

CARRBRIDGE & VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON
Thursday 29th September, 2016 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Andrew Kirk (Chairman), Bill Lobban (Councillor), Kate Adamson (Secretary), Robert McInnes, David Ritchie, Alice Buttress, George Dyer and Charles Miller.

In attendance: Maria Thomson-Slaven, Jan Carlyle, Linda Jolly, Colin Watt, Lorraine Anderson, Marie Brown (VABS), Heather Davidson (Minutes)

Apologies: Alan Rankin (Treasurer) and Rebecca Badger (CNPA).

Andrew Kirk welcomed all to the meeting.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 25th August, 2016 were approved by George Dyer and seconded by Robert McInnes.

MATTERS ARISING:

TELECOM MAST: The application for the placement of the Telecom Mast has been withdrawn and there is to be a revised plan. George Dyer reported that there are two new sites in the pipe-line, one, not far from the previous site suggested and the other behind the Club House of the Golf Club. The first placement is a non-starter, but the second could be the approved site.

ASBESTOS PATH – ELLANWOOD: Alice Buttress reported that the litter-pick inspection which was held on 6th September, 2016 and the result was a very low danger level, further litter-picks will be held over a 2 year period.

WAR MEMORIAL AND PATH: The path is being upgraded by THC which the Community Council is paying for. Some trees are to be thinned and some have to be removed, these have been marked by THC and Stephen Blair (Tree Surgeon) will follow guidelines set by Highland Council. Robert McInnes reported that there is one tree that is dangerous diseased with a fungus; this would be cut in such a way as to preserve nesting birds.

Linda Jolly commented that this land around the War Memorial and bordering the rear of Station Road properties, belonging to Highland Council having been purchased from Seafield Estate, has never been managed. She went on to say that the trees are old and quite dangerous

RIVERSIDE WALK: Damaged areas have been made good by McGowan Outdoor. Robert McInnes stated that re-cycled material is good for repairs but on this occasion dust was used.

SEAFIELD WOODS: The harvesting of the woods is continuing, Alan Rankin has been assured that the paths will be made good.

OLD BRIDGE: Andrew Kirk reported that he had received an e-mail from Linda Jolly and other residents regarding the trimming and thinning of the trees and shrubs around the Bridge, he assured those concerned that this was only a tidy up to make the Bridge more attractive for the 300 year celebration of the Bridge. Kireen Johnson (Spar Shop) reported that another person had fallen at the seat by the Bridge, falling off the plinth and once again she had to administer first aid. Bill Lobban will take this matter forward.

Linda Jolly brought up the subject of parking at the lower end of Station Road. The main issues are Tour Buses, Mini-Buses, Visitors and local residents blocking access to their property and causing traffic jams at the junction to the Main Road. She has written to bus companies and they have informed their drivers to use the main Car Park. She went on to state that the new enterprise – The Craft Shop is also adding to the problem and it would be helpful if sat-nav could direct drivers to the main Car Park. Her concern was that if an Ambulance needed to go up Station Road this would be impossible. She does not want to see Yellow Lines everywhere but suggests No Parking signs on the fence, she went on to say that the gap in the fence that leads down to the water side next to Mole Keepers Cottage is dangerous and has no view to the Bridge and suggests the gap should be blocked up especially as the path down to the water side is dangerous and slippery especially when the river is in spate. Maria Thompson-Slaven asked how easy it would be for GPS to direct people to the main Car Park and is flabbergasted that buses think it is safe to park there. Andrew Kirk thought that parking restrictions on lamp-posts maybe the way to go. Charles Miller suggested marking the ground. Bill Lobban informed the meeting that the Traffic Warden system started today and inconsiderate parking is a Police matter. Colin Watt suggested taking a photograph of the offending motorists and sending it to VOSA and that some bus drivers are lazy. Linda Jolly stated that the piece of land running alongside the Bridge was not owned by Highland Council; Andrew Kirk stated that Highland Council say they own the land. Robert McInnes felt that Highland Council did own this land. Bill Lobban added that Highland Council would not do anything to this land if they do not own it which they did.. Andrew Kirk reported having seen people from two mini-buses standing on the old Bridge. Linda Jolly also voiced her concern regarding the plan of Surrane Bish of Highland Council to remove the snowberry shrubs as they are invasive, but she went on to say that the birds love snowberries and the removal of the trees and shrubs would end up in total erosion of the bank. Alice Buttress felt that the planting of Heathers would be an alternative. Linda Jolly also suggested that a meadow could be sown. Bill Lobban will organize a Roads Engineer to look at the matter and involve the Community Council and local residents. All CC agreed.

BRIDGE 300: Due to the lack of enthusiasm at the meeting Alan Rankin feels that this is going to be difficult to progress, but along with rest of CC is happy that the Primary School are keen to enter in to the celebrations. Mairi Brown felt that some parents might take this forward.

ACTION PLAN: Marie Brown of VABS is keeping the Committee well informed of all items previously discussed.

1. The plan to use the Curling Pond as a multi-sport area is not feasible as cost and the local residents were against this.
2. The Curling Pond should be upgraded and utilize the playing field for a multi-sports area. The next stage depends if there is a will to carry it forward.
3. Funding for the Village Hall is ongoing.

Marie Brown stated no further progress on Cycle Path to Kinveachy at the moment – not straightforward.

