

CARRBRIDGE & VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON
Thursday 23rd February 2017 at 7.30p.m.

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

In attendance: Marie Brown, Iain Campbell, Maria Thompson Slaven, James Thompson Slaven, Linda Jolly, Colin Watt, Robert Norris, Jacqueline Rice, Carina Prigmore, Lorraine Anderson and Heather Davidson (Minutes).

Apologies: Kate Adamson and Alan Rankin

Andrew Kirk welcomed all to the meeting and made the under-noted statement:-

“We are the elected members of Carrbridge and Vicinity Community Council. We were elected in November 2015. Prior to that election and indeed the one four years previously, in addition to the Highland Council publicity, we promoted the election heavily. We tried to get people to put their names forward by letterboxing the whole village, posters and Facebook. Seven of us were elected and as we are allowed eight, we co-opted eventually another who is now a fully voting Community Councillor.

We receive no salary, none of us take any expenses and, in fact, we are a little out of pocket as none of us claim, as we could, for any of our travel costs to attend meetings outwith Carrbridge. We all put a lot of time in every month practically and administratively on Community Council matters. There is a great deal that needs to be done. We are volunteers, ordinary residents trying to do their best.

Without a Community Council Carrbridge would be rudderless and have no representation. Agencies like THC, CNPA and Transport Scotland’s first point of contact regarding matters that would affect the village is through the Carrbridge Community Council.

We choose to be Community Councillors because we wanted to do something good for our village we love and live in and to put something back into the community.

We represent the whole village; that inevitably means we can’t please everyone”.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21st January 2017 were approved by Robert McInnes and seconded by Alice Buttress.

MATTERS ARISING:

SEAFIELD WOOD HARVESTING: Charles Miller, Andrew Kirk and George Dyer inspected the woods following the harvesting with Will Anderson of Seafield Estate and a Contractor and reported that all the damaged paths would be repaired with drainage put in where necessary. In addition the old broken bridge arrangement of many years made of old railway sleepers adjacent to the railway line will be replaced by Seafield as a gesture even though the current harvesting had nothing to do with this. The CCC is very grateful to Seafield for doing this.

DOG FOULING: There have been a number of complaints regarding dog fouling. Highland Council has supplied A4 signs stating an £80.00 fine and these have been erected in the woods. Dog fouling is an increasing problem and it is difficult to work out how to stop this.

BRIDGE 300: Mairi Brown with others inputting has made up a draft flyer and a poster for an event on the weekend May 19th to 21st 2017. The suggestion is that the first half of the evening will take the form of a concert with local children highland dancing and playing musical instruments, the second half of the evening to take the form of a ceildh. Helen Banks will be asked to assist with the concert. The Cairn Hotel has agreed to supply stovies. Posters etc hopefully to be printed by perhaps Landmark. This will be confirmed at a later date.

Charlie Miller looked into the cost and feasibility of a Firework Display to finalise the celebrations in November, He was quoted £3,000 for a 15 minute display, and other companies also came up with a similar figure. Health and Safety precautions are to be investigated amongst other considerations before a final decision is made.

Charlie Miller feels that the Art Exhibition that Karen Archer wants to take forward should be held in the summer when visitors are in the area and not in October, the matter will be discussed further with organizing parties.

PLINTH and INFO Point: Maria Thompson Slaven was happy to announce that the plinth was finished. The information board is finished but the panels have not been updated as yet.

CAPERCAILLE: Andrew Kirk announced that the CNP is holding a meeting in the Carrbridge Hotel on Thursday 23rd March 2017, there will be a letterbox drop to the entire village for which help would be very welcome. The event will be advertised in the Strathy and on Facebook etc.,

VILLAGE HALL KITCHEN FUND: Ian Campbell informed the meeting about the buy a brick and slate scheme which has been launched to gain funds for the kitchen extension. The cost of a brick is £10.00 and a brick and a slate is £15.00, post boxes with envelopes are available at the Old Bakery, the Post Office and the Village Hall.

