

NETHY BRIDGE & VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY 2020

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

In Attendance: Cllr B Lobban, Uwe Stoneman RSPB

Apologies: D Carrott

Welcome: S McCook welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

MATTERS ARISING

RiverTrack: Scottish Flood Forum have applied for extra funding which will enable them to extend the scheme in Nethy Bridge, providing more monitors and monitoring stations.

Vista Project: Letters have been sent out updating households in the community on progress.

RSPB: Uwe informed the meeting that the long term plan for Forest Lodge was issued by the Forestry Commission on Monday. Although this is an important plan, it is long term, with not a lot of imminent changes. He is keen that we develop an idea of where we want the forest to be in 60 years time. The plan is a management plan for the whole of Abernethy Forest, covering estate management, Loch Garten etc. There is a two stage consultation process ending in October.

Highland council commented on the outline version and comments and responses are answered on the plan. Any further comments should be sent to The Forestry Commission by the end of March.

RSPB agreed with SNH to review their management plan. The Chairman asked for a copy of their guidelines on how they consult with communities and stated that it would be good to see more communication and input from the community.

D Black felt that a lot of animosity from people within the community was caused by lack of communication and consultation. A wide variety of groups use the forest: cyclists, walkers, bird watchers etc and we need to break down perceived barriers between groups. J Grant felt that visits by local children to the Reserve and collaboration with the village Emergency Plan had helped communication and understanding. We want to welcome people to the forest and use it safely without putting barriers in the way. Everyone wants to protect the local environment although we may have differing priorities. The Scottish Land Commission issues a lot of guidance and advises initial consultation with community councils. Uwe will give feedback to the RSPB and it was agreed to discuss the mechanism of how we achieve this community involvement at a separate meeting.

Treasurer's Report: has been circulated via email. Alan Gordon has been paid for his very nice work on the Summerhouse in the churchyard. He replaced all exterior timbers and roof as well as fitting guttering to protect from future water damage. The Community Council would like to express it's thanks to The Watson Trust for funding.

Councillor's Report: The CC is invited to apply for £500 from Highland Council Discretionary Fund for a project of our choosing. Applications must be received by the end of the financial year.

HC budget is late this year due to the General Election.

Communities are to be consulted by HC regarding proposed car park charges to council owned car parks.

There is to be a review of public toilet provision. Money provided by HC will be allocated depending on the classification of facilities provided.

Cairngorm funicular is moving forward but CNPA have stated that changes to the outline of the pillars requires planning permission.

CNPA: No-one present

Planning: Nothing of note

AOCB

Flood Risk Survey: The Chairman has received a Scotland-wide survey for people who are at risk and will complete this on behalf of the CC and pass to individuals of greatest risk.

Aultmore Bridge: CNPA have agreed to fund development costs to the planning stage for the bridge. The new bridge will be along the lines of the Templeton Bridge. It was proposed that money from the Discretionary Fund be used for the bridge and there were no objections to this.

Footbridge Handrail: H Tucker asked if a handrail could be added to the footbridge opposite Birchfield as the surface had proved slippery. The CC will look into the cost of doing this also.

Fly-tipping: E Ibbertson asked that Cllr Lobban look at the issue of fly tipping as someone had dumped a washing machine at the roadside on The Causer. Cllr Lobban felt that this might become more of an issue due to HC introducing a new policy of limited trailer sizes at Council dumps.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

Next Meeting: Thursday 6 November 2020 at 7.30pm in The Community Centre

