

Nethy Bridge & Vicinity Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 7th May 2020

Present: S.McCook (Chairman), D. Carrott (Treasurer), J. Grant (Secretary)
H.Tucker, A. Young, E. Ibbertson, J. Dalgleish

In Attendance: Cllr B. Lobban, Cllr M. Cockburn, J. Kirk (CNPA)

Apologies: D. Black

Welcome: S. McCook welcomed Cllr Cockburn and Josh Dalgleish to their first meeting. This being the first virtual meeting due to Coronavirus restrictions.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Proposed by: A. Young. Seconded by: E. Ibbertson by email.

Matters Arising: None

Covid Response: A group had been formed very soon after lockdown which now has 108 volunteers. The number of requests for help such as shopping and collection of prescriptions has varied between 5 and 19 per week. Things seem to have settled down, possibly due to neighbours now helping each other. Thanks were due to A. Young, Balliefurth Farm shop and Nethy House for arranging deliveries of orders.

Cllr. Lobban said that NHS Highland believed the peak of the virus would be reached in the last week of May or first week of June. The outbreak on Skye had shown just how vulnerable Care Homes could be.

The Community Council had applied for a grant to pay for sanitiser bottles and sanitiser but this had been rejected. Another application had been submitted.

The SSE funding had been investigated but this didn't seem to fit in with any present needs. Cllr Lobban mentioned money given to VABS. A. Young asked what other communities had applied for. Cllr Lobban mentioned sanitiser bottles and cost of fuel used in distribution runs.

Councillor's Report: Cllr. Lobban said it certainly wasn't business as usual. The Council was concentrating on helping communities. Many staff were working from home, off sick or self isolating.

The brown bin collection would be restarting shortly. Tar plants are closed, therefore it was not possible to do major road repairs. They were ensuring that businesses that were meant to be closed, were. Trading Standards was responsible for dealing with caravan sites that tried to open.

S. McCook asked if any grass cutting would be undertaken by the Council this summer. Cllr Lobban replied that it depended on manpower available and most likely would only be areas such as, the square in Grantown and memorial gardens in Kingussie. Decision taken to find someone to cut grass on the playing field.

Response to CNPA on edict on strangers: S. McCook said that he had been very upset by the response from CNPA on this matter. He intended to write to G. Moir stating that it flew in the face of government guidelines. Those present thought the response had been mistake in judgement and was certainly the wrong thing to say.

Cllr Cockburn said that several communities had expressed concern over the statement. She had encouraged people to call 101 and report any concerns. Cllr. Lobban stated that the Police are able to fine people for undertaking the journey but have no power to remove people from a home that they own.

Planning: Demolition of Upper Duack Cottage. Plans for the demolition of this property and replacement with a new build had been circulated. Some reservations were voiced concerning the increase in size of the new property and how it would dominate other properties. Decision taken to write to planning noting these concerns.

Proposed houses on Dorback Road. S. McCook mentioned there had been 50 objections received for these plans, several from out with the area. The developer had contacted S. McCook requesting a copy of his letter to CNPA. At present the plans showed two entrances to the development, where it was felt, only one would be preferable. 20 houses were being proposed, 13 for open market and 7 affordable. Question was asked if this development would affect the path around the wood. S. McCook stated that it was unlikely but any part affected would have to be reinstated. Those present felt it would be beneficial for this particular development site and any woodland proposed as gift to community, to be finally settled one way or the other.

VE Day: Due to the lockdown it was not possible to hold any of the celebrations that had been planned. The WRI were going to provide baking and bunting for some events held in the village, observing social distancing. S. McCook stated that the CC could help with any incurred costs if required.

Treasurer's Report: The annual accounts had been completed but there was no requirement to have them audited at present. The council grant had been applied for. D. Carrott had intended retiring at this point but agreed to carry on whilst under the present circumstances. Present balance : £6,074

AOCB: D. Carrott stated that the new grant from the Council Comfort Scheme was not sufficient to keep the public toilet open. Those present discussed alternative funding schemes. CNPA had made it clear that they did

not fund public toilets. Proposal to speak to other village organisations such as Explore Abernethy, Highland Games, The Nethy and the CC to see if they would be willing to help.

H. Tucker asked that if virtual meetings continued how could members of the public ask any questions. Decision taken to put poster up in notice board explaining the situation.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 6th June 2020 at 7:30 pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:55pm.