

AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

7pm Thursday 12 September 2024, Aviemore Community Centre

Minutes

1. Present

Al Dargie (Chair), AVCC	Muriel Cockburn, Highland Councillor
Eilidh McLeod (Vice Chair), AVCC	John Grant, Rothiemurchus
Kathleen Cameron (Treasurer), AVCC	Neil MacIver, Police Scotland
Elsbeth Byrne, AVCC	Sid Airey, Resident

2. Apologies for absence

Peter Long (Secretary), AVCC	Bill Lobban, Highland Councillor
Jeni Pacitti, AVCC	

3. Welcome and introductions

Al Dargie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. Declarations of interest - none

5. Minutes of August meeting

Eilidh McLeod proposed acceptance of the minutes, seconded by Kathleen Cameron.

6. Matters arising from August meeting

Short-term lets

Al Dargie said that we were going to asking Bob Robertson, Highland Council, to attend regarding certificates of lawfulness for properties being issued for properties that we know have never been holiday lets. No one was available. We will try to get someone to attend the next meeting. Muriel Cockburn said that this might be something we should do for all Community Councils. Al Dargie said that transparency was necessary.

Morlich Court redevelopment

Figures had been compared between the building being demolished and the houses that were to replace it, but four bedroomed houses do not normally have four people residing in them – there is not a straight correlation between number of bedrooms and number of residents.

Responses had been submitted for Seafeld Place and Ryvoan Bothy mast planning applications. A response had also been submitted supporting the 20mph speed limit.

Sid Airey and Roddy Stevens were provided with information about the community council.

Al Dargie said that Burnside Park will be covered later.

7. Treasurer's report

Kathleen Cameron said that AVCC had received the annual grant from Highland Council. She said that Peter Long had paid the annual Data Protection registration fee.

Kathleen Cameron thought that the AVCC business account had been closed – she had done the paperwork – but the account was still open. She would transfer money to ACE.

Al Dargie proposed acceptance of the report, seconded by Eilidh McLeod.

8. Police report

Neil MacIver said that from 8th August to today there had been 174 incidents. Thunder in the Glens went fairly peacefully, one person had charged and was remanded in custody on assault, with media coverage saying charged with attempted murder.

Al Dargie highlighted that Thunder in the Glens increased risk in the area - 3000 visitors drinking alcohol, and most events of this scale would involve more first aid cover. No formal license for the event was required as, the official event was within McDonald Highland's premises.

Neil MacIver said that Police Scotland do not charge for community events as this would prevent events taking place. McDonald Highland provide their own security, First Aid and stewards. The Winking Owl and Cairngorm Hotel run events but these are also private events on their premises. The ride out is policed but, given that funding goes to community groups, hence Police Scotland do not charge for this. There is a balance to be struck between numbers of people, and business benefit, versus risk.

Al Dargie suggested that voluntary First Aid organisations might be able to attend the event in future.

Eilidh McLeod said that she used to belong to an organisation which kept an eye on children for the event.

Muriel Cockburn said that Lewis Hannah did a lot of pre-planning with the Red Cross and the Bike Pastors.

Neil MacIver said that there had not been a lot of calls to the police over the weekend – just as per a normal weekend. Given that they had additional resources this enabled them to attend other calls/do patrols.

Neil MacIver left the meeting.

9. Business

a. Co-option of new Community Council Members

Kathleen Cameron proposed that Roddy Stevens and Sid Airey be co-opted to AVCC, seconded by Eilidh McLeod.

b. Laggantygown Cemetery Car Park – outcome of meeting with Highland Council and Seafield Estate

Bill Lobban, Peter Long and Eilidh McLeod met a representative from Seafield Estates. They were able to watch what happened – parents dropping children off with paddleboards etc, people going to the grave yard, people parking at the Network Rail Park. They thought it would be possible to level the grass and create more parking at the kerbside. It might be possible to open the grave car park on Sundays when there are no funerals. Bill Lobban was going to speak to the council. Otherwise, options are limited. If parking were provided on the other side of the bridge there would need to be a path under the railway ie issues with safety and cost. Currently there is only parking for 10 cars but this could be increased to about 20.

Sid Airey suggested that commercial vehicles with lots of paddle boards should be asked to take their vehicle away after drop-off.

Al Dargie suggested that Seafield Estate might allow commercial vehicles to park at the boathouse for a charge, which would help to make up for loss of fishing due to the disturbance caused by paddleboards. Eilidh McLeod suggested that we wait to see what Bill Lobban comes back with after discussions at the Highland Council and with CNPA.

**c. Planning Application 2024/1050/DET
Shared Rural Network mast at Glenmore**

Al Dargie said that we had objected to this application. This was not a transmission mast – just a repeater. The application has been temporarily withdrawn but will be re-submitted with landscape and ecological information.

d. Village Green Olympic statue

Al Dargie said that there was a new Olympian in the Strath – Fynn Sterritt from Kingussie. Their name needs to be added to the statue. The plaque had originally been attached with special removeable bolts. When the statue was moved the bolts were replaced with ones that are not removable. These will be removed carefully and replaced with removable bolts after the engraving has been done. Only Olympians and Para-Olympians have their names added – not people taking part in Youth, European Games or demonstration events – and only if completed education in the Strath.

e. Local Development Plan Consultation on tourism, land use, soil and resources and digital infrastructure

John Grant did not take part in discussions.

