

AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
7pm Thursday 14 November 2024, Aviemore Community Centre
MINUTES

1. Present

Al Dargie (Chair), AVCC	Maree Morrison, FLS
Peter Long (Secretary), AVCC	Neil Maciver, Police Scotland
Eilidh McLeod (Vice Chair), AVCC	Dan Harris, CNPA
Kathleen Cameron (Treasurer), AVCC	Geoff Pyrah, CNPA
Elsbeth Byrne, AVCC	Muriel Cockburn, Highland Council
Roddy Stevens, AVCC	

2. Apologies for absence

Bill Lobban, Highland Council, Sid Airey AVCC, Jeni Pacitti, AVCC

3. Welcome and introductions

Al Dargie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. Declarations of interest - none

5. Minutes of the October meeting

Eilidh McLeod proposed acceptance of the October minutes, seconded by Roddy Stevens.

6. Matters arising from the October meeting

Speed of traffic coming into north end of Aviemore

Al Dargie had not heard back from Bill Lobban regarding increasing the visibility of the speed limit coming into Aviemore from the north. There has been a recent fatality in this area where the speed limit is 60mph. We have previously expressed concern regarding traffic speed in this area as traffic on the road would be going too fast to slow down for other traffic exiting the recycling centre. We have commented on 3 planning applications. We suggested 40mph from the junction at Grannish. Street lighting at the crossing point would help. At the south end of Aviemore there are 3 warning signs and rumble strips, but nothing at the north end.

Action: Peter Long to put on the agenda for the December meeting.

Dan Harris, CNPA Planning – Local Development Plan issues

This item will be discussed later in the meeting.

Planning Application 24/04006/FUL 21 Morlich Court

Al Dargie had responded to the planning application on behalf of AVCC.

7. Treasurer's report

Al Dargie has complied with the RBS identify check process so we should now be able to close the relevant account.

Peter Long proposed acceptance of the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Eilidh McLeod.

8. Police report

Neil MacIver said that there had been 139 incidents in the past month.

Peter Long said that someone had stolen a spotlight from the front of the stage on the Village Green. This was not just a case of simple vandalism – tools had been used to remove the light. ACE have said that it will cost several hundred pounds to repair/replace. Peter Long suggested that this should be reported as theft. Neil MacIver said that this can be done by email or phone to 101, and suggested that other issues at the Village Green should also be mentioned. Roddy Stevens suggested that security screws be used for the lights.

Action: Peter Long to report the theft and other issues to Police Scotland.

Neil MacIver left the meeting.

9. Business

a. Dan Harris, CNPA Planning – Local Development Plan issues

Dan Harris said that he and his colleague were here tonight to explain the process for production of the Local Development Plan and to explain what they were doing. He provided an introductory guide.

Dan Harris said that there was a new process for production of the Local Development Plan since the previous plan. The National Planning Framework had new requirements including an Evidence Report which details all information that they are required to gather to prepare the Plan. There are lots of regulations and requirements regarding engagement. CNPA will be releasing documents in stages over the course of the next 6 months. They aim to have Engagement complete by April 2025 and aim to submit the report in June 2025. The report goes to Scottish Ministers where a reporter checks that CNPA have done everything that they should have. They have only engaged on 6 papers so far. The next papers should be out on Monday – education, energy, zero waste, heating and cooling and sustainable transport. The deadline is 6th January 2025. Another 10 papers will be produced next year. Next summer CNPA will look at sites-based work.

Al Dargie said that the report reviewed does not include much detail about physical location. Al Dargie went to Highland Council housing summit and said there was a focus on enabling development. Build rate is key and, where there are barriers, it is

important to break these down. Our experience is that CNPA is not an enabling body. The Local Development Plan is for 10 years. About 80% of responses to the CAP include comments on housing. When looking to attract inward investment in a competitive market to the area the process seems overly complicated.

Roddy Stevens said that housing was most important. Al Dargie said that although around 50% of the population was under 40 and there was no care home for older people in the largest community in the area.

Dan Harris said that there is currently a requirement for 45% of new build housing to be affordable. He is hoping that this will rise to 75%. The Highland Council is the housing authority. CNPA work with the Highland Council to sign off plans. The Housing Strategy has to match with the Local Development Plan, but the Housing Strategy is for 5 years only.

Muriel Cockburn joined the meeting and apologised for her late arrival which was due to Highland Council business.

Al Dargie said it was important to make the area attractive for inward investment - if 75% affordable housing was a requirement that would be challenging.

