

**CARRBRIDGE & VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7.30p.m.**

**Present:** Andrew Kirk (Chairman), Kate Adamson (Secretary), Bill Lobban (Councillor), Alan Rankin (Treasurer) Robert McInnes, David Ritchie, Alice Buttress and Fiona McMullen (Accounts Manager)

**In attendance:** Lorraine Anderson, Iain Campbell, James and Maria Thomson-Slaven, Colin Watt and Heather Davidson (Minutes)

**Apologies:** George Dyer

**MINUTES:**

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were approved by Robert McInnes and seconded by Alice Buttress.

NB: Alice Buttress stated that her monitoring the asbestos in the woods was omitted from October's minutes.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**TOURIST BOARD PLINTH:**

Maria Thomson-Slaven reported that the Board was now completed but the Plinth had a small piece to be repaired, but she was very happy with the results. She is awaiting the delivery of posters.

**STRUAN HOUSE HOTEL:**

Andrew Kirk reported that the Hotel was up for Auction today and we await the results. The Highland Vacant Land Fund has sadly fallen through. Alan Rankin queries Urban Regeneration Fund availability. Bill Lobban replied that as from today yes.

**TOM NA CLACH:**

Objections to new plans for larger windmills have been upheld, the original plans stand.

**MEMORIAL PATH, WOODLAND PATH, RIVERSIDE WALK, ASBESTOS PATH:**

Three trees at the back of Station Road down from the War Memorial were reported to be a danger following a recent storm. The CC paid for these to be dealt with as they are apparently on CC land. There needs to be a long term plan to deal with other tree clearances, Steven Blair (Tree Surgeon) has made suggestions how best to deal with these. He also took away the Village Christmas Tree and dealt with the one at the Village Hall which lost a large branch, his community spirit was greatly appreciated.

The Woodland Trust is to liaise with Community Council and Seafield Estate regarding the maintenance of paths with roots, this is a 20 year plan.

Iain Campbell raised the problem of drainage which is in a bad way, Andrew Kirk asked if was just on Seafield land, Iain Campbell replied that no, it is all the streams in the woods that are blocked. Seafield Estate will reinstate after harvesting, Andrew Kirk thanked Alan Rankin for all his work on this matter. The Riverside Walk suffered damage again in some parts due to the heavy rainfall; a decision was made to repair the path which will be paid by the Community Council. Will wait for the spring however. 2 quotes to be secured - Alan Rankin to lead with this.

The path passing Mr and Mrs Carnegie's house is to be left in the meantime; this path is owned by Seafield Estate and is officially a Bridle Path, Community Council to keep in touch with Seafield Estate. However Robert McInnes wants to look at the cost of the Bridle Path regarding resurfacing.

Highland Council are doing a litter pick and testing for Asbestos on the woodland path, there is low risk asbestos and no risk to the public. Alice Buttress it was obvious that asbestos is still there and that the litter pick was not well done and produces samples she had picked up on the path. She is concerned for dogs being walked in the woods and suggests that if another dog dies or is ill the Community Council to pay for testing of the animal. As horses and bicycles use the path and as the weather improves she feels that the asbestos will be scattered. She went on to say she does not feel it's an acceptable risk. Alan Rankin replied that the Community Council is aware of the unknown risks and where does that leave us. He went on to say that he is not happy with the management of the problem. As a Community Council should we be getting the facts for ourselves. CNPA should be at arms length and Community Council should instruct an independent company to carry out tests. Andrew Kirk queried costs, Alan Rankin was googling many companies and to find out costs of an independent survey. Alice Buttress feels that if nothing happens she is not happy being at risk. Bill Lobban replied that Highland Council has an Asbestos Manager. Kate Adamson felt the Community Council should get him down to investigate. Alice Buttress wonders where and how all the money spent £20,000 has been used and who is responsible for the laying of the path. Bill Lobban stated that Highland Council did not pay for the path or instruct the path to be laid, but Highland Council will monitor proceedings. The Woodland Trust is also blameless. The litter pick and report was appalling. Rectification of path whoever insured it must be held responsible. CNPA paid with Scottish Government money – Outdoor Account Trust. The contractor, whoever they were, COAT paid for this path. He felt that this could end up being many years in court; the answer is to use it or lift it and relay the path. Lorraine Anderson queried where the path is, Alice Buttress explained this to her. Alice Buttress thinks that signs should be hung. Andrew Kirk felt that we should wait until Highland Council report, after the next monthly litter pick.. Many residents have no confidence in what has been happening. Bill Lobban to contact the Asbestos Officer. Andrew Kirk went on to say that there is not a problem for adults, but there is for children and dogs. Alan Rankin to find out the costs, just for back-up. Alice Buttress acknowledged this, but feels the public have to be informed. Kate Adamson asked if we should put up a notice. Andrew Kirk felt we should hold until after the HC funded litter picks

#### **ACTION PLAN:**

The Big Conversation is to be a public meeting led by Karen Derek VABS in the Village Hall on 10th March 2016.

