

Nethy Bridge & Vicinity Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th June 2013

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

In Attendance: Cllr B. Lobban, J. Roberts (RSPB), P. Duncan (SNH), I Hogarth (NBTA), C. Vis-Christie (RSPB).

Apologies: None

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

Matters Arising: The problem of dog fouling was ongoing and would be monitored.

S. McCook said that the CC proposals concerning the development on School Road were available to view on the CNPA website.

Members of the Public: None

J. Roberts (RSPB): There is a rogue male capercaillie displaying along Tulloch Road which is attracting a great deal of attention. This is leading to people and vehicles blocking the road at times. Moving the bird is not an option at present. Police slow signs are on site. This could be viewed as a bonus for the village, bringing extra visitors but there is a problem of visitors not making way for local traffic. Mr McCook asked if the RSPB could notify people and ask them to be more considerate. Mr Roberts stated that one of their trail wardens would be making some visits to the site on a regular basis to monitor the situation. He would be grateful for any records of sightings. The male is in moult at present so should be quieter but could return in July/August. They will be handing out leaflets at the Osprey Centre asking people to be more considerate.

The RSPB had lodged objections to the proposed housing development on School Road. A felling licence was being applied for, to remove the strip of non indigenous trees on the opposite side of the road from Tomnachrochar.

D. Black informed Mr Roberts that a lorry driver delivering to a farm at Tulloch had been verbally abused by one of the RSPB staff for causing an obstruction, earlier in the year. He asked if Mr Roberts could investigate the matter. Mr Roberts said that he would.

P. Duncan (SNH): Mr Duncan explained that the upgrade of the King's Road path to all abilities was nearly finished but due to damage by horses and bikes it had not been possible to complete the top dressing. Although signs had been erected asking them not to use the path until it was complete, these had been ignored. CNPA would not allow barriers to be used. There are still some teething problems such as the start at Steel's Mill being too high, some ponds will be dug allowing the soil to be used to reinstate some areas. The next path will be Steel's Mill to Tulloch Road and an extension to the Speyside way from Templeton Bridge to join path on Tulloch Road, which would remove the last section of having to walk on the road. This section would be a joint application between the CC and SNH. There were

discussions about finding a way of stopping horses and bikes from using these paths until they were properly bonded.

C. Vis-Christie (RSPB): Ms Vis-Christie is the Community Engagement Officer Cairngorms Futurescapes. This is a project to work in partnership with farmers and the community to help slow the fall in biodiversity within the strath. At present they are working with farmers to help waders. Cutting the soft rush to improve the ground had led to the creation of a business turning it into biomass fuel. They are happy to visit any group or event to talk to people about ideas.

Treasurer's Report: Balance: £3,525

Councillor Lobban's Report: There should be a Dog Warden in Aviemore in the near future. The HC will have a zero tolerance policy with litter and dog fouling, TEC staff will be drafted in to monitor areas. No new dog bins will be issued but would consider joint dog waste/ recycling bins. The Warden will make unannounced visits and can issue fixed penalties. The review of bulky items uplift had been completed and the cost will remain at £15. The winter maintenance levels will change from 1-4 to 1-3 with some re designating to be done. Mr McCook asked that the Broomhill Rd be placed higher on the list. The council are still looking for local groups to undertake some snow clearing. The Funicular Plan would remain with the top path remaining a restricted area, with only guided walks but this was set to be reviewed again in the future. 50 mid market houses are to be built at An Camas Mor with Government money and would be owned by the developer and Highland Council for 5 years. They could then be bought by the occupant and the money returned to the Council to build more houses. Cllr Lobban was informed that the gullies in Nethy needed to be cleared as they are in a poor state. Cllr Lobban said that there was an ongoing project and they would be done in time.

Police Report: What do you want here?

NBTA Report: 7 people were attending training on how to set up the new website. They would then be able to help others set up the separate organisation areas. This would be quite simple using the available templates. The Scots Nights had made a loss last year so this year there would be one ceilidh on 26th July with a bar and any money raised would go to the Castle Roy fund.

CNPA Report: None. Mr McCook asked for comments on the new local plan. There was a request that it should be written in plain English. Comment that the area designated for housing along School Road should be shrunk to fit the proposed site.

Planning Applications: None

AOCB: There had been several near misses at the crossroads at the Neuk due to the lack of clear road markings at the junction. Also there was a poor line of site due to overhanging trees and bushes. Cllr Lobban was asked if the roads dept. would come and paint the markings as a matter of urgency.

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

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

