

Nethy Bridge & Vicinity Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th June 2014

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

In Attendance: Cllr. B. Lobban, Dr Peters, K. Rogers (NHS), I Hogarth (NBTA), A. Greggens (RSPB), and 7 members of the public.

Apologies: None

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

Matters Arising: Nothing

Proposed new hospital: Dr Peters outlined the need to protect the future of health provision in B&S. Present facilities would not be able to keep up with new regulations in the future. A great deal would need to be spent on upgrading these facilities and this would not be forthcoming in the near future. Decision was taken to go to the government to ask for funding for a new facility, which would include room to bring all disciplines together under one roof. This would save money on having multiple buildings, travel and be a better use of staff time and allow for better communication. Work rotas would be easier to cover with staff only having to be in one facility.

GP surgeries in Grantown and Kingussie would be unaffected as would dental services, physiotherapy and podiatry, but the Aviemore surgery would move to the new hospital.

Improved public transport would be essential for patients to access the facility. There is a pilot project underway in Lochaber at present. The Highland Council subsidises public transport and therefore will have a big input into the development of new services.

Four sites met the criteria for the new hospital, the pony field near the Scandinavian Village, Granish, High Burnside and The Technology Park site. There is a three month public consultation period and the public are urged to return the document that was delivered to every household. The bid will be helped by a strong public response.

The question was asked if the number of beds would be increased. Dr Peters said that fewer beds would be required with improved home care facilities. Many of the present beds are blocked by people who could be at home if there were better services. Comment was made that more people were needed to provide homecare, which needed to be seen as a good career to encourage more applicants.

The difficulty of ambulances getting through the traffic was raised. Cllr Lobban said that the crossing at Tesco was a major problem. Dr Peters mentioned that ambulances are staffed by trained Paramedics and there was not always the need for speed in getting someone to hospital.

Members of the Public: Comment was made from the football club, about a fence around the playing field being ruled out at the last meeting. Why was the club not consulted? Also the new look to the playing field was allowing rabbits onto the pitch leaving holes that could

cause injury. Mr McCook and Mr Carrott intimated that there had been differing statements coming from the League officials as to whether a permanent fence was required. There was a need for the Hall committee and the football club to have some discussions.

Mention made of the terrible grass cutting being done, uneven and too long between cuts meaning that long grass being left lying after cutting. A complaint would be sent to the Council as there had also been complaints about the Churchyard. There was some discussion about doing the grass cutting ourselves.

Planning Applications: None.

Mr McCook had been approached by residents at Boat of Balliefurth concerning the retrospective application for clay pigeon shooting at Craggan Outdoor Centre. Although the area of Lower Gaich Wood is within the jurisdiction of Dulnain Bridge CC, the affected residents were within Nethy Bridge.

Cllr Lobban took no part in the following discussions. The residents were very distressed at the noise and disturbance caused by this facility and had received no support from the planning authorities. The facility is much closer than Health & Safety advise being only 500mtrs away across the river and well within range. They had approached John Johnson of the Police Licensing Board and he thought this may be considered reckless discharge of firearms. Mr B. Murdoch, Environmental Officer had been a great help and said that this was a noise nuisance. All present agreed that Mr McCook should write to CNPA voicing our concerns.

AOCB: None

Date of next meeting: Thursday 4th September at 7.30pm.