#### **ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:**

**Old Bridge:** Saranne Bish, Highland Council Ranger wants to remove snowberry bushes from beside the Old Bridge. Alice Buttress mentioned that although these were non-native species, they acted as a safety barrier and were colourful. All CCrs felt this needed more discussion and Andrew Kirk would contact Saranne.

**Spar Parking:** As Highland Council wont do any more signs re parking in Carrbridge, it was decided to ask Dougie Edwards to make signs that look like Highland Council signs which will be hung outside the Spar Shop and other strategic places directing traffic to the Free Public Car Park. Maria Thomson-Slaven stated that she did not know, when she first arrived, that there was a Car Park. Alan Rankin informed the meeting that he had spotted a surveyor between the Spar Shop and the Leather Shop.

**Planning:** Housing. There is to be a meeting with Gavin Miles CNPA as to how to take the house plans for Crannich and Carr Road forward. Currently there is no planning application in the system but the two areas are zoned for housing. It is likely a developer will eventually want to do

something. This initial meeting will be to understand what the CNPA would like and to let them know the CCC , although not against housing do not want a large number,would prefer a mix of houses and reinforce to CNPA that Carr Road is NOT suitable for any large scale development. We would also prefer not to lose all the woods as originally planned .

**Treasurers Report:** Fiona McMullen (Accounts Manager) stated that there was £23,836 in the bank account. Highland Council requires we have an elected working Treasurer, which we now have and Alan Rankin (Treasurer) suggested this happen at the end of the Financial Year. Alan and Fiona will work towards this. All were in agreement.

**Bike Park:** The top up money as requested has duly been paid as previous agreement.

**Carve Carrbridge:** Robbie Ritchie has acquired barriers for use at the Carve and asked to place them at the back of the Community Shed; it was felt that there was not enough room and that somewhere else would need to be found to store them but were very pleased he had secured them.

**Christmas Seniors Party:** This was well attended and very well done Colin Watt and hotel staff. The Primary School is to be commended for their musical interlude.

**A.9 Dualling Meeting:** This meeting to be held in the Village Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 between 12.00 – 8.00p.m.

**Petal Power:** A letter has been received from Janette MacLeod informing the Community Council that Petalpower Ladies Mountain Bike Club are holding an event on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and are in discussions with all concerned. It is their intention that the start and finish will be in or near Carrbridge. As they move further with their plans they will a more detailed update.

**Budget Cuts:** Bill Lobban reported that Highland Council have to cut their budget by £50 million, there are to be between 4-600 redundancies, this has been reported on T.V. There will be an end of some services and 60% from education and social care.

**Tree Planting:** Alan Rankin asked when the Tree planting to screen the two new houses on Station Road is to take place.

**Signpost:** Lorraine Anderson felt that the signage in the woods was most confusing. There is a signpost that states Boat of Garten 3.5 miles, but there is no sign further along the woodland walk. It was suggested by Andrew Kirk that she take photographs next time she does the walk so we can understand more.

**Riverside Walk:** The issue of horse droppings along the Riverside Walk is causing problems for many. A suggestion was made by Bill Lobban that the British Horse Organization should be contacted as to the etiquette for horse riders. It is a serious problem on the all abilities walk which is used regularly by wheelchair users and families with buggies.

**Harvesting of Trees:** Iain Campbell felt that the harvesting of trees on the west side of the Railway Station not very impressive. It appears that this is how harvesting is done now to leave trunks for all the little beasts of the woods.

**Hotel Extension:** Colin reported that he is progressing planning permission for a stand alone extension housing 24 bedrooms to be built in the car park of the hotel, which would also be extended; This would mean that the Carrbridge Hotel could accommodate five coaches at once. The addition would further secure employment for staff and make the business more economically viable, it would also bring business to other businesses in the village. Over 90% of hotel business is derived from group coaches and the hotel would have enough reserve infrastructure to service the proposed extra bedroom stock

The meeting closed at 8.47p.m.

Date of next meeting Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2016



