

CARRBRIDGE & VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON
Thursday 27th October, 2016 at 7.30p.m.

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

In attendance: Ross Watson (Woodland Trust), Jan Carlyle, Linda Jolly, Colin Watt, Lorraine Anderson, Iain Campbell, Jacqueline Rice, Ann Ralston, Douglas Stewart, Stewart McNeish, Tony Burley, Rebecca Badger, Margaret Paschke, Heather Davidson (Minutes)

Apologies: None

Andrew Kirk welcomed all to the meeting.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 29th September, 2016 were approved by George Dyer and seconded by Alice Buttress.

MATTERS ARISING:

The minutes of September 2016 were amended and signed by Andrew Kirk.

WOODLAND TRUST WOODS: Andrew Kirk introduced Ross Watson from the Woodland Trust who gave a short resume of all the sites he is responsible for i.e. 7 in total. Carrbridge woods, over the next two years are to be improved due to the signs looking tired and the paths needing attention. This is a joint signage with Highland Council. The Woodland Trust Conservation Charity are making an impact by removing tress tubes and removing Norway Spruce. He went on to ask that anyone interested to contact Roy Brown or Michelle Green who are Woodland Trust volunteers and should there be any problems just to contact him, he also thanked Alice Buttress for the bench. He mentioned that previously there had been interest about a local Nature Reserve, Alice Buttress replied that she had already asked about this but here was no money for this venture. Andrew Kirk felt it was best left as it was, but more information would be available. Ross Watson went on to explain that every two years the paths would be checked and if any work is required a Tree Surgeon will come and remove dead trees, limbs etc. Colin Watt asked if tree carvings could be placed anywhere, Ross Watson replied that this matter would require further discussion.

WAR MEMORIAL: Andrew Kirk was pleased to report that Stephen Blair, local Tree Surgeon, at no cost to the community, has nearly finished the thinning of foliage around the War Memorial working to Highland Council instructions. All from the CC thanked him for his community spirit. The path to the War Memorial has easier access now. Robert McInnes was also pleased to report that the clean up had been completed of the pathway and the stonework and re-pointing of the names will happen in 2017. Remembrance Day is 13th November 2016, all crosses, poppies and wreaths are purchased. He added that a gentleman is writing a book on War Memorials and that James Fraser will assist Robert with the placing of poppies in the Cemetery. .

TREES ROUND THE WAR MEMORIAL: Linda Jolly wanted to know how many trees had been felled. Andrew Kirk went on to explain that Grant Stuart of Highland Council along with Stephen Blair

have removed quite a few Rowan Trees and it was really thinning that had been done. Linda Jolly went on to state that this is a managed site and the residents of Station Road feel the trees are huge and that the big branches will fall down, Highland Council will not do anything and she wonders why some cannot be cleared. She wanted more ~~trees~~ **trees** felled or trimmed and felt this was a health and safety matter and feels that a precedence has been set by the thinning for the Wear Memorial. Robert McInnes informed the meeting that Grant Stuart from THC selected the trees to be felled, George Dyer stated that all trees were examined. Bill Lobban stated that if Grant Stuart considers the trees are dangerous they will come down, but only if he agrees. Margarete Paschke reported an occasion when a tree on a National Estate fell and missed a member of the public and felt the same legislation for due care and attention should apply and Highland Council to look at these trees on a regular basis. Bill Lobban voiced he will look into this matter. Andrew Kirk felt this should be done for the benefit of the residents. Kate Adamson went on to say that an e-mail would confirm the decision. Linda Jolly added that it was a great shame that Seafield Estate transferred the land to Highland Council who weren't managing it safely and properly.

LANDMARK WOODS: Alan Rankin stated there is a lot of muck from tractor tyres in the woods, but Will Anderson, Contractor, has said this will be tidied up when all the work is completed. Tony Burley is concerned about the damage to the cycle tracks on the woods on the other side of the road. Alan Rankin doubts this will get any better as these are not official paths.

