

# AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022

7pm at The Hub

## 1. Present

Peter Long (Chair), AVCC

Kathleen Cameron (Treasurer), AVCC

Beth Hay, AVCC

Jeni Pacitti, AVCC

Elspeth Byrne (Secretary), AVCC

Willie McKenna, CNPA

Neil Maciver, Police Scotland

## 2. Apologies for absence

Al Dargie, AVCC

Bill Lobban, Highland Council

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

## 4. Declarations of interest

Beth Hay declared an interest in item 9b.

## 5. Minutes of February meeting

Kathleen Cameron proposed acceptance of the February minutes, seconded by Beth Hay.

## 6. Matters arising from February meeting

### Web site

Elspeth Byrne had replied to Mike Copestake. Mike Copestake suggested we might want to use someone less expensive and has provided a contact.

**Action: The meeting agreed to continue with the action from the February meeting ie for Elspeth Byrne to ask a family member to try to fix some of the problems at no cost.**

### Traffic too fast at North of Aviemore

We had requested an update for today's meeting but no one has had time to get back to us yet.

### Resilience Planning

Elspeth Byrne had spoken to Sandy McCook who agreed to a meeting with him to discuss the Nethy Bridge planning process. Awaiting Sandy McCook meeting date.

**Action: Elspeth Byrne to see who else available for the meeting when we get a date.**

### Queen's Jubilee

Elspeth Byrne said that Thursday June 2<sup>nd</sup> June will be Spring Bank Holiday and Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup> will be Jubilee day. Kathleen Cameron had suggested a Teddy Bears' picnic. Elspeth Byrne thought that there could be drinks and dancing in the evening. Peter Long said that the British Legion were organising a gala day for the last weekend in June and wondered if ACE/AVCC would be interested in a shared event.

**The meeting decided to stick with the Jubilee weekend at beginning June.**

**Action cf: Elspeth Byrne to get in touch with Donna Shaw regarding children's activities and to approach local caterers.**

## 7. Treasurer's report

Kathleen Cameron had been taking deposits for use of the Village Green and hire of equipment and said that she was looking for a way to show this on the report while allowing for refunds. She is trying to get electricity payments moved from the Business Reserve Account.

**Jeni Pacitti proposed acceptance of the report. Seconded by Beth Hay.**

## 8. Police Report

Neil Maciver from Police Scotland gave a report from 10<sup>th</sup> February to today. There had been 114 calls including 18 road traffic complaints, 13 misuse/silent 999 calls and 11 road accidents. There had been no more bike thefts and most calls were for fairly minor incidents.

## 9. Business

### a. 2022/0046/DET (22/00225/FUL) Formation of mountain bike track and related infrastructure on Cairngorm Mountain – response by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March

Views expressed were concern that this might be the first step in an overdevelopment of the Cairngorm and that the bike track appeared to run close to the footpath.

**Elsbeth Byrne proposed that the Community Council state that it is in favour of the development but with the reservation that it is concerned that the development creeps further up the hill and seeks clarification that there is separation between the footpath and the downhill bike track. Seconded by Kathleen Cameron.**

### b. 2022/0057/DET (22/00277/FUL) Erection of 20 No. Commercial Letting Units and access roads, land 85m SE of Batching Plant Knockgranish Aviemore – response by Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March

**The meeting agreed to a neutral stance on the development but to note concerns about the traffic access. Proposed by Kathleen Cameron. Seconded by Jeni Pacitti.**

### c. Dalfaber Drive junction

Peter Long summarised the current position. Elspeth Byrne summarised our response to the consultants. Peter Long said that lights at the junction appear to be going ahead as BT cabling work is commencing.

**Action: Elspeth Byrne to prepare a draft letter to the consultant asking why we have received no information regarding our response.**

### d. Strathspey Avenue play area

Peter Long said that this is the play park on the right-hand side of Strathspey Avenue where the equipment is old and tired. There is a play area on the left-hand side which is newer.

**Beth Hay proposed that we take no action. Seconded by Kathleen Cameron.**

**Action: Pass the information about the freed-up area to the food growing group and the play equipment group.**

## 10. Reports from other organisations

### a. CNPA report

Willie McKenna said that there had been around 1,400 responses to the National Park Plan including some good ideas and some pipe dreams. The Plan goes to the National Park Board for approval tomorrow. Johnnie Grant had provided a very good clear response detailing mistakes made over the last 55-60 years where there was a lack of forward thinking, planning and infrastructure.

He said that Aviemore pays more council tax than any other town in the National Park but gets fewer amenities. Aviemore has a severe lack of accommodation due to short-term lets, which means that businesses cannot get staff which is essential to run tourism. He will be demanding these things tomorrow.

Willie McKenna said that he did not know if the caravans at the Coylumbridge Hotel had received planning permission but was concerned that they will be left to rot.

He said that the stone wall opposite the Happy Haggis had a big lump out of it. He said that no one owns the wall.

**Action: Elspeth Byrne to write to Richard Porteus of Highland Council to ask if the Roads Department can fix the wall.**

### b. Highland Council report – none.

Peter Long said that he had written to Highland Council about the street lights from the Winking Owl to Craignagower being out and copied Bill Lobban in.

### c. ACE board member report

Kathleen Cameron said that the ACE AGM had to be postponed as not enough people had attended.

She said that the outdoor classroom was finished and they were in discussion with Tulloch regarding a date to get it onto site.

Myrtlefield – ACE were awarded funds to employ a landscape consultant and this appointment is due to happen this week.

### d. AGCT report – none.

## 11. AOCB

### Regular maintenance of Village Green

Kathleen Cameron had asked Any Jobs Aviemore for a quotation to look after the Village Green for the summer. Estimate is £150 for a spring clean and tidy including waste disposal then £120 per month for maintenance to include grass cutting, collecting up leaves, edging and disposal. The work would finish in October and the hedge would be cut towards the end of the season.

Peter Long said that the process to obtain ownership of the Village Green was still ongoing but that now was the time to take control of this in order to keep the Village Green in good order. Kathleen Cameron said that the craft fairs would cover the cost of the monthly charge and that the Harley event would bring in a lot of funds.

Peter Long suggested we ask Any Jobs Aviemore to turn over Beth Hay's flower bed.

**Elsbeth Byrne proposed getting Any Jobs Aviemore to do the work this year. Seconded by Jeni Pacitti.**

Group of 30 business students from Georgia 16-18 July

Elsbeth Byrne said that Professor Michael Tarrant is bringing a group of 30 business students from Georgia USA. They are interested in the importance of nature for promoting healthy communities and the role of local businesses in supporting social efforts.

**Action: Elsbeth Byrne to provide contact details to Peter Long so that he can discuss the requirement with possible interviewees.**

Cairngorms Youth Local Action Group Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March

Willie McKenna is looking for an attendee.

**Action: Elsbeth Byrne to circulate to see if anyone is free.**

Insurance and village green booking form in progress

Elsbeth Byrne said that the Community Council's insurance is due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> April and stressed the urgency of resolving any issues.

**12. Date of next meeting – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022.**

**13. Close**