

**AVIEMORE AND VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**7pm Thursday 12 December 2024, Aviemore Community Centre**  
**MINUTES**

**1. Present**

Al Dargie (Chair), AVCC	Jeni Pacitti, AVCC
Peter Long (Secretary), AVCC	Sid Airey, AVCC
Eilidh McLeod (Vice Chair), AVCC	Neil MacIver, Police Scotland
Kathleen Cameron (Treasurer), AVCC	Bill Lobban, Highland Council
Elsbeth Byrne, AVCC	John Grant, Rothiemurchus
Roddy Stevens, AVCC	

**2. Apologies for absence - none**

**3. Welcome and introductions – Al Dargie welcomed everyone to the meeting**

**4. Declarations of interest – none**

**5. Minutes of the November meeting**

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

**6. Matters arising from the November meeting**

Al Dargie said that speed of traffic was on the agenda and would be discussed later in the meeting.

The theft of lights at the Village Green had been reported to the police.

The Glenmore visit was open to anyone who was part of Cairngorm Business Partnership

**7. Treasurer's report**

Peter Long proposed acceptance of the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Jeni Pacitti.

**8. Police report**

Neil MacIver said there had been 114 incidents in the past month.

**9. Business**

**a. Highland Council – Proposed Visitor Levy consultation**

Al Dargie said that the interests of the whole community should be taken into account. He said it was not clear what the money raised would be used for.

Peter Long said that there are lots of differing views within the community. He was concerned about how we could make sure that the money raised is spent for the benefit of people in this community and visitors to it. He read through the key questions in the survey. He thought the key issues were Governance and Review, ie how do we influence how the process is implemented, and what happens to the money raised.

**The meeting agreed that 5% was a sufficient levy and that the levy should not be subject to VAT.**

**Al Dargie proposed that he and Peter Long respond on behalf of AVCC, seconded by Kathleen Cameron.**

**Action: Al Dargie and Peter Long to respond on behalf of AVCC.**

**b. Local Development Plan Scheme - CNPA Planning**

Al Dargie Highlighted that CNPA had published a revised timeline for the creation of the Local Development Plan. Currently we are still at the evidence gathering stage and there are 5 further reports currently requiring feedback these being – Heating and Cooling, Sustainable Transport, Zero Waste, Energy, and Education.

**Action: All – read the 5 elements currently requiring feedback.**

**Action: Peter Long to put on the January agenda.**

**c. Speed limits**

**i) Highland Council – Formal consultation on 20mph speed limits (circulated separately)**

Al Dargie said that we have received the draft orders for 20mph speed limit from Highland Council. They contain nothing that we haven't asked for before. Neil MacIver confirmed that the 20mph speed limit would not be enforced by Police Scotland.

Roddy Stevens said he had seen vehicles travelling too fast through Aviemore, including buses and taxis. The general view was that the overall trend was a reduction in speed.

Peter Long proposed that we respond saying we continue to support the reduction to 20mph, seconded by Al Dargie.

**Action: Peter Long to respond on behalf of AVCC.**

**ii) Complaints about speeds at the north end of Aviemore – carried forward from November meeting**

Al Dargie highlighted concerns about the speed of traffic from the A9 / A95 Granish junction coming into Aviemore. He said that crocodile road markings had previously been suggested. Historically AVCC had also asked for a 40mph speed limit from the Granish junction. AVCC had

expressed concern in response to some planning applications due to the nature of the junction coming out of the Granish quarry entry, especially with heavy goods vehicles, coming out of the junction with a short viewshed. AVCC had also commented on the need for a safe crossing point and pedestrian access to the caravan site where sadly a visitor recently died as a result of a road traffic collision away from the crossing point.

**Al Dargie proposed that we write to Highland Council demanding a 40mph speed limit from Granish junction into Aviemore, with rumble strips, signage and lighting for the official crossing points and crocodile road markings at the 30mph sign. The informal crossing point opposite the caravan site should also be removed as this was not approved in the planning consent. Seconded by Peter Long.**

**Action: Peter Long to draft a response and work with Al Dargie to send a letter to Highland Council on behalf of AVCC.**

#### **d. CNPA Fire Management By-law – consultation**

Al Dargie said that the consultation was on the wording of the By-law.

Al Dargie said that AVCC had responded in favour of a year-round ban on fires, barbecues, etc. He said that the majority (49%) of respondents had wanted a year-round ban. The recommendation accepted by the CNPA was for a seasonal ban from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September.

The meeting discussed the fire risk outwith the seasonal ban period when the fire risk could be very high and recent fires on vulnerable ground in November. There was concern that the By-law gives the wrong message ie that a fire outwith the seasonal ban period is fine.

**Al Dargie proposed that we respond that we agree the wording of the By-law apart from the seasonality and that this goes against the previous survey responses and statistical evidence. Seconded by Peter Long.**

**Action: Peter Long to respond to the consultation on behalf of AVCC.**

Johnnie Grant said that there had not been a consultation on how the By-law would be enforced. He said that Countryside Rangers should be seen as helpful, not as policing the area and suggested that enforcement should be carried out by staff in different uniforms. The meeting discussed the difficulties of enforcement where people who did not comply with the By-law would give false names and addresses.

**Action: All to respond as individuals if desired.**

## **10. Reports from other organisations**

**a. CNPA report - none**

**b. Highland Council report**

Bill Lobban said that there had been a full council meeting. There were big issues being discussed regarding the £2 billion Highland investment Plan.

**c. ACE board member report**

Kathleen Cameron said that planning for the Christmas Eve procession was proceeding. Charity Bucket carriers and stewards were still needed and should meet outside the Fire Station at 5.30pm.

Kathleen Cameron said that the hanging baskets had been taken down and the Winter Lights were being updated/fixed.

**d. AGCT report - none**

**e. FLS report**

Al Dargie read through the report from FLS.

**11. AOCB**

Kathleen Cameron was concerned about safety on the path from the hospital to Burnside Avenue whilst improvement works are ongoing. She said that dumper trucks were travelling on this while children were coming home from school, and there were no safety measures in place.

**Action** : Bill Lobban to contact the contract manager at THC

Roddy Stevens said that 3 lights were out in the school grounds.

**Action**: Peter Long to contact the Highland Council Education Department.

Jeni Pacitti said that 2 members of the local Youth Forum wanted to do a presentation to AVCC.

**Action**: Jeni Pacitti to check if the 2 members of the local Youth Forum can do their presentation on-line at our meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

**12. Date of next meeting – Thursday 9th January 2025**

**13. Close 9 pm**

**Aviemore & Vicinity Community Council**

**TREASURER'S REPORT 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024 Aviemore Community Centre meeting room**

<b><u>Treasurers Account</u></b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2024		<b>£3,953.61</b>

**Income**

Reidhaven estate	<b>£600</b>	
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Interest

**Expenditure**

Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> November 2024		<b>£4553.61</b>
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**Business Reserve Account**

Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> November 2024		<b>£0</b>
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Still trying to close bonus account