OLD BRIDGE: Bill Lobban will follow up the safety concern regarding the ground level around the seat near the junction by the bridge.

OLD BRIDGE 300: A meeting is to be held at the Primary School with the Parent Council to establish what exactly they wish to happen. Robert McInnes informed the meeting that the playing field was booked. Margarete Paschke suggested the children build a bridge. Douglas Stewart felt that money had to be spent to celebrate the Bridge. Andrew Kirk added that there would be more discussion. Jacqueline Rice apologizes for not having much time but wants to get together to discuss funding.

CAPERCAILLIE: Andrew Kirk and Charles Miller attended a National Park meeting which was about a Capercaillie village project. Carrbridge is the targeted area due to the most sightings of Capercaillie in the area. The CC will work with the CNPA to progress this.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN: Andrew Kirk stated again that there is no planning as of this moment for the two sites up Carr Road and beside Crannich park but they are zoned for housing. There is to be a consultation by the National Park and there will be a drop in session in the Village Hall, there will be a leaflet drop around the village with further details. Andrew is liaising with the CNPA.

A9 DUALLING: At a recent meeting in Nethybridge, which CCC was invited but unable to attend due to a village funeral, questions were put to Transport Scotland as to why they have ignored any proposals that have been put to them. Bill Lobban informed the meeting of a demolition of a property in Station Road. Margarete Paschke is very concerned regarding pollution and the noise that will ensue, Andrew Kirk feels this matter will have to be looked at further.

PLINTH, TOURIST INFO BOARD, PATH LEAFLETS- Andrew Kirk, Alice Buttress and James and Maria Thompson-Slaven have recently met to progress the plinth, unfortunately the damp has got in, the Info Board which we would like to be properly displayed and the paths leaflet which we just want finished. Andrew Kirk feels that the National Park needs to help more with this as all materials will be heavily branded CNPA and everyone will imagine they have done it all when in reality it is a small

number of volunteers that are being left to sort. The CC has offered to contribute to the leaflets financially. These feelings were passed on to Rebecca Badger of the CNPA Board.

STRUAN HOUSE HOTEL: Bill Lobban had a meeting with Fergus Ewing MSP regarding the Hotel and reported that they were trying to sort. Andrew Kirk reported that the Derelict Land Fund was sadly rejected .

TOM-NA-CLACH: Robert McInnes and Kate Adamson attended a meeting on 11th October 2016 ., and reported that if any problems with construction traffic arise Ian Johnson is to be contacted. One complaint, but nothing to do with Tom-Na-Clach are the drivers who have all been well warned to take care, registration numbers should be taken if anything untoward is reported. The project should be finished in Spring; some passing places are already completed, but are weather dependent.

VILLAGE HALL: Charles Miller is to meet with Iain Campbell, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee to discuss all quotes when they have all been received . To date only one has been.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Alan Rankin reported that as at 25th October 2016 £19,459.75 is in hand but there is £3,200 outstanding due to path repairs.

PLANNING: Andrew Kirk asked if Alice Buttress has been added to the planning list. Kate Adamson to organise. Charles Miller is to look at setting up an e-mail address where all members will receive planning reports. Alan Rankin asked Bill Lobban if this was perfectly feasible. He thought yes. Charles Miller felt the whole process was not working and there then was a general muttering from the floor. Kate Adamson stated that the Community Council are under time restriction, either the Chair/Secretary has to send a holding letter, she went on to say that an e-mail address is required for Highland Council to be constantly in touch. Andrew Kirk added that the minutes are now approved. Charles Miller will ask David Johnson at the Post Office, if the minutes could be displayed on the notice board there. Linda Jolly stated that the post Draft minutes can be available to the public; Bill Lobban replied that this was news to him. Linda Jolly continued that too much time is being taken for matters to be discussed. Bill Lobban replied that all Community Councils are told only published Planning Applications are notified. Jacqueline Rice said on a positive note thank-you to the Community Council for the explanation but on a negative note, she feels there are slow replies from Highland Council, i.e. design, statements etc. Colin Watt, Carrbridge Hotel, who is awaiting permission for bedroom block, felt he had the support of the community and although he was knocked back with his first set of plans his second set are now at planning at the moment. Solutions to problems will be made and published. He had six letters of complaint questioning his plans for a turret on the new building; the other concern is traffic management. He has put a lot of work into this plan and has invited local residents to visit the hotel and discuss the building etc. Jacqueline Rice stated she was willing to do that to validate the process, the design and traffic management be it positive or negative, there needs to be an amendment or change to the whole process. George Dyer asked Bill Lobban what opportunity is there to make comments with such a short-time to reply. Bill Lobban replied that the planners will accept letters after publication. Margarete Paschke stated that Colin Watt had stated what he was doing. Jacqueline Rice suggested there should be a pre application so there would be a properly informed decision. Bill Lobban explained that the public can attend planning decisions of Highland Council.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:

