

NETHY BRIDGE & VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 NOVEMBER 2018

Present: S McCook (Chairman), J Grant (Secretary), D Black, A Young

In Attendance: Cllr B Lobban, Bill Sadler (Grantown Community Council), Ross Cameron, Jeremy Roberts (RSPB), Sarah White (Ranger)

Apologies: David Carrott, E Ibbertson, S George, Andrew Marrion, Fraser Cormack,

Welcome: S McCook welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Approved: A Young, Seconded: J Grant

MATTERS ARISING

Summerhouse: Refurbishment work has been completed and the summerhouse looks beautiful once more. We have still to get the final invoice. Cllr Lobban and S McCook to meet regarding funding.

Community Council Redesign: Nothing further to report.

River Nethy: Following Cllr Lobban's intervention, Matt Smith has contacted S McCook by email and has agreed to perform the scoping exercise for the future project of clearing of gravel at the bridge. Paul Laidlaw of Flood Alert Scotland has made contact regarding RiverTrack sensors. These very small devices enable live monitoring of rivers in high risk areas and could be attached to the bridge or other suitable structures nearby. There would be no cost to the community and viewing is accessible to anyone using wifi. Only three sites in Scotland have these at the moment. We will invite Paul to a meeting for further information and discussion.

CPNA: No report

Calendars: These have been ordered.

Digital Towns Project: Bill Sadler of Grantown CC had come to our meeting to explain about this project that of the Digital Scotland Project funded by Scottish Government and delivered by Scotland's Town Partnership. The first stage saw Highland Council receive funding for public wifi. The second stage proposal is for free digital public wifi in towns and villages. They are looking for expressions of interest in a 15 month free trial with one site representing all businesses in the area. It was unclear what the cost would be after this trial period. With enough expressions of interest, the scheme would start at the beginning of the year/early spring with a steering group comprising of small businesses (Aviemore excluding as they already have their own).

The proposal would benefit tourists but also businesses as they could link into it. Wifi coverage would be 200 metres and those present felt that benefits might be less in a spread out community of businesses like Nethy Bridge. Sharing wifi also had security issues, however we are interested and supportive of the initiative and will spread word of it to businesses in the area. Bill will keep us informed of progress and invite someone to speak to us about it in greater detail.

BBC Winterwatch, Springwatch and Autumnwatch: Ross and Jeremy informed us that the next set of series of Watches will be filmed in Cairngorms National Park. The BBC team will be based at The Dell of Abernethy and film in various locations in the Park including the RSPB locations of Forest Lodge and Loch Garten.

Those present felt this was a positive development and to be welcomed, giving a boost to the area's hospitality industry and great publicity for the area in general. Discussions will take place with the BBC to ensure that the environment is protected at the same time and that sensitive locations of protected species are not identified.

Treasurers Report: The treasurer had emailed his report to the CC.

Emergency Plan: The Emergency Plan has been formally launched. We will send an electronic copy to Jeremy and he will share with his colleagues and also to Ian Sargent of SNH. Cllr Lobban will send a copy to Highland Council.

The Plan will be updated each October and as and when required in between. We will need to look at how we would provide sustenance and also incorporating the RiverTrack system if we are successful in acquiring it.

Broomhill Bridge: We still have not heard if the survey on the bridge has been completed by Highland Council and what was concluded from it. Cllr Lobban stated that the weight limit would be reduced to 3 tonnes. It is believed that the problem of overly heavy vehicles is predominantly buses using the route rather than local heavy vehicles. The hotel has been telling buses not to use the bridge but a major issue is inadequate signage at the A95 junction with the Broomhill Road. We suggested a series of clear signs positioned as vehicles come down off the A95 giving fair warning of the weight limit. The surface of the bridge has been repaired and is much better than it was. Cllr Lobban and S McCook to get together to discuss the Broomhill Road.

Armistice Day: The wreath-laying ceremony will be the same as last year at 1pm at the Memorial on the golf course. J Grant to confirm with Spud the Piper that he will play as he has so kindly done for us in previous years.

AOCB

Highland Council Communications: J Grant to contact S McArthur to update information still being sent to A Young.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY 6 DECEMBER 2018 AT 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL