

AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 8th June 2023 at 7.00pm
at the Community Centre

1. Present

Peter Long (Chair), AVCC	Neil Maciver, Police Scotland
Al Dargie (Vice Chair), AVCC	Johnnie Grant, Rothiemurchus
Kathleen Cameron (Treasurer), AVCC	Paul White, Visitor
Elsbeth Byrne (Secretary), AVCC	Roddy Stevens, Visitor
Beth Hay, AVCC	

2. Apologies for absence

Audrey Turner, AVCC	Eilidh McLeod, AVCC
Jeni Pacitti, AVCC	Bill Lobban, Highland Council

3. Welcome and introductions

Peter Long welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. Declarations of interest

Peter Long declared interest in the Glenmore item as a volunteer ranger with the CNPA.

5. Minutes of May meeting

Al Dargie proposed acceptance of the minutes, seconded by Beth Hay.

6. Matters arising from May meeting

Peter Long said that there was no longer a need for office holders to meet to discuss the Village Green insurance position given the feedback from Bill Lobban.

The meeting expressed its thanks to Kathleen Cameron for making the arrangements for the German orchestra performance.

Dalfaber crossing

Al Dargie said that one of the buttons was stuck in so that the lights always cycled to green even if no one was there. A local resident had complained about the noise from the beeps all through the night.

Action: Neil Maciver would contact the Highland Council about the problem.

Action: Kathleen Cameron to send the note from the resident to Neil Maciver and Elspeth Byrne.

Action: Elspeth Byrne to add this problem to the list of items for Bill Lobban.

Speed at north end of Aviemore

Neil Maciver said that they had a new speed gun and would do some traffic speed checks.

Roddy Stevens said that traffic speed was a big problem at the first crossing coming into Aviemore from the north. He suggested that the flashing speed sign be changed to a camera to catch speeding traffic. He said that the pedestrian light-controlled crossing works on proximity so that when you press a button the lights wait for a gap in the traffic, but this assumes that people are travelling at the speed limit. As a result, traffic is struggling to stop in time when the lights go to red.

Action: Neil Maciver will notify Highland Council of this problem.

Action: Elspeth Byrne to add this problem to the list of items for Bill Lobban.

7. Treasurer's report

Kathleen Cameron presented the report. She said that the sum shown for solicitor should show insurance.

Al Dargie proposed acceptance of the report, seconded by Beth Hay.

8. Police report

Neil Maciver said that there had been 122 incidents – a normal volume.

There had been no calls in relation to camping/camp fires at Glenmore.

Johnnie Grant said that there had been 3 reports for Loch an Eileen, Rothiemurchus and one other location. Neil Maciver said that people should be encouraged to report problems officially – not just take to social media. The police will start patrols at Loch Morlich from July to mid-August on Friday and Saturday nights.

The meeting discussed legislation relevant to camp fires and 'dirty' camping.

Action: Al Dargie to provide information to Neil Maciver and Elspeth Byrne.

9. Business

a. Planning - 2022/0328/PPP - Erection of holiday apartments | Land West of Cairngorm Hotel, Aviemore (response by 14th June)

Peter Long said that originally this was a 5-storey elliptical building which we objected to on the grounds of height/size, appearance and being incongruous. The applicants have reduced this to an 18 unit building and have withdrawn their original plan for the building. They are looking for a Planning in Principle (PIP) approval for an 18-unit holiday letting building on the site. If they get PIP approval there would have to be a more detailed planning application later.

Al Dargie said that the original building on this site was a 2-storey butterfly house.

Al proposed maintaining the objection and that future plans should be low-rise and no more than 2 storeys. The number of units should be reduced as appropriate. Seconded by Beth Hay.

Action: Peter Long to respond on behalf of AVCC.

b. Planning - 2023/0210/DET (23/01967/FUL) – Retention of ten wigwam accommodation units at Speyside Trust Badaguish Outdoor Centre, Glenmore, Aviemore, PH22 1AD (response by 19th June)

It was agreed that no objection would be made.

c. Co-option of Eilidh McLeod to the Community Council

Al Dargie proposed co-opting Eilidh McLeod onto the Community Council, seconded by Kathleen Cameron.

d. Bank to close in spring 2024

Peter Long said that we only knew about this due to an article in 'The Strathy'. This was the last bank between Pitlochry and Inverness.

The meeting was concerned regarding:

- would the ATM remain and be serviced regularly
- how would the bank support people, bridging the gap with IT skills
- would a bank van visit

Kathleen proposed objecting to the bank closure, seconded by Beth Hay.

Action: Elspeth Byrne to prepare a draft for Peter Long.

e. Removal of after-school child care by Highland Council after the summer holidays

Al Dargie said that Highland Council were removing all after-school care. The existing services is from 8am to 6pm and was reducing to 8am to 3pm. He said that there is little capacity for childcare in the area. The reduction had been made without any consultation. There had been inflexibility of the service run at the school e.g., if someone did not know their shifts in advance then they would have to pay for a full week, i.e., 5 days, when only 2 days were required. There is a waiting list for the breakfast club and after-school care yet the Highland Council say that there is no demand. The school closes at lunchtime on Fridays and Highland Council have to guarantee childcare provision but do not. This lack of childcare may cause people to lose their employment.

Action: Al Dargie to draft a letter to the Care Inspectorate and provide to Elspeth Byrne to send.

Action: Elspeth Byrne to add to the list of issues for Bill Lobban.

f. Flowers

Beth Hay had received some flowers and more arrived today. She needed to arrange an evening for planting and suggested Wednesday.

Action: Kathleen Cameron to put on Facebook.

Beth Hay said that the workmen at the Dalfaber junction had smashed one of the flower tubs there.

Action: Elspeth Byrne to add to the list of issues for Bill Lobban.

Action: Peter Long and Kathleen to discuss where to get funding for planters to replace the ones at the north end of Aviemore.

10. Reports from other organisations

a. CNPA report - none

b. Highland Council report - none

c. ACE board member report

Kathleen Cameron said that ACE were having difficulty finding someone to take the portacabin on.

Banners were moving forward slowly, waiting for pegs on lampposts.

Volunteers were going down to Riverside Park to take away stakes and tree tubes.

Floral displays should be in place by the end of this month.

d. **AGCT report** - none

e. **FLS report** – previously circulated - see 11 re Glenmore issues

11.AOCB

a. Camp fires and 'dirty' camping

Peter Long introduced Paul White who had emailed AVCC about the issues.

Paul White gave a very informative description of the issues. He said that there was only one toilet and this was not located where people were camping. He said that camp fires were being lit by people who were drunk. He said you can often see fires burning in amongst the trees. There are 'No Fires' signs but they are not all obvious. He had written to CNPA.

Johnnie Grant thanked Paul White for raising the issue. He said that CNPA had reported condition 'red' to the Scottish Government.

Peter Long referred to the update from Paul Hibbard, regional manager at FLS, providing an update on numbers of rangers and said that the Scottish Government had set aside extra funds for additional ranger services. There is some evidence that the Loch Lomond legislation licensing has improved the situation there but some of the problems had just been displaced to other locations.

The meeting also noted that new public toilets through the tunnel from the campsite are due to be installed soon.

Al Dargie, previously an experienced Fire Officer, said that Loch Morlich is within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). There are insufficient legal powers and resources to address and manage the situation. The camping around Loch Morlich is not 'wild camping' – it is not what the Scottish Outdoor Access Code intended.

Concern was also expressed that beach campers are taking up spaces all weekend with no space for business customers.

Action: Peter Long will write to the various organisations involved regarding the need to address this problem.

b. Bollards at Loch Morlich

Bill Lobban asked for this issue to be raised in his absence i.e., the unattractive bollards at Loch Morlich. The meeting agreed that they were out of keeping.

Action: Peter Long to write to FLS.

c. Seats in front of the shopping centre

Roddy Stevens said that the seats in front of shopping centre need to be replaced/repared. One of the seats is rotten and has nails sticking through it. Peter Long said that Savills are responsible for the site and he is going to write to Savills on behalf of ACE.

d. Electrical check on bandstand

Kathleen Cameron has asked for an electrical check on bandstand.

e. Non domino application for the Village Green

Peter Long said that the timescale is 60 days from when the Registrars start work on this. They have not started yet. Our lawyers will contact the Registrars to find out when the process will start. We want the process complete, and the asset handed over to ACE, before the Community Council elections.

f. Other

Kathleen Cameron said that the hospital underpass had been tarmacked and was much improved.

Al Dargie asked if the Scotia Homes sales office had been through planning? Peter Long confirmed that it had.

Peter Long had met with an HIE consultant regarding The Centre for Mountain Environment.

Peter Long said that he still needed to have a session with RSPB regarding non-draining work at Insh marshes.

Peter Long is meeting with the Facilities Director at the Scandinavian Village who is concerned about the developments around it.

Peter Long said that the Mountain Bike Park has been called in by CNPA.

Action: Elspeth Byrne to add to the agenda for July.

12. Date of next meeting – Thursday 13th July 2023

Peter Long and Kathleen Cameron gave their apologies for next month's meeting.

13. Close 9.10pm

Aviemore & Vicinity Community Council

TREASURER'S REPORT

8th June 2023 Aviemore Community Centre meeting room

<u>Treasurers Account</u>	£	£
Balance at 30 th April 2023		£3,511.41
<u>Income</u>		
Interest	£	
<u>Expenditure</u>		
SSE	£16.00	
CHQ311 insurance	£723.81	
CHQ310 football	£ 50.00	
CHQ309 Wm GIFT	£ 69.20	
Balance at 31ST May 202		£2652.40
Cyclists Club_balance	£135.00	
<u>Business Reserve Account</u>		
Balance at 30 TH April 2023		£6314.37
<u>Income</u>		
Craft fairs	£600.00	
Interest	£ 7.00	
Transfer	£723.81	
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Any jobs	£120.00	
Balance at 31st May 2023		£7,525.18
Deposit Craic events	£ 50.00	
Deposit Sam cairns	£ 50.00	