CARVE BURSURY: Alan Rankin, who is lead on this matter is on holiday so no further information at this time.

PLAYING FIELD: The CC, Iain Campbell and Playpark interested parties met with officers from HLH and THC re the lack of drainage around the entrance to the field and around the playpark. The HLH/THC went away and said they would discuss. Andrew Kirk and others are worried that nothing will happen quickly if at all and Bill Lobban said he would speak to the Director of the relevant Department.

PUBLIC TOILETS: The Radar Keys which have been ordered have not arrived as yet.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGET MEETING: This meeting is to be held on Saturday, 25th February 2017, with registration before 10.00a.m. There are 35 entries, each entrant will speak for two minutes, answer any questions from the floor and after the audience votes for their top 7 presentations there will be lunch and then the results will be announced. The Community Councillors will assist where they can.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer is on holiday so no information at this time. However subsequently it can be reported the balance is £10642.10

PLANNING: Jacqueline Rice and Carina Prigmore brought up the subject of the Mast, and queried if the 23 objections were noted. Andrew Kirk assured her that all correspondence appeared to be noted by THC.

Linda Jolly asked if everything is put on the planning portal as she couldn't see everything she thought she should. Andrew Kirk replied, he believed it was but that it can sometimes be very slow to be put on.

DEVELOPMENT: As part of a National Park initiative the CC were invited to take part in a walk that was taking place around the village (this has already been done in other B&S communities) to identify potential house sites. Four Community Councillors attended along with Murray Ferguson from CNPA, Allan Maguire from THC and two representatives from the Small Community Housing Trust. In addition, sites already identified were visited and discussed in detail. The site next to Crannich Park is at an advanced stage and is earmarked for 12 Council Houses and 12 private low cost houses. This will be developed in partnership between THC and Tulloch. There will be a pre application event in the Village Hall which the CC will help to publicise ,where people can see the plans. Lorraine Anderson wished to know how many bedrooms the houses would have, Andrew Kirk replied that it was not known at this time. Maria Thompson- Slaven is concerned that people will purchase these as second homes. Struan House Hotel was also discussed – there is commercial confidentiality but THC and a Housing assoc were in talks with the owners. On Carr Road the Boys Brigade/Bull field is zoned for 72 houses. Andrew Kirk knew he was not alone in feeling this was far too many for that field and in addition Carr Road could not cope with the extra vehicles it would create. If a planning application comes up for this site the community will need to decide how to proceed.

The agencies asked about the land by the river –owned by Donald Powell and others. The Cc explained that apart from being on a flood plain it was Croft land and agriculturally worked. The land between The Spinney, beside the Golf Course and Laurel Cottage was also noted by them and it was explained this was boggy and owned by the Rogers Family who live in the Borders. The land behind the Station –known locally as Ritchies Yard might be of interest to a developer it was thought by the agencies present. The Wood yard on Station Road should only be used for small to medium commercial units and not for residential as some in the village have suggested, Allan Maguire felt.

The outdoor Curling Pond area was of great interest to Allan Maguire of THC and he wished to talk to the club. He suggested THC would offer a sizeable sum for the land which could be reinvested towards a rink elsewhere. The CC pointed out that immediate neighbours would be concerned by this it was thought.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:

Jacqueline Rice made the following statement: “On behalf of the residents who have placed objections to the Carrbridge hotel development on the basis of their concerns over road safety, traffic and another large scale development at the site I wish to express to the Community Council our profound dissatisfaction over the process carried out in determining the application by the Highland Council – an issue I have raised before. We feel it has been slipshod and frankly dismissive of material concerns; it has also not followed key policy in areas such as transport planning and has disregarded important facts. We will be asking Bill Lobban to formally raise these concerns in detail at the forthcoming South Area Committee Meeting in an effort to have them heard. Whilst we fully respect Colin's rightful wish to develop his business, this must be balanced against the legitimate interests of his neighbours and we feel our interests have been given scant regard. I ask that the Community Council note this and that it is minuted accordingly.”

