

NETHY BRIDGE & VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5 DECEMBER 2019

Present: S McCook (Chairman), D Carrott (Treasurer), J Grant (Secretary), E Ibbertson, D Black, A Young

In Attendance: Cllr B Lobban, Eva Secker (Nethy Bridge Hotel), John Kirk (CNPA), Paul Copestake (RiverTrack), Kenny Rodgers (NHS Highland)

Apologies: None

Welcome: S McCook welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Approved: E Ibbertson, Seconded: A Young

MATTERS ARISING

Vista Project: Following our feedback at the last CC meeting, the Vista Project will no longer be closing roads but will dig under them.

Community Council Elections: The committee has been elected. It was proposed by Sandy, with the agreement of both, that David Carrott and Heather Tucker be co-opted on to the committee. Both these proposals were seconded by E Ibbertson and they were duly co-opted.

New Build Hospital Aviemore: Kenny Rodgers of NHS Highland gave an update on progress with the new hospital.

The steelwork is going up at the moment and work is ahead of schedule with a proposed opening date in March/April 2021. Staff at Grantown and Kingussie hospitals are being prepared for the move. The project was originally to be a PFI project but was eventually given capital money from the Scottish Government so will be owned by NHS Highland. The new hospital will have an inpatient unit, outpatient services, NHS Near Me (providing video link to consultants/specialists for patients), Aviemore GP practice, Occupational Therapists, physiotherapists etc and Highland Council children's services and Social Work Hub.

The site at Grantown will be refurbished and extended by demolishing the centre part of the building. The old part will be offered to Highland Council/public bodies. Some of those present felt it was a shame that the old building couldn't be utilised but its condition is not good and would be too costly to refurbish.

There will be a number of flexible beds at either end of the Strath (Wade Centre and Grant House) staffed by existing staff. This will start 2020/2021 when money is freed up with the closure of the existing hospitals.

NHS Highland built in additional funding for care at home 4 to 5 years ago but the demographic has since changed with many more people requiring care at home. Mr Rodgers reported that they are investing in this with Badenoch & Strathspey receiving 1200 hours of care a week. Finding care at home providers in our area is quite challenging due to

distances involved and costs for staff so NHS Highland are to review the area to see what is needed with the possibility of an in-house service. Some communities have come up with their own models (Black Isle and Cromarty). Mr Rodgers stated that the district nursing team will increase, the end of life team will double in size and Community Mental Health will have additional staff.

Transport : Highland Council, NHS Highland and Badenoch & Strathspey Community Transport Scheme have been working together on solutions and it was felt the best solution was to invest in the Transport Scheme so that anyone requiring transport within reasonable hours should be able to access it. The waiting area within the new build has been situated with good visibility of the bus stop so those waiting are sheltered and warm. Existing buses will be diverted through the area. The Chairman voiced concern that buses would stop sufficiently long enough to ensure people can get out from the waiting area and that the buses provided be accessible for elderly/disabled people. Mr Rodgers said that they have been consulting with Stagecoach on these matters. The Transport Group have also been trying to co-ordinate bus and train timetables.

There will be 125 parking spaces at the new facility and Active Aviemore have been developing paths to enable people to walk/cycle. There was still concern from those present that parking would be adequate.

NHS Highland was fairly confident that bed capacity would be sufficient at 23 beds, all with en-suite facilities but the inpatient unit had been specifically located where an extension could be located.

Rivertrack: Paul Copestake of The Scottish Flood Forum (SFF) explained the work of RiverTrack, a charity that supports communities at risk of flooding. They help communities like ours to plan for and prevent flooding and is partly Scottish Government funded. We currently have one prototype sensor and display for the River Nethy and it is possible for anyone to go online to look at the river levels. SFF are to apply for additional funding at the end of January 2020 and if approved, Paul would like to build on what we already have by installing two more receivers at houses close to flood risk areas on the River Nethy. The flood warning at the Black Bridge is currently set at 1.7 metres and Paul reported that we had a high of 1.3 on 12 November just past.

All those present felt that expanding the system would benefit the village and highlight the need for flood risk management ie silt removal from the riverbed and clearing of the arches from the bridge at the village. These problems have been under discussion for years but nothing has been done. If our community is identified as a potentially vulnerable area by Sepa at the next review, it could be argued that if there is a significant flood risk then Highland Council/landowners would be legally obliged to take preventative action. Highland Council have yet to clarify their position with regard to this.

The CC need to start putting a case together and propose a plan of our own. SFF have the technical expertise to assist us. A first step would be to get the last report on the Telford bridge from HC, find out when the next inspection is to take place and start putting our case together: photos, historical data etc.

Paul will meet with Jennifer to visit people from the houses he had identified as being at potentially at most risk with a view to having flood receiving equipment located there.

Treasurer's Report: E Ibbertson proposed D Carrott as treasurer and J Grant seconded the proposal. The Treasurer's report had been received via email. Balance: £6229. We

received a cheque from Reidhaven Estate for £500. The invoice for grass cutting was £520 and the Chairman thanked D Black for an excellent job done. There are 2 invoices from the Community Centre and wreaths for armistice day plus donation to pay (we agreed to round this to £60). A Young will give the calendars bill to the Treasurer which is split with The Nethy newsletter. The plaque at the summerhouse at the churchyard has been mounted.

Councillor's Report: Bill reported that there was nothing of note to report from Highland Council. The snow-maker at Cairngorm was working well and there was the open day at Cairngorm on Saturday from 10am till 3pm.

CNPA: The chairman had met John re the rebuilding of the bridge on the Aulmore. Jeff Friedman's survey had condemned the bridge. Cost to rebuild had been received by the Chairman who had asked CNPA to help with planning costs but CNPA felt it was too expensive and wanted more quotes. Sandy proposes to get together with Explore Abernethy then seek additional funding.

Planning: Nothing of note.

AOCB

The Treasurer has received an application from HC to install a charging point for electric vehicles. David will pass the information to Eva from Nethy Bridge Hotel.

The Chairman thanked Eve Secker and Nethy Bridge Hotel staff for their warm hospitality in hosting the meeting.

With the first Thursday in January falling so close to New Year, it was agreed to have our next meeting on the second Thursday of January next year.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Date of next meeting: THURSDAY 9TH JANUARY 2020 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre