

Nethy Bridge & Vicinity Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th February 2015

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

In Attendance: Cllr. B. Lobban, A. Greggans (Ranger) and Mr Kemp, HC Area Community Services Manager.

Apologies: M. McCafferty

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

Matters Arising: Paperwork for the planning application for the new path has been completed. The bill for hiring the hall for the children's Christmas party has been paid. Tickets are available for The Nethy ceilidh on 21st February.

Members of the Public: None

Mr Kemp HC: The matter of stopping pre-gritting on some roads in the Strath will be reconsidered by HC. The initial thought had been that only very rural roads with less than 20 cars using them over a night would be affected, but concerns had been raised that it was to be far more than this. Mr McCook stated that this area had a totally different climate from coastal areas of the region and as such should be treated differently. Mr Kemp was asked to make the relevant people aware during forthcoming discussions that we are not prepared to accept a reduction in pre-gritting and snow clearance.

Comment made that pavements had been poorly cleared. Mr Kemp said this was affected by one of the machines breaking down and another having to be brought in to the area.

Mr Kemp stated that routes in this area were at the extreme of distances covered in a run so would be less likely to have their frequency reduced. Also less likely to lose pre-gritting service; except possibly for Bridge of Brown route. Those present felt that this was an A class road and should be treated as such. Services will be compared with other Authorities.

Comment made that Dorback road was not being cleared but Mr Kemp stated that if there was a great deal of snow to clear these roads wouldn't be cleared until later in the day. Red routes were cleared starting at 6am. Cllr Lobban stated that it had never been intended that pre-gritting would change this winter.

Mention was made that many of our local roads are used from early in the morning by people who have jobs that start early. Such as those who work on Cairngorm mountain. This has a major economic benefit for the area. Mr Kemp said that they worked closely with the staff on Cairngorm. There was some comment on the junctions such as Kinveachy not being very well cleared. Mr Kemp would look at this.

Mr McCook and Mr Carrott had met previously with Mr Kemp to discuss the contract for some of the village grass cutting. Consideration was being given to cutting the playing field, adjoining field and the school playground. Mr Kemp gave the current contract price. Those

present felt more consideration would be required to see if that could be matched. Mr Kemp mentioned that HC can help with equipment costs.

B&S Association of Community Councils: There would be an inaugural meeting on the 24th February to discuss forming a new association. Mr McCook will attend.

Treasurer's Report: Present balance: £4,391.00

Councillor Lobban's Report: Cllr Lobban stated that there was now to be public consultation on the reorganisation of customer service points. The plan was that the only point for the Strath would be in Aviemore, all others would be closed. There may be assisted computer terminals in some places. Comment was made that the web site needs to be greatly improved and there was still a generation that did not like using the internet. It could be difficult for elderly residents to get to Aviemore to conduct business. Could the service points not be given more work to do to make the job more viable? Committee members were encouraged to have their say by filling in the online questionnaire.

Cllr Lobban was asked why paper and cans would not be collected at recycling points as this made it difficult for visitors to recycle. He replied that this was because they were collected in the blue bins but maybe there was a need for more of the dual bins that were being trialled in Aviemore. Comment made that being able to recycle glass at home would be handy, also that there should be more discussion about building a facility for burning rubbish to generate heat in the area.

Police Report: None

NBTA Report: None

CNPA Report: M. McCafferty had let it be known that she would be standing down at the next CNPA elections due to poor health limiting her ability to attend meetings.

Planning Applications: None

AOCB: Mr McCook said that he had been invited to chair a working group set up by RSPB to discuss the restoration of the mires on the reserve.

Mr Black mentioned that many of the power cuts in the village were due to lines being damaged by trees in high winds. There needed to be more maintenance done by the power companies to prune troublesome trees.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 5th March at 7:30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.