Bill Lobban informed the meeting he is not allowed to take an interest in any individual planning cause.

OUTDOOR BOWLING CLUB: Louise Cormack, Secretary, has produced two quotes for the insurance of the club. The cover is adequate but an electricity inspection negates the savings for the first year, but the benefits will be felt thereafter.

STATION ROAD SPEEDING: It has been reported to the CC by several individuals that there are speeding vehicles on Station Road. It has been suggested that the mobile mph sign, currently on Inverness Road, be assigned to Station Road, but this was thought impracticable. Charles Miller asked if this needed monitoring to prove this. Bill Lobban replied it will be monitored if Safer routes to school were involved. Carina Prigmore asked if a crossing has ever been considered on Main Road. She was informed that it had but there was difficulty with road legislation regarding junctions. Lorraine Anderson was also concerned about safer routes to school. It was pointed out that the school will have to apply for this if they are concerned Bill Lobban explained this would be dependent on how many children this would involve. Clare Lake, Headmistress and Karen MacDonald, Parent Council will be approached for their views.

A9 DUALLING: On Friday 3rd March 2017 between 12.00 – 8.00p.m. Transport Scotland will be in residence in the Village Hall to give an update on the progress of the road between Dalraddy and Slochd. Andrew Kirk requested that local residents attend. Posters will go up and it will also be on Community Facebook. Robert McInnes attended a meeting at Nethy along with Bill Lobban regarding the Blackmount junction. Bill Lobban added this is restricted by regulations, but Transport Scotland are more open to ideas now.

PAY PHONES: Charles Miller reported he has had no reply as to the removal of the village pay phone; Bill Lobban was asked for an escalation route within THC, and he has supplied the necessary info.

WAR MEMORIAL: The cleaning of the War Memorial has been delayed due to the weather reported Robert McInnes. Bill Lobban informed the meeting that a contractor has now been appointed. Robert McInnes went on to say that a gentleman is writing a book on a soldier from the 1st World War, with the help of Iain Campbell's knowledge, the soldier chosen is William Ferguson of Duthil who was born in 1879 who fought with Lord Lovat in the South African War, he later emigrated to Alberta in Canada but unfortunately died in Belgium during the 2nd World War.

FOOTBALL FIELD: Robert McInnes reported that the picnic table in the Village carpark near the field is missing but has been for some time- the slabs are there so the presumption is that the seat has been stolen. Robert McInnes feels that another table should be installed but this time secured to the concrete base. All were in agreement. Robert McInnes would investigate and Andrew Kirk, on advice from Bill Lobban would contact Kingussie CC who is replacing benches presently for info on suppliers.

BADENOCH AND STRATHSPEY EMERGENCY PLAN: Alice Buttress is leading on this matter and will get a note of all relevant mobile telephone numbers. Bill Lobban added that a generator point will be issued for future use if necessary.

A.O.C.B.:

Maria Thompson Slaven reported on the CTBA Carving Art Routes, Cycle Path – Route 7, a report had been submitted and is happy to announce that the sum of £1500 has been awarded. Jeff and Alice Buttress plus two other carvers have been asked to submit a design, the decision as to the successful design will be decided by the end of the month. This hopefully will be completed by 31st July 2017.

Further to Andrew Kirk's opening statement Linda Jolly stated that the Community Council does not represent her views and she has the right to challenge this. Andrew Kirk said that was her right.

Bridge 300 – Marie Brown said for this to be a success we need the entire Village to get involved in this project .It requires input which will be greatly received. Very few are currently helping to take this forward and we need help from people who are willing to do things.

Charles Miller was pleased to announce that the wood has arrived for making the Porridge Spurtles and work has commenced.

Wi-Fi will be installed in the Village Hall on 18th April 2017.

The meeting closed at 8.34p.m.

Date of next meeting Thursday, 30th March 2017