

## **Nethy Bridge & Vicinity Community Council**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014**

**Present:** S.McCook (Chairman), H. Tucker (Secretary), D. Carrott (Treasurer), E. Ibbertson, A. Young, D. Black

**In Attendance:** Cllr B. Lobban, Inspector K. McLeod, Dr B. Peters, N. Small (NHS Highland), J.P. Sieczkarek, (NHS, South, Area Manager) and 1 member of the public.

**Apologies:** S. George

**Minutes of the last meeting:** Proposed by: - A. Young      seconded by: - E. Ibbertson

**Matters Arising:** The new anti dog fouling leaflets had been issued. There was still no word of CNPA sending a representative to meetings in place of M. McCafferty. The contract of intent for the path from Steel's Mill to Tulloch Road had not been signed as yet. CNPA stated that it had not yet set spending for 2014/15; therefore no decision had been made.

**Nigel Small – NHS Highland:** Mr Small set out the proposals for a new medical facility in Aviemore to replace the two present hospitals. Both he and Dr Peters made it clear that it was not possible or financially viable to upgrade the two present facilities to present or future standards. The decision had been taken to plan for a twenty bed hospital with A&E facilities to include a hub for all hospital/ social work services. This would allow for a closer working arrangement between the services but also cut the amount of money spent on different buildings around the area and to minimise travelling for employees. Mr Small made it clear that the budget would remain unchanged but that more would be spent on services and not repairs to old buildings. There was a danger that the old X ray machine at Ian Charles would stop working before too long and it would not be viable to repair it. A modern facility in a central location would be more reliable and stop the waste of radiographer time travelling for possibly one patient. Mr Small made it clear that there would be no change to GP services, Dentists or the Care Homes due to these proposals.

Three proposed sites had been identified within Aviemore, the Grainish site at the north of the village, The Pony Field, near The Scandinavian Village and the High Burnside site. Public consultations on these proposed sites had started last week. The public were urged to comment as this would help form future plans. Information leaflets would be distributed during May. At the end of July a report is sent to the Health Board and if it is agreed, this is then sent to the Government Capital Investment Group for a decision. This may not happen until the New Year. There was a possibility if approved of having the new facility within five years but this is not certain.

Dr Peters explained that with better facilities, there was a possibility of Consultants from Raigmore holding clinics in the Strath, rather than patients having to travel to Inverness. This would help reduce the chances of some clinics stopping, due to small number of patients attending a clinic at present. The hospital beds would not be long term as any money saved would be invested in community services allowing people to be cared for at home.

There was some discussion about which Doctors would work at the new hospital. Dr Peters said that there had been some discussion amongst the local GP's but no final decisions. The thought was

that a GP would still attend their own patients with a possibility of having a consulting room within the hospital for patients to attend, allowing better use of Doctors' time.

There would have to be plenty of parking provision, especially if more services were using the same building. The need for a properly integrated transport system was highlighted. Mr McCook asked if they would like to hold an open meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> June at the next CC meeting. Mr Small agreed to check that the date didn't clash with another meeting somewhere else.

**Police Report:** Inspector McLeod stated that he realised there had been concerns over the recent difficult times with crime in the village. Things had been quieter more recently. He urged members of the public to contact the Police immediately with any concerns. The Crime Prevention Officer would gladly visit anyone that wished a visit. He stated that the different divisions were starting to work better together under the new Police Scotland. There is usually a car patrolling the trunk roads every day and they do try to have a presence in the villages as often as possible. The timing of the Queen's Baton relay visit is still uncertain. Those present voiced their concerns over the efficacy of the proposed average speed cameras.

**Treasurer's Report:** Present balance: £4,047. The accounts are with VABS at present for auditing.

**Councillor Lobban's Report:** The new Chairman of Council services is Graham McKenzie, Maxine Smith is the Chairman of Resources and Vice Chair of Education is Gail Ross. There will be further consultation concerning service points. Budget consultations would be going out shortly. Cllr Lobban was asked if a dog poo bin could be placed at the entrance to the Speyside Way at the old station. Cllr Lobban would investigate but stated that it was perfectly ok to place bagged dog poo in litter bins. Mr McCook had been approached about there also being a problem with litter, the idea of a double sided leaflet raising awareness to both problems would be considered for next year.

**NBTA Report:** The Spring Gathering would be going ahead. The general view of members was that business was down so far this year. There would be a further meeting in June before combining with the Community Centre committee.

**Football Field Fence:** Mr McCook asked that the rumours concerning the football field having a high fence permanently erected by the football club needed to be clarified. Mr Carrott stated that there had been no request to place a permanent fence around the field and there was no possibility of one ever being allowed. Should this be a requirement for the team to join the league, then Nethy field would not be available.

**Texas Scramble:** This will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> May, the Community Council team was still to be finalised.

**Planning Applications:** Plans for new house at Martinez and River Cottage had both been approved, despite concerns raised. There was now a fourteen day consultation period over the plans for housing at School Wood. Cllr Lobban took no part in the discussions at this point of the meeting.

**Members of the Public:** Stuart Black stated that the Old Kirk had a good start to the season, with the Photo exhibition and WW1 exhibition. Creative Cairngorms would be next.

He then gave an update on the work being undertaken at Castle Roy to stabilise the foundations. Historic Scotland had asked that the repairs should be visible as such and not blend in too much with the old stone. Stone from the dyke nearby was being used. More money would need to be

raised for work to allow the space to be used for public events. People could buy a square metre of the mound, courtyard or castle, receiving a certificate, miniature whisky and shortbread.

**CNPA Report:** None

**AOCB:** There had been a meeting last month between farmers and conservationists to discuss concerns over a pair of sea eagles nesting in the area. There would be a further meeting in June. Apparently they have not laid eggs this year.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm in the small hall. This would be preceded by the AGM.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10pm.