Dan Harris and Geoff Pyrah left the meeting.

b. Community Action Plan – report and future actions – progress update

Al Dargie said that this had been circulated in the last 24 hours – it was signed off yesterday. Quick wins were highlighted. AVCC's role in moving things forward is largely lobbying relevant bodies.

Areas of focus included the desire for a socially connected community, affordable housing for people to live and work in the area and leisure facilities - play parks, a park, a swimming pool, etc.

Al Dargie said that establishing a community hall was wanted but difficult. The last community hall in nearby areas was in Tomatin. This cost £2.4 million and was built with money from windfarms. For Aviemore it would cost many millions more and was not currently feasible. He suggested that we need to make better use of facilities that already exist in Aviemore eg the Community Centre, The Hub, the Cadet Hall, British Legion, MacDonald Highland facilities, etc.

Buses, allotments (10 year lease behind hospital) and the Active Travel Network were being addressed.

The Path Pirates are doing a great job. This is an informal group of people who come together to do work on paths.

Roddy Stevens said that both the Tulloch and Scotia Homes sites had not considered wheelchair access. Anyone in a wheelchair had to use the roads.

Al Dargie said that the main thing to focus on was delivery. There needs to be more collaborative working between groups.

Work required includes:

1. Setting up 'Team Aviemore' to take the plan forward. Rotating management of this group after a number of meetings/months.
2. Agreeing actions
3. Managing volunteers via a new database
4. Creating detailed action plans
5. Monitoring and auditing Team Aviemore

10. Reports from other organisations

a. CNPA report

The final report on the Fire Consultation was available.

Action: Peter Long to circulate.

Action: All AVCC members to comment as individuals and let Peter Long know if they want it on the agenda for December.

b. Highland Council report

Muriel Cockburn said that the consultation for the Tourist Tax is out. It was proposing a 5% tax on accommodation charges. Al Dargie asked for the timescale of the consultation. Muriel Cockburn said probably a couple of months.

Action: Peter Long to put on the agenda for the December meeting.

Muriel Cockburn said that budget setting was taking place. She said that the NHS was struggling to get care staff. Eilidh McLeod said that this was probably due to the low pay rate.

c. ACE board member report

Kathleen Cameron said that ACE were looking for volunteers for the Christmas Eve procession. She said that the Village Green bandstand requires repair. Tree surgeon work has been agreed. The hanging baskets need to be taken down. The new Christmas light has arrived and should be up by now.

Kathleen Cameron said that Burnside Play Park is opening tomorrow at 1pm. Funding was delivered via local fundraising, rants from Highland Council and Scottish Government, and a donation from ACE.

Roddy Stevens asked if there is an ongoing program of maintenance? Muriel Cockburn said that there is.

Peter Long said that a quote was awaited for an access path to the outdoor classroom.

Roddy Stevens suggested that the bridge to Milton Woods needed repair/replacement and Al Dargie suggested that the height of the bridge should be raised to reduce flooding risk.

d. AGCT report - none

Al Dargie has had an invitation to the open day at Glenmore.

Action: Al Dargie to find out if Glenmore invitation is for more than just himself and circulate information if so.

e. FLS report (taken before item 9.)

Maree Morrison from FLS said that it was getting much quieter. Beach toilets were now closed for the winter until April, and the Lochside carpark was also now closed for the winter. There is to be a meeting with Highland Council regarding parking. FLS are still in discussion with Highland Council for them to take over the car parks. Planning is taking place for events in 2025. The Highland Council toilet block is open 24/7.

Cobbs agreed to end their tenancy of the café and visitor centre early. The café and toilets are now closed. AGCT are hoping to be open for Christmas. Handover will be on 1st November. FLS and AGCT just started sharing same space. There is a second roof going on to provide extra insulation to the building. A Northern Corries webcam is in place.

Lots of timber harvesting will continue throughout winter. Road improvements are taking place behind the reindeer centre – the closure will be lifted in the next week or two. FLS are diverting a washed-out trail – ranger centre to the beach – moving it a bit further away from the river.

11. AOCB

Kathleen Cameron said that the Christmas tree should be arriving on 28th November. Neil Fraser's team will be down and could put the lights on it, if tree is up. The turning on of the lights and singing around the tree will be on Saturday 30th November.

12. Date of next meeting – Thursday 12th December 2024

13. Close 9.35pm

Aviemore & Vicinity Community Council

TREASURER'S REPORT 14th November 2024 Aviemore Community Centre meeting room

<u>Treasurers Account</u>	£	£
Balance at 30 th Sep 2024		£3,953.61
<u>Income</u>		
Interest		
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Balance at 31 st October 2024		£3,953.61
<u>Business Reserve Account</u>		
Balance at 31 st Oct 2024		£0
Still trying to close bonus account		