Al Dargie said that we had originally given a terse response to the first surveys as we felt it was difficult to respond to. This new batch of surveys however gave room for more detailed feedback:

Land Use - Al Dargie said that this part of the plan contained a lot of referencing material and a lot of information about agriculture.

Vacant and derelict land was lacking in detail eg it mentioned an area next to the railway but does not say where, same with reference to next to tennis court. Al Dargie will respond that the information is insufficient.

An Camus Mor – our community has been asking for this to be included in the local development plan for many years. It was included in the past before CNPA was involved. There is no land left in Aviemore and An Camus Mor was the sustainable option. CNPA has a strategic planning role and should be looking 20-30 years hence, not just the next 10 years.

Tourism – there are concerns the plan has not encompassed the significant changes post COVID. As an example there are only three sentences on motorhomes, one of the most significant areas requiring infrastructure support. There are no facilities for coaches to park.

There is little or no reference to historic sites eg Beglan and how these could be preserved and diversify visitor pressures

There is little mention of capital infrastructure projects eg ice rink and swimming pool, which are key to targeting net zero.

Cairngorm mountain – references their masterplan. Very limited information and just about the base station. There is limited mention of wider skiing eg would chairlifts be better, etc.

Most of the actions recommended in the Aviemore community plan review of 2016 have not been achieved happened.

There is no mention of mountaineering, cross-country, low level mountain biking / gravel biking, back country skiing or ice climbing.

Digital infrastructure – although Aviemore has good digital infrastructure there are still issues at Glenmore. Systems need to be built on residents and visitors eg there was delayed messaging over the Harley weekend. Areas out with Aviemore often struggle more with connectivity at peak times.

There is a list of projects and priorities but a lack of consultation and some landowners are not aware of plans for their areas.

One of reference documents is the Community Action Plan of 2016. The new plan which should be signed off shortly should be used.

Kathleen Cameron proposed acceptance of the above stance, seconded by Eilidh McLeod. – Action Al Dargie to respond

f. Licensing application – Variation – Co-op

Eilidh McLeod proposed no comment, seconded by Sid Airey.

g. Licensing application – New Application – The Penny Bun

Eilidh McLeod proposed no comment, seconded by Sid Airey.

h. Planning application - Erection of 3 houses (2018/0183/MS) at Land NE of Heather Cottage, Dalfaber Drive, Aviemore

The meeting discussed whether we wanted to lodge an objection, take a neutral stance or support the development.

Al Dargie proposed a neutral stance on the grounds that the flats were possibly an over development but the mix of property types was appropriate for the community.

Sid Airey supported this, seconded by Eilidh McLeod.

10. Reports from other organisations

a. CNPA report - none

b. Highland Council report

Muriel Cockburn said they were asking for better communications regarding winter gritting to go out including advice on parked vehicles blocking gritters getting into some areas.

Hi-life 'Fusion' targeted at young teenagers was going well – trying to give young folk what want rather than deciding for them.

There is a staff shortage for home care, which is leading to visits to the Glen Centre being re structured

Muriel updated that they were looking at trying to ensure grounds maintenance tasks were carried out to a more consistent standard across the area next season.

c. ACE board member report

Kathleen Cameron said that there would be an Outdoor Classroom open day on Sunday 5th October, from 11am to 3pm.

Planning has started for the Christmas Eve procession. A risk assessment is required and ACE would be looking for volunteers.

Some work had been done on the Village Green and it was looking tidier.

Al Dargie now has a contact for the Storylands Bench and will attempt to make contact to arrange installation

Local bands had the use of the Village Green at the Harleys weekend, but few took advantage of this. West Coast Harleys may like use of the Village Green next year.

Eilidh McLeod suggested getting a license for collection buckets at next year's Harley weekend. Al Dargie said that this would need to be applied for quickly.

Kathleen Cameron said that four signs were on order for Riverside Park and two new banners were going up.

Burnside Park project

Groundworks are starting on 5th October. Wickstead, the contractor, are putting up a welfare hut and storage. Residents will be written to by Highland Council.

d. AGCT report - none

e. FLS report

An update had been received from FLS.

There had been a busy weekend on the weekend with good weather. There had been trouble between campers.

There were two full time rangers to cover whole of strath.

Parking – FLS expressed disappointment that Highland Council were going to allow overnight parking when charging starts. They would like to have better communication with Highland Council regarding parking.

The Hayfield overflow carpark had been used twice over the whole summer – it takes four staff to run this, taking rangers away from key areas.

There were some parking issues with Glenmore 24 due to wider visitor pressures. There are two events this weekend.

Cobbs café continued to struggle with staffing issues. The tenancy ends in 6 weeks.

11. AOCB

Eilidh McLeod said that Gavin and another person from CNPA had visited the Tulloch development today to look at the situation with the burn. They had previously visited two weeks ago. The level seems to have gone down and the area of suds is bigger. They will visit again in 2 to 4 weeks to see how this is going. This is progress.

12. Date of next meeting – Thursday 10 October 2024.

13. Close 8.50

Aviemore & Vicinity Community Council

TREASURER'S REPORT 31 August 2024 Aviemore Community Centre meeting room

Treasurers Account

£

£

Balance at 30th July 2024

£3154.11 Income

HC

£822.11

Interest

Expenditure

ICO

£35.00

Balance at 31th Aug 2024

£3,941.22

Business Reserve Account

Balance at 31st July 2024

£0.05 Income

Craft fair

£40.00

Interest £ 0.01

Expenditure

ACE

£40.05

Balance 31st Aug

£0.01

I'm still trying to close this account