

Nethy Bridge & Vicinity Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st October 2015

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

In Attendance: Cllr. B. Lobban, C. Macallum (Atkins Mouchel) and 2 members of the public.

Apologies: D. Black

Minutes of the last meeting: Proposed by: E. Ibbertson Seconded by: A. Young

Matters Arising: S. McCook again raised the matter of renewing white lines at the Causer crossroads. Cllr Lobban reiterated that the matter had been passed on and that we were on the list for when the liner was in this area. The fact that this was the major route to school may make the matter more urgent.

Members of the Public: The matter of the plans for the property and stables opposite Balliemore was raised. Mr McCook stated that the members had seen the plans and found no legitimate planning reason to object. He mentioned receiving a letter of objection from AOKA earlier in the day. A reply would be sent. Cllr Lobban took no part in the discussion.

A9 Dualling Project: Colin Macallum from Atkins Mouchel, who are the design Engineers for the northern section of the project, spoke about the Dalraddy to Slochd and Tomatin to Moy sections. He explained that the design period involved environmental studies, talking to landowners, requisitions and site supervision once the work started. Options for the route were being looked at within a 200 metre corridor of the existing road. All of this area might not be required for final route. There will be an exhibition in December with models and displays showing the different proposals.

He explained that there would be 3, tier one junctions, at Aviemore South, Grainish and at Blackmount. There were another 30 access points to consider. There will be no central reserve openings. At present peat probing was underway and the route being surveyed. There were several matters to be taken into consideration such as the Nature Reserve at Aviemore, cycle route, railway and cliffs alongside the road. There was a requirement for enhanced lay bys which would be larger and allow for dog walking. Slochd would require a second bridge. Mr McCook asked if a tunnel under Craigellachie had been considered. Mr Macallum said it had but would be very costly.

There would be minimal use of traffic lights during construction; there was a desire to keep two-way traffic as much as possible. Traffic wishing to access places such as Alvie Estate would have to leave A9 at a major junction and then use minor roads, there may need to be some upgrading of underpasses to allow access for larger vehicles. The hope was that work on construction would start in 2020. The present dual sections would be inspected and brought up to the same standard as new sections. Mr Macallum said that junction design could be a loop or diamond design and would be kept as small as possible. The design and construction phases would bring more business to local areas.

Treasurer's Report: Balance: £5,289

Councillor Lobban's Report: The last Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey area committee meeting had taken place last week. The transport group for the planned new hospital had met and are making progress. Question asked if the final choice had been made on location. Cllr Lobban said that it hadn't but the site by the old call centre was still the favoured option. Budget discussions were underway, funding for bypass and proposed velodrome for Inverness had been discussed. There were still problems with the winter snow clearing schedule, Cllr Lobban had been unable to ascertain which pathways were going to be cleared.

Police Report: No reports are able to be given at present.

CNPA Report: Cllr Lobban mentioned that the new Chief Executive had encouraged community representatives to attend community council meetings.

Planning Applications: Proposed house on land beside Shepherd's Hill, Dell Road – there were no objections.

Sheep shed at Milton – there were no objections.

AOCB: The matter of the ford on the Tulloch Moor road had been raised again. A quote of £48,000 had been given to build a duckboard beside the ford. The landowner had no desire to see the road upgraded. CNPA were of the opinion that no work or signs were required.

Bridge at Aultmore was said to be unsafe to use. Mr McCook would be asking for advice as to whether it was repairable as it was part of the core paths. Cllr Lobban mentioned that LEADER might be interested in a scheme to create paths that connected the local communities and might be something for the Local CC association to consider.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 5th November at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm