

**Approved MINUTES of GRANTOWN-ON-SPEY and
VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**
Meeting held on 21st March, 2017
At Grantown Museum. 19.00hrs.

Present:

Mr B Main	Chairman
Mr C Sinclair	Treasurer
Mr K Kinnaird	
Mr B Sadler	
Mr E Sutton	
Mrs J Flannery	
Miss B G Oliphant	
Mr M Ross	Co-opted Member
Miss A Harkness	Acting Minute Secretary

Also present:

Mrs J Munro	Dava Resident
Mrs M Ross	
Mr S Dick	
Miss C Filer	
M Thompson	NHS Highland
Dr B Peters	

Apologies

Cllr J Douglas	Ex Officio Member
Cllr B Lobban	Ex Officio Member

Non Apologies None

Item 1 Welcome & Apologies

1. Mr B Main Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

Item 2 Minutes of Previous meeting – 21st February, 2017.

2. The minutes of the previous meeting were checked for accuracy, and approved.

Proposed: Bill Sadler Seconded: Charlie Sinclair

Item 3 Matters Arising

3. **Flag Pole** - Mr B Sadler reported that the planning application for the flag pole was deemed an advertisement in Planning terms and would cost approximately £105. He informed Members that paying by cash/ cheque was not an accepted method of payment by the Highland Council.

4. Members discussed the options and a suggestion was made to see if there was a bar code on the invoice and if so to go into the local Post Office to pay it. Members agreed that this was a good solution and that if that was not possible, the Highland Council should be asked to invoice Beale and Piper for the outstanding fees.

Action: BS

5. **Speeding Signs** -The Chairman B Main, reported that Cllr J Douglas had provided updates in advance of the meeting. He reported that Cllr J Douglas had met with the new Head Teacher Jill Strachan at Grantown Primary as well as with Lisa Mckeillach, Highland Council Road Safety Officer and that both were willing to be involved in applying for funding for speeding/ smiley face signs. He added that it was now up to the Community Council to take forward the application.

Action: All

6. **Strathspey Hotel** - The Chairman B Main, reported that the developer of the Strathspey Hotel had confirmed that the work on the flats would begin on site within 8 weeks and is an 18 week build. A local contractor will be hired within the next two weeks to tidy up the site and this will be monitored and signed off by the local clerk of works.

7. In terms of conservation/ listed building issues with the hotel, Cllr J Douglas had spoken to John Doherty who advised that Andrew Puls, Conservation Officer Highland Council would be the best person to talk to about the site. Cllr J Douglas had circulated contact details.

8. **AoCC** - Mr B Sadler reported that he had attended the Association of Cairngorms Communities (AoCC) meeting at the Lecht that day. He advised that it had been very interesting to hear about the Planning situation regarding the development of the new Local Development Plan and the Scottish Government Planning Review consultation.

9. He added that he had produced a short two-page piece on the existing sites in the town and circulated paper copies of these to all members at the meeting. He asked the Members review his ideas and to relay any comments directly to him. He added that the closing date for feedback had been the beginning of February but that the CNPA were willing to accept late submissions.

Action: All

10. Mr B Sadler reported that he had passed on to the Speyside Moorland Group that the Community Council were in support of them.

11. Mr B Sadler reported that the Ben Mhor Hotel had asked to use the noticeboard attached to the wall of their building. This was discussed and rejected by Members because the Community Council felt that they owned it as it was the Community Council who had paid for it.

12. Mr B Sadler reported that an article had been published in the Strathy to encourage more people to join the Green Gym but felt it had had little effect. Mr C Sinclair asked whether the green gym would be able to replace the four flower beds on the green in front of the

Garth that needed replacing. Mr B Sadler advised that he would look into it but advised that the current lack of volunteers might be problematic.

13. **Telephone Boxes** - It was reported that the Highland Council had only heard back from BT in the past few days with regards to the objection of the proposal to remove the Dava telephone box. Cllr J Douglas advised in her notes that the consultation response from the Highland Council continues to object.
14. Highland Council Staff and job titles (who does what) still to be circulate around members when the restructure had been completed.