PLAY PARK: Marie Brown stated that more facilities were desired and if purchased will Highland Council adopt the maintenance of the equipment. Bill Lobban replied that there would be no financial support or money to maintain the equipment as Highland Council cannot maintain the parks they have. Marie Brown went on to say that there is to be a masked ball at the Carrbridge Hotel to raise funds for the play park, Bill Loban reiterated that it should be taken as read there are no funds.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN: Kate Adamson reported various types of houses are required, self-build etc are of interest, but individuals could not afford to purchase. Andrew Kirk stated that the National Park have the difficulty of not having the land. He went on to say that the Highlands Small Community Housing Trust is coming along to the Nov Community Council meeting. Bill Lobban went on to say that if you can't afford to buy the land this makes the problem even more difficult

VILLAGE HALL FUNDING: Andrew Kirk wants this to go forward but Kate Adamson felt that Alan Rankin (Treasurer) should be in attendance, Charles Miller wants to see all quotes tendered before a final decision as to how much should be given. Andrew Kirk agreed and this matter would be discussed further when all plans and quotes are to hand along with members of the Community Councillors and Village Hall Committee.

PLINTHS: Maria Thompson-Slaven reported that the plinth has to be re-built as the boards are leaking. The paths leaflets should have been delivered but the design is being changed and they have to be finished for 2017. Community Council has agreed to pay something towards this.

MATTERS OUTSTANDING:

Struan House Hotel - Bill Lobban has a meeting with Fergus Ewing on Saturday morning to discuss the state of the building. Andrew Kirk felt that the Community Council ,THC and the Park have reached a stalemate but after the meeting with Fergus Ewing maybe progress can be made. Charles Miller asked if the Community Council have thought about purchasing the building and having share holders. Andrew Kirk replied that the Hotel is attached to two other buildings adding more problems. Bill Lobban felt it is a mill-stone but there is a possibility of progress.

Tom-na-Clach - Construction has started and the signs are out, Kate Adamson and Robert McInnes meet the developers regularly regarding money and traffic, if they are not available it was agreed that some-one else should attend. Lorraine Anderson asked if villagers could attend. Andrew Kirk thought no reason why not but felt 2 CC representatives was enough. Andrew Kirk felt that the developers were working well with the Community.

Treasurer's Report - £19.489 in Community Council Account.

Planning Applications – Alice Buttress is to be added to the mailing list. Kate Adamson to action. Andrew Kirk reported that there had been nothing back from residents to the CC re the planning regarding the Carrbridge Hotel, Colin Watt reported that he has re-designed his bedroom extension block to make it more presentable, to allow for more capacity and make the business more viable. Kate Adamson stated that e-mails regarding planning do not always seem to reach the secretary; Charles Miller asked if we own Carrbridge.com. It was explained we do but managed by CTA. Alice Buttress felt that a discussion with Roy Brown was required. Charlie Miller to meet with Roy.

Bill Lobban took no part in any planning discussions.

Ellan Bridge – This was inspected by John Walker, Robert McInnes reported that a couple of minor faults were mended. CC thanked once again John Walker for all he does and he and Robert for addressing the minor faults. Linda Jolly is very concerned about a toddler falling from the Bridge, as her dog fell in to the river. Robert McInnes will investigate this point. Andrew Kirk stated that after the major inspection this was not picked up as a problem but the Cc would ask the Inspecting Civil Engineer for clarification.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:

1. Carrbridge Carve Bursary -Alan Rankin made a proposal to look into setting up a Carrbridge Carve bursary to sponsor young people in the Community Council vicinity, e.g. Duke of Edinburgh Awards, Raleigh etc., the Cc were very supportive of this initiative,
2. Village Telephone Box -Andrew Kirk reported that the Telephone Box is due to be removed as there were only 96 calls in a year and asked the meeting if they want to keep it or let it go. Bill Lobban made the suggestion that it could be converted for emergencies only. Charles Miller stated that emptying and maintaining the Telephone Box is where the costs go, and B.T. may ask for an amount to keep the Telephone Box in use. Andrew Kirk asked Charles Miller to respond to B.T. which he will.
3. Public Toilet - A disabled person, it is reported, could not get into the toilet as they did not have a radar key. It was suggested that three should be purchased at a cost of around £4.50 each and kept at the Spar Shop amongst other places.. Charles Miller felt that there could be a problem getting the key back, perhaps it could be left in the Defib. Box. Marie Brown suggested that the café's also hold a key.
4. Carve – George Dyer was happy to announce the event was very successful with large crowds. £19,000 was raised. There will be a total debrief meeting next month. The team, he stated were getting older but keen to continue.

NEW ITEMS:

Andrew Kirk and Charles Miller are attending a meeting organized by the National Park to discuss the Capercaille Conservancy Project. Kate Adamson stated that the Capercaille is still about in Badengorm Woods.

Marie Brown informed the meeting that there would be a Craft Fair in the Carrbridge Hotel on 3rd December 2016.

The Village Hall is the designated centre for stranded travellers should there be a bad snow storm. Colin Watt stated he would not turn any traveller away should this happen. Alice Buttress enquired about a common plan, i.e. power cuts etc. Kate Adamson said she would circulate to all the general plan.

Lorraine Anderson queried the time line for minutes of the Community Council meetings, Linda Jolly stated that she inadvertently found out the results of the Big Conversation, Charles Miller asked if the minutes could be posted to file. Bill Lobban replied that minutes are not minuted until they are approved. It was agreed communication needed to be sharpened up and Charlie volunteered to look into this.

The meeting closed at 9.30p.m.

Next meeting Thursday 27th October 2016.