ELLAN BRIDGE: Andrew Kirk has been in discussion with a Civil Engineer due to concerns about the safety of the sides of the bridge, although this has never been a problem in the past. Robert McInnes added that the bridge meets all safety requirements. Alice Buttress felt that you would have to step over or climb through the side construction to fall. Andrew Kirk suggested that a sign be put up, all members were in agreement. Linda Jolly, whose dog tripped and fell over the edge of the bridge, was still concerned but Alice Buttress reiterated that the bridge meets all standards.

CARRBRIDGE CARVE BURSARY: Alan Rankin put forward a proposal for a Carve Bursary; the concept would be some form of challenge open to all age groups. There would be an application process, a panel even residential courses etc. He went on to say that there is a potential of surplus monies to pay for this, but any applicant would have to match fund. Applicants would have to give a two page explanation as to their plans. Robert McInnes felt that a sub-committee would work well. Andrew Kirk stated this was outwith Community Council control but would incorporate others in the decision. Gavin Gerrard was suggested by Alan Rankin; Andrew Kirk asked if he would head this up. Kate Adamson suggested circulation by e-mail to see who is interested. She went on to say that it is very important not to encourage other funders.

PLAY PARK IMPROVEMENTS Highland Council is happy for this to happen but has no money and cannot pay for any upkeep.

PHONE BOX: Charlie Miller submitted our request to keep the box . Waiting for response.

CARVE CARRBRIDGE: All good.

PORRIDGE: Margarete Paschke reported that it happened, it made a surplus – money wise and Michelle Green would now be taking the lead on the Porridge Competition for 2017. She was given a hearty vote of thanks for all her efforts over the past three years.

NEW ITEMS:

It was agreed that the Christmas Lunch for people of a certain age would be held in the Carrbridge Hotel on Wednesday 14th December, 2016 and he thanked Colin Watt the proprietor for maintaining the same price for the last many years. Kate will organise the invitations.

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE:

This would be delivered around the 1st December, 2016 and Colin Watt and his staff would, as usual, attend to this. He was warmly thanked by all.

DEFIBRILLATOR: There are three available in the village - Carrbridge Hotel, Golf Club and outside Old Police Station however only the Police Station one is available 365 days of the year 24 hours. Andrew Kirk informed the meeting that Landmark is also looking into installing a Defibrillator.

ELLANWOOD PLANTS: Mandy McDonald (organizer of the planting) was kind enough to organise the removal of the dead plants from the flower bed for collection by THC. She was thanked by all for looking after this area as a result of HC cuts.

CARRBRIDGE RAILWAY STATION: Friends of Carrbridge Railway Station with hopefully a ‘Keep Scotland Beautiful’ grant are planning planting a wild flower garden beside the Station Building.

MATTERS ARISING:

Linda Jolly asked about the Roads Engineer regarding Station Road lining and the road itself. Bill Lobban said that he had made contact but would chase up.

Kate Adamson intimated that the Carrbridge Ahead AGM would be held in the Village Hall on Thursday, 24th November, 2016 at 7.00.

The meeting closed at 9.00p.m Date of next meeting CVCC Thursday, 24th November 2016 7.30pm