Action: JD

Item 4 Treasurer's Report

15. Mr C Sinclair confirmed that the accounts were as follows:

Previous Balance	£3860.46
Income	000.00
Expenditure –	000.00
Subtotal	£3860.46

16. It was agreed that a donation be made to the Grantown Museum for letting the Community Council use the venue at short notice.

Action: CS

Item 5 Planning

17. Mr B Sadler advised that the following planning applications required the attention of the Community Council:

- Garage next to Mock Beggar next to Beggars lane (behind Craggans) was proposed to be knocked down and converted into a 4 bedroom house. Members discussed this and agreed that it was narrow way currently affected by traffic congestion and in the conservation area It was agreed that a concern should be raised.

Action: BS

- Access Hilltrack across Dava from Westerline Kilns to Easter Wester Crannoch, situated on the left of the Dava road. Concern raised that the proposal may be a bulldozed track resulting in scars in the landscape causing an eye sore. Agreement to raise a concern to encourage Planners to consider appending a condition to the permission to minimize any visual impacts.

Action: BS

Item 6 Strathspey Hotel

18. This item was covered under Item 3.

Item 7 Building a Better Badenoch & Strathspey

19. Mr C Sinclair reported that he had attended the Building a Better Badenoch & Strathspey event in Carrbridge on 25th February 2017. He advised that 150 people had attended and 35 projects had put in a funding bid. He added that 27 projects had been awarded funding and 8 had been unsuccessful of which G&VCC were one of them.
20. He advised that everyone present could vote for up to 7 projects each so it would have been worth having a few people at the event to vote for our bid. He highlighted that the Grantown Initiative had secured funding to run a bus from Broomhill Station to Grantown-on-Spey.
21. He gave a brief roundup of the unsuccessful bids which showed that many Community Council projects in the valley had been unsuccessful. He recommended that the Community Council be more 'street wise' with any future funding bid.

Item 8 NHS

22. The Chairman introduced Maimie Thompson, NHS Highland HR Manager and Dr Boyd Peters and asked that they provide an update.
23. Maimie Thompson and Dr B Peters made the following points:
 - a) There had been a big re-design and they were half way through the process of getting to the end point of having the new facility in place.
 - b) An architect for the design of the facility is just about to be appointed.
 - c) It is hoped to be in the position to confirm planning permission for the site in the near future.
 - d) The step-up step-down beds, (now known as heather beds) will open in the Wade Centre in April 2017 and then in Grant House well in advance of the closure of Ian Charles hospital.
 - e) Part of the transition is ensuring that all the community care and services are in place and embedded before existing facilities are closed.
 - f) Some end of life charities such as Marie Curie and Macmillan have expressed an interest in using Badenoch & Strathspey as a pilot area for end of life/ palliative care.
 - g) An independent transport assessment is being carried out.
 - h) Doctors in the Strath were coming together to arrange how they would work together in the new facility.
 - i) The heather beds are intended to be used for people in the facility instead of going into hospital.
 - j) A paper was being brought to the NHS H Board on 28th March 2017 that describes some of the challenges being faced elsewhere and provides sustainable staffing models with an aging population, shrinking budgets and limited staff and resources.

- k) The new facility will provide £100million savings over 3 years which is a very good position.
- l) Funding had been secured from the Scottish Government in the form of a long term loan much like a mortgage.
- m) Had funding been forthcoming from elsewhere the option would still be to consolidate into one facility and not to keep the two existing ones open.
- n) It is hoped to get a blood testing facility in the new facility in Aviemore sooner than 2020.

24. Members discussed the presentation and raised the following issues:

- a) Why did it take so long to get care packages in place to allow people to be discharged from hospital? Dr B Peters confirmed that low staffing levels in community care currently existed. He added that part of the problem was that many patients in hospital do not need to be there. He admitted that they are often too cautious on the safety side and are making people have to jump through hoops before allowing patients to return home.
- b) How were they planning on getting more carers? Dr B Peter advised confirmed that it was the challenge that they were facing and that it was hoped to promote caring to young people to make it an attractive career. M Thompson advised that the surplus staff from the two facilities would be encouraged to apply for future new health and community social care roles.
- c) Would the money not be better spent upgrading Raigmore hospital? Dr B Peters advised that there are long waiting times in A&E and the out of hour's service that is currently available in the Strath works well. M Thompson advised that the finance does not break even in that model.

