitti and seconded by Al Dargie.**

7. Matters arising from December meeting

Bikeathon 2022 - Kathleen Cameron said that there had been progress in pinning down arrangements.

Broken bench – Kathleen Cameron said that it was not broken, just a missing slat.

Action: Jeni Pacitti will follow up to obtain a quotation for repair.

Food hub – a nice letter of thanks had been received.

Our web site

Action: Elspeth Byrne will follow up to obtain a quotation for work required.

Use of Village Green - Al Dargie had contacted West Coast Harleys and contact details have been exchanged. There is an arrangement in place for use of the Village Green during Thunder in the Glens 2022. It was noted that another request had been received for the same weekend, but the meeting felt that the existing arrangement had to be honoured.

Christmas Eve procession – this was cancelled due to Covid concerns.

8. Treasurer's report

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Jeni Pacitti and seconded by Sally Devlin.

9. Business

a. Community Resilience – feedback from VABS meeting 15/12/2021 (Peter Long)

Already covered in item 5 above.

b. BP garage – major variation to licensing conditions

Al Dargie said that the change is not major – just a small change to the space.

Action: Peter Long to write saying that the Community Council has no objection.

c. Coylumbridge Hotel – request to review AVCC objection to planning application 19/01473/FUL

Al Dargie said that this was not the Coylumbridge Hotel itself but the lodges ie a different business. A portacabin had been given temporary planning permission around 3 years ago and they were seeking an extension to this for a further 3 years. The meeting agreed that there was no reason to object.

Al Dargie proposed that we respond saying no objection. Seconded by Beth Hay.

d. Planning application 2021/0390/DET – demolition of Dalfaber Farmhouse and erection of house. Called in by CNPA – response required by 14/1/2022.

Bill Lobban did not take part in discussions on this subject.

Peter Long said that the developer wanted to demolish the old farmhouse and build a similar sized new building. Retention of the old farmhouse was a condition for development of the site and the developer wanted to revisit the planning condition. Al Dargie said that this building was of historic significance to the area. The developer was

not saying that retention of the old farmhouse was impossible – just that it was not financially viable. The meeting agreed that the developer will make profit from the overall development even if the farmhouse retention is individually non-profitable. What was proposed was also out of scale and replacement of the roof with a metal zinc roof was not similar to the original building. The old farmhouse had a lot of memories for many people and it was important to keep the few old buildings that remain.

Jeni Pacitti proposed objection to the plan and this was seconded by Al Dargie.

The objection was on the grounds of:

- financial viability was not an acceptable reason for demolishing the old farmhouse given that this was a condition for the overall development permission
- the replacement proposed was not to scale
- the replacement proposed used inappropriate materials
- it was important to preserve historic buildings

Action: Peter Long to submit an objection on Monday.

e. Cycling UK Shift Funding Project – update and next steps (Sally Devlin)

Sally Devlin said that there was about £500 remaining of the funds received. Three rides had been held in November with around 15-18 people signed up for each and around 10 turning up. The guided rides had been popular. The question was what to do with the remaining funds. Options at this time of year included ‘fix your bike nights’ or funds could go towards the Bikeathon. Sally Devlin said that funds should be used by April but this could be longer if something was already in the pipeline. Kathleen Cameron asked if guided rides could be held at weekends towards the end of March as a lot of people had been unable to participate in the November rides because they were on week days. Sally agreed to look into this and to get some costings. Peter Long thanked Sally Devlin, on behalf of the Community Council, for making this happen.

Action: Sally Devlin to get costings for weekend guided rides towards the end of March.

10. Reports from other organisations

a. CNPA report

Beaver - Willie McKenna said that the Scottish Government were discussing introduction of beaver with the CNPA. The CNPA had been informed that the Cairngorms would be a fantastic place for beaver.

National Park Plan - Lots of requirements had come forward as part of the National Park Plan although there had not been a lot of input from the local communities. The report should be available around April.

b. Highland Council report

Bill Lobban said that there had not been a Highland Council meeting since the last Community Council meeting so he had little to report. The Council are currently working on the forthcoming budget which follows from the Scottish Government budget.

Al Dargie asked if there was any update on the lighting situation at Dell of Spey. Bill Lobban did not have an update but money had been allocated – the problem was shortage of staff due to Covid/self-isolation.

Willie McKenna asked if there was any update on the tunnel to the hospital. Bill Lobban said that the pathway had been upgraded to some extent after Willie's previous request and was in better condition than it had been in the last 50 years, but still needs upgrading to meet the planned requirements.

c. ACE board member report

Children's winter light designs - Kathleen Cameron said that the children's winter light designs would be presented for voting next week.

Outdoor classroom - Kathleen said that Wild Furniture had most of the materials available and they were contacting Tulloch's to find out how to get the equipment onto site. Tulloch will also be asked if they could provide electricity and water supplies.

Banners – Kathleen said that there is still issue with Highland Council.

Myrtlefield – Bill Lobban said that **ACE** got a quotation for design work and public consultation work and that this had been put to Highland Council last week and he thought it was likely to be approved. Bill Lobban said that there were two separate funds and that one could be used for design and consultation and the other for the building work.

d. AGCT report – none.

11. AOCB

Lots of street lights out - Kathleen Cameron said that lots of street lights were out and that this was dangerous. Bill Lobban said that she should report this – each lamppost has a reference number on it.

Action: Kathleen Cameron to report street lights that are not working.

Lighting at railway station square - Al Dargie said that not all the lampposts had been replaced at the railway station square. Bill Lobban said that this was due to shortage of staff.

Staffing hours at the railway station - Peter Long said that staffing hours were being reduced at Aviemore and Kingussie stations. There would be no staffing after 5pm (rather than 9pm) Monday to Friday which was a serious problem for disabled or visually impaired travellers who rely on railway staff being available to help them.

Action: Elspeth Byrne to write objecting in the strongest terms.

Traffic too fast at north of Aviemore – AVCC members were concerned that the Orbital Route crossing is dangerous because traffic is too fast coming into the north of Aviemore. Bill Lobban said that the crossing had been badly located originally. Al Dargie said that the crossing should be moved to a straight stretch of road and needed a good landing area with space for a bike with a trailer to go through before an automatically closing gate. Sally Devlin said that a better crossing was required because of families crossing the road from the caravan park.

Action: Elspeth Byrne to invite Vikki Trelfer and a council road engineer to walk the road and discuss the best alternatives with some members of the Community Council.

Bulbs - Beth Hay said remaining bulbs from the planters would be used at the Village Green.

12. Date of next meeting – Thursday 10th February 2022

13. Close 8.30pm