

Nethy Bridge & Vicinity Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th November 2013

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

S. George, D. Black and 1 member of the public.

In Attendance: A Constable from Police Scotland

Apologies: A. Young and A. Thom

Minutes of the last meeting: Proposed: E. Ibbertson Seconded: S. George

Matters Arising: A meeting had taken place at the play park, with Ian Reid of Highland Council and Cllr Lobban. Mr Reid had clarified the age suitability of each piece of equipment, which was from age three up. The only piece of equipment that would be suitable for younger children in the remaining space would be a tactile panel at a cost of more than £1,000.

Although it had been thought that planning permission had been approved for Croftronan at the last meeting, this was incorrect. Permission has now been granted. Cllr Lobban said that CNPA were looking at the possibility of making it harder for these properties to be sold on as homes unless they were affordable homes. Cllr Lobban stated that the application may well have been successful even for a normal dwelling as previous applications had left an infill site. Cllr Lobban had asked for an amendment to the application whereby no family could reside in the property for more than 30 days in any one year. Mr Jack had asked that it be noted that he was very unhappy that the CC had objected to the application.

The application for Riverside Cottage has been withdrawn for the present as further information was required by SEPA.

The SWRI had written that they were disappointed with the decision not to buy another village flag. They had suggested that it could be flown on special occasions only, to extend its life. An answer would be sent stating that this idea had been put forward previously by the CC and been rejected. By the time of the last meeting only the Games Committee had come forth with a positive donation.

A letter had been sent to Keith Brown MSP, Minister of Transport objecting to the average speed cameras on the A9. This had been passed on to Transport Scotland to comment on.

Members of the Public: Stuart Black was present as the Vice Chairman of AOKA, to give an update on the huge amount of work that had been undertaken by the Old Kirk Committee to save it and make it the valuable village asset that it now was. The Kirk had made £6,000 last year with weddings, funerals and exhibitions. The running costs were £3,000. The external walls had been refurbished, heaters installed, a stand pipe installed and a porta loo. They had received funding from Heritage Lottery fund, Awards for All and Council discretionary fund. Due to the hard work of a few volunteers the Kirk had been open during the summer, providing another facility for villagers and tourists. There had been some very successful exhibitions, Tedfest, Photofest, Creative Cairngorms and Cribs and Christening Gowns. The committee would always give a warm welcome to more local visitors to the church and exhibitions and anyone with time to volunteer to help in any way.

Treasurer's Report: Balance is £4,159. The Council grant of £1,124.93 had been received, less £85 for the insurance premium. A cheque for £50 would be given to the Royal British Legion to cover the cost of the wreath and a donation.

Councillor Lobban's Report: The latest Ward Forum had concerned flooding. The issue of clearing under the Nethy Bridge had been discussed but the priority would be to alleviate problems in Newtonmore.

Angie Taylor had been appointed Dog Warden for Inverness, Badenoch & Strathspey.

The New Area Committee would be meeting in Kingussie on the 3rd December at 10.30; it will be possible to follow the meeting on the internet.

Highland Council had reorganised and now consisted of only 5 departments. The strategic committees would meet four times annually.

A question was asked about the preparations for the winter snow clearing. Cllr Lobban said that salt stocks were high and that new snow clearing vehicles had been purchased but there were still constraints on the number of hours the drivers could work.

Police Report: Not much new to report. There had been fuel thefts in Tulloch and trailer and gate thefts across the Strath. Police patrols were targeting rural roads. New winter campaign would see an increase in checks for seatbelts and drink driving.

NBTA Report: New website was undergoing refinements and there would be an update at the next meeting.

CNPA Report: None. There had been no response to our letter to CNPA requesting that someone else attend meetings in Mrs McCafferty's absence.

Planning Applications: None

AOCB: The church had requested that the CC would again cover the cost of mince pies and gluwein at the carols around the tree, this was agreed.

S. McCook had received a letter from Murray Ferguson of CNPA, stating that they had received a letter from a regular visitor to the area, commenting on the deterioration of the countryside entering Nethy, due to horse based enterprises. He asked if the CC had received any complaints concerning the matter. There have been no direct complaints and after some discussion it was agreed, that although it was at times unsightly, it was felt there was little that could be done.

The Christmas calendars were in hand.

A letter had been received asking for sponsorship, from someone who is competing in mountain bike races around the country. After discussion it was decided that the CC was not in a position to sponsor individuals but advice would be given on other possible funders.

D. Black asked why it had never been considered to ask the unemployed to help with snow clearing.

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

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm.