

Nethy Bridge & Vicinity Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th November 2015

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

In Attendance: Cllr B. Lobban, A. Greggans (Ranger)

Apologies: A. Young, J. Roberts (RSPB)

Minutes of the last meeting: Proposed by: E. Ibbertson Seconded by: D. Carrott

Matters Arising: A reply had been sent to AOKA.

Members of the Public: Mention made that the crossing from Birchfield Court to the playing field was not well signposted. Cllr Lobban will look into this. Also the speed of traffic on this section of road was a concern. Members thought that the only possible solution would be some form of traffic calming, such as a chicane.

A resident in Birchfield Court had some concerns with a neighbour's high hedge. Cllr Lobban had arranged for a Council Officer to come and inspect the hedge. His report indicated that the hedge was still of an acceptable height. The resident intimated that the officer had not seen the hedge from his property but only from the road, and felt he had not fully appreciated the effect it was having on his property. Only way to take matter forward was to start the legal process under the high hedge legislation. This involved a fee of £400 to start the process without a guarantee of success. Members agreed to ask the Council Officer to explain the reason for his decision. Contacting Albyn to explain the situation may also be of some help, the resident agreed to do this.

Ms Eva Secker- Nethy Bridge Hotel: Ms Secker introduced herself as the new General Manager of the Nethy Bridge Hotel. She gave a brief resume of her experience. She is undertaking major refurbishment at the hotel and wishes to welcome anyone to call in and speak to her at anytime. The bar is again open and drinks are available without the necessity of purchasing food. Hopefully there will be a new all day bar menu in the spring which would include some local produce. Staff training had been improved and there would be a duty manager available at all times. Advertising improved to encourage more business such as weddings and conferences. The long term plan was to hopefully stay open all year to attract skiers and activity groups. Over the winter a new floor would be laid in the kitchen and twenty bedrooms would be refurbished.

A. Greggans- Ranger: The members of the health walk group would benefit from a bench at the top of Dell Road. Mr McCook said to contact The Nethy to see if they could help.

Mention made of the need to keep the new ponds cleared of too much vegetation. D. Carrott said that there had already been some discussion on the matter and that it was intended to do some work in the near future. Alison agreed to help any volunteers.

Albyn Landscaping Charges: S. McCook had been approached by a resident from Broomhill Court saying that their landscaping charges had increased from £7 to £35 year. Members thought this did seem a very large rise but was probably due to them not having been raised for some time. Cllr Lobban said that it was the same for all Albyn residents. One group in Aviemore had got together and now did the grass cutting for themselves.

Armistice Day Arrangements: It was agreed to make a £25 donation to The Legion as well as the cost of the wreath. As yet no piper had been found that was able to play at the service. E. Ibbertson agreed to see if he could find someone available to play.

Treasurer's Report: Balance: £4,758.00

Councillor Lobban's Report: The Highland Council have allocated £50,000 to look at improvements at the Old Spey Bridge. Nethy Bridge CC had not been consulted as the council mistakenly thought it was within Grantown CC area. There had been discussions on new land reform and community empowerment legislation. The new Badenoch & Strathspey Area Committee had been established.

Police Report: None

CNPA Report: None

Planning Applications: None

AOCB: Jennifer Grant had expressed an interest in joining the CC. There were still two vacancies.

Cllr Lobban was asked about the new snow ploughs that had been purchased. Twenty five new ploughs would arrive, the first four having gone to areas on the West Coast. A new one should be in B&S area sometime in December. Question was asked if there was a need for the new vehicles. Cllr Lobban stated that many required costly maintenance and some had been sold on.

S. McCook mentioned that the Christmas calendars had arrived and arrangements would be made for delivery to the elderly residents.

S. McCook then presented H. Tucker with a bouquet of flowers as this was her last meeting as secretary.

H. Tucker gave her thanks and said that she hoped there would be a new secretary before too long.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 3rd December at 7:00pm. PLEASE NOTE EARLIER START. This is to allow Liz Cowie Area Manager to attend the initial meeting of the new members, before going on to Cromdale for their initial meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.