25. The Chairman thanked them for coming and asked them to keep in touch as the project progresses.

Item 9 Correspondence

- 26. The Chairman, B Main advised the Members that he had requested from Mrs L Boden, the paperwork held by the Secretary to be passed to him, but he had not yet received this. He advised that he was relying on what was coming through on email.
- 27. Mr B Sadler reported that he and the Chairman had attended the Grantown Initiative meeting on 28 February 2017. He advised that it had been agreed that the minutes of the Grantown Initiative's meetings would be circulated the Community Council members and vice versa. He added that details of their sub-committee would also be circulated. He advised that the Grantown Initiative's website was nearing completion and would be launched on 11th April 2017.
- 28. Mr B Sadler advised the Grantown Initiative had agreed to allow the Community Council to use their website and Facebook page to disseminate any information as required. Mr S Dick highlighted that the Facebook page did not belong to the Grantown Initiative and

asked for a Community Council Member to become an Administrator of the page. It was agreed that Mr M Ross would take up that role.

Action: MR

29. Mr B Sadler went on to explain that the Grantown Initiative were interested in meeting together to share wants and needs and to look into working together on projects to secure funding. Suggestion was made to make the Grantown Initiative a regular item on the Agenda. This was agreed.

Action: BM

30. Mr B Sadler reported that he had attended the Conservation Area project steering group who was chaired by Karen Derrick. He advised that the group had been awarded £5,000 funding from the Cairngorms National Park Authority and there was the possibility of securing additional funding from the Highland Council. He added that the work was to look at the building in the town to identify which are listed and which could become listed.

31. The Chairman advised that he had attended the Community Council Forum meeting this month and highlighted that it could be the last one as the Council were no longer going to fund the meetings. He explained that he had met Brian Tolsen on Boat of Garten Community Council who is part of the Cairngorms Community Broadband Charitable Company who had received 1.3 million euros to put broadband in places where there is none. It was agreed that Brian Tolsen be invited to attend the next meeting.

Action: BM

32. Mr B Sadler advised that he had attended the Association of Cairngorms Communities (AOCC) meeting at the Lecht and see a presentation on digital social enterprise. He advised that Scottish Water had been present and there was a lot of useful information. He advised that he would circulate the minute of the meeting to members when it was forthcoming.

Action: BS

33. Mr B Sadler went on to talk about the afternoon session of the AOCC meeting. He advised that a very interesting paper had been highlighted. Miss A Harkness confirmed that the paper was publically available on the CNPA website and agreed to circulate it to members.

Action: AH

34. Mr B Sadler confirmed that the Fiddler Strathspey Festival had been confirmed for a weekend at the end of June.

Item 10 AOCB

35. Miss B G Oliphant proposed that Ian Charles could not be forgotten about given that it was a hot topic with the people who wanted it retained. The Chairman suggested that it be looked at as part of the Conservation Area Project. Mr B Sadler advised that he had enquired about the building being granted Listed Building status but had been informed that it could not as it did not have any special features. It was suggested that it remain a standing item on the Agenda.

36. Members discussed the possibility of securing the use of a vacant high street shop to use as a drop-in facility where community views could be sought on a wide range of issues from Ian Charles, Dava telephone box etc.
37. The Community Empowerment Act was brought up and it was agreed to invite Lee Haxton, Community Manager at the CNPA be invited to come and talk about the Community Empowerment Act at the next meeting. Item to be added to Agenda for next meeting.

Action: BM
38. Suggestion made to put item on the agenda for the next meeting reviewing work that has been accomplished in the past year.

Action: BM
39. Mrs J Flannery provided an update with the exterior of the houses in Castle Road East. She reported that it was in hand and that Cllr J Douglas had set up a meeting.
40. Mr K Kinnaird asