



FINDHORN & KINLOSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Council held in the Cumming Hall Kinloss on Thursday 26th September 2013

Present:

L.Morgan (Chairman), P.Carroll, A.Miller, J.Willoner, I.Hampson, R.Shand, H.Morton, Cllr Skene, T.Negus (Sec).

DRAFT

In Attendance:

S.Williams & Major D Woods (Kinloss Barracks), Tanya McLaren (Forres Gazette), D.Haytack (Community Warden), Inspector P. McCrudden (Police Scotland) and 1 member of the public.

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from D.Morton, G.Verner, Cllr Creswell.

Public Session

ITEM 2. GRAMPIAN POLICE REPORT & ANY COMPETENT PUBLIC BUSINESS.

2.1 The Chairman welcomed Inspector McCrudden to the meeting. The Inspector reported further incidents of vandalism at Kinloss Primary School for which enquiries are continuing. Police patrols in the area have been stepped up and Kinloss Barracks Guard Force will also include the school area in their routine patrols. In response to the query at the last meeting regarding possible changes to Police Office hours, Insp. McCrudden said that the front office at Forres Police station is currently routinely staffed from 0800 to 1600 hrs Monday to Friday. Outside these hours, Officers will respond if available. If all Officers are out on patrol and the Office is unmanned, then there is an intercom system at the door, which connects to the Police Scotland service centre in Aberdeen. The Secretary said that the issue of speeding vehicles on the Findhorn road in Kinloss village had been raised at the last meeting. Discussion with the Moray Council Roads department has indicated that the speed limit and associated signage comply with national standards and that it is therefore likely that the problem relates to some motorists disregarding the speed limit signs. The meeting requested that the Police carry out intermittent vehicle speed checks in the area. R.Shand asked if there are any plans for a Police campaign to encourage cyclists to show adequate lights as the dark winter evenings approach. Insp. McCrudden said that Police would adopt their normal strategy of educating offenders where possible but that enforcement action would be taken against persistent offenders. The Chairman thanked Insp. McCrudden for attending.

2.2 A.Miller tabled a petition which had been organised by Gina Williamson campaigning against the closure of the swimming pool at Kinloss Barracks. She said that the imminent closure of the pool is causing considerable disquiet among the local community who greatly value this amenity. There were added concerns that a considerable sum of money had recently been spent on the pool as part of the community funding arrangement following the sale of the Southside quarters. The Chairman pointed out that the decision to allocate funds to the pool was made when Kinloss was still a large active Royal Air Force Station and there was no reason at the time to think this status would change. The Chairman also clarified the situation regarding the amenity funds resulting from the Southside sale saying that the money was directed at the community as a whole, including military personnel and service dependants as well as civilians. Major Woods said that the decision to close the pool had been taken with extreme reluctance. Whilst the Barracks staff are very aware of the wishes of local residents to keep the pool open, the military authorities themselves would also like to retain the pool, since it is a much-valued asset both for military training and for the rehabilitation of wounded and injured servicemen. However, the fact remains that the costs of keeping the pool open far exceed the income available from all currently identified sources. This problem would become ever more acute as winter approaches and utility costs soar. S.Williams said that the military authorities are determined to avoid damage to the pool infrastructure and specialist contractors will be called in to empty the pool and to mothball the plant thus avoiding the risk of permanent damage. The building will be placed on a care and maintenance footing. It is still hoped that the pool may re-open in the future and a sustainable funding stream is still being actively sought. After further discussion it was decided to forward the petition to Mr Angus Robertson MP together with an accompanying letter from the Chairman.

Action L.Morgan

2.3 There was no other public business.



Council Session

ITEM 3 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.

3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 29th August 2013 were ratified. Proposed R.Shand, seconded H.Morton.

ITEM 4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Aircraft noise contours at Kinloss. The Chairman said that he understood that there is still considerable jet aircraft activity in the Kinloss circuit with Lossiemouth Tornado aircraft carrying out regular practice approaches to the relief runway. He will continue to keep the situation under review.

4.2 Junction at Station Road Kinloss. The Secretary said he had recently visited the location with D.Morton. Following the cutting back of bushes, visibility at the junction is much improved. However, it was noted that the 'Halt' sign is misaligned and this has been reported to Roads maintenance. It is understood that the layout of the junction is due to be reviewed by road engineers in the spring

4.3 Donation to Kinloss Floral Club. Cheque for £300 sent by Treasurer immediately after last meeting.

4.4 Traffic Speeds at Findhorn Road Kinloss. (see 2.1 above)

4.5 Access to Bird Hide Car Park. The Secretary reported that he had spoken with the Kite surfing group and with staff at 'Wild Things' and it is apparent that some legitimate users of the car park arrive in larger than average vehicles and minibuses that may not be able to negotiate a low 'goalpost' arrangement. Whilst it is not the intention of the Community Council to deter legitimate users, the negative effects of unauthorised travellers encampments merit a letter to Moray Council requesting the provision of measures to prevent access by traveller caravans.

Action T Negus.

4.6 Sewage Problems near shore. R. Shand reported that Scottish Water have repaired the fault at the pumping station on the shore road. The sewage smells noted recently near the boat yard have not persisted.

4.7 Road Sweeper Route at Church Place. Continues. Secretary or R.Shand will speak with driver when vehicle is next seen in Findhorn.

ITEM 5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

5.1 The Chairman, accompanied by the Secretary, attended an informal meeting with the new Officer Commanding 39 Engineer Regiment RE.

5.2 The Chairman welcomed Jenny O'Hagan who has put her name forward for membership of F&KCC.

ITEM 6. SECRETARY'S REPORT.

6.1 Correspondence: e-mail from NHS Grampian about Strategy for child health 2020.

e-mail about proposed maximum charges for Taxis in Moray.

e-mail promoting initiative by Scottish Community Development Centre about mentoring for community groups. (ACE scheme).

e-mail from Alistair Kennedy drawing attention to some forthcoming events put on by CRUSE including a busking festival in Elgin Sat 5th October.

e-mail with press release about sustainable education review. e-mail invitation to Moray Passenger Forum seminar in Llanbryde Sat 28 Sept. (HM & IH to attend)

6.2 News letters: SNP parliamentary e-news letter.

ITEM 7. TREASURER'S REPORT

7.1 The Treasurer presented the annual accounts 2012/2013. These were approved – proposed P Carroll seconded T Negus. (Secretary to forward copy to Moray Council).

ITEM 8. JCCM REPORT

8.1 Next meeting scheduled for 14th November.

ITEM 9. MORAY COUNCILLORS REPORT

9.1 Cllr Skene reported that she had chaired a sustainable education review meeting in Forres on 23rd Sept. She drew attention to an on-line questionnaire relating to the review which is about to be published on the Moray Council website and she urged people to respond. Cllr Skene attended a Forres Area Community Trust tourism workshop on 24th Sept and she drew attention to a further workshop on 8th Oct relating to regeneration of Forres town centre. Cllr Skene reported that the decision had been taken at a recent full Council meeting, to make significant cuts to the budget allocated for Parks & Gardens. The cuts include closing the greenhouse complex in Elgin that currently supplies bedding plants for many locations throughout Moray. Grass cutting arrangements will be severely curtailed although sports pitches



not be affected. The Council will work with local communities to ensure that residual grass cutting and grounds maintenance efforts are focussed on areas seen as priorities by local people. P.Carroll asked about the future of the mobile library service. Cllr Skene said that routes and timetables for the remaining vehicle were yet to be finalised. Cllr Skene concluded by saying that she had enjoyed attending the meetings of F&KCC and she thanked members for their hard work over the past 4 years and for the effective manner in which they have conducted their business.

ITEM 10. KINLOSS BARRACKS REPORT

10.1 S Williams introduced Major Darren Woods who was posted in as 2 i/c 39 Eng Rgt in July.

10.2 The new Commanding Officer, Lt Col Tom Marsden is now in post.

10.3 48 Field Squadron is on detachment to the Falkland Islands. Representatives of the local press have visited the Squadron and news coverage is expected to appear shortly.

10.4 The Barracks recently hosted a VIP visit by General Officer Commanding Force Troops.

10.5 71 Engineer Rgt TA have recently spent 2 weeks on exercise at Kinloss.

10.6 A deer cull is currently taking place on the base in order to reduce flight safety risks posed by animals straying on to the runway.

ITEM 11. FINDHORN FOUNDATION REPORT

No Report

ITEM 12. PLANNING.

12.1 Applications noted since last meeting. 13/01595/APP. Canopy over veranda at 52 Findhorn.

No objections.

ITEM 13. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS.

13.1 Remembrance Sunday. The Secretary said that the date this year is 10th November. The ceremony at Findhorn War Memorial will take place at 0945 hrs followed by a church service at 10.00hrs. Proceedings will follow the pattern of previous years. H.Morton will lay a wreath on behalf of F&KCC. The ceremony at Kinloss Abbey is scheduled for 10.00hrs and L.Morgan will lay a wreath.

13.2 A.Miller enquired about the long delayed allotment project for which funds were allocated by the Julian Hodge Bank following the sale of Southside quarters. The Chairman said that £40k lies in an interest bearing account and is ring fenced for the project. Decisions are still awaited from the Defence Infrastructure Organisation which may allow the project to proceed. £160k has been spent on the Cumming Hall so far but there is a further £10k in reserve which may be used for further improvements.

13.3 I.Hampson noted that some of the anti-dog fouling signs placed around Findhorn many years ago were now either very dilapidated or missing all together.

ITEM 14. FORTHCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS.

Wednesday 2nd October. AGM of Findhorn Village Centre

ITEM 15. NEXT MEETING.

Thursday 28th November in Findhorn. (Inaugural meeting of new Community Council).

The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking all the members for their support and hard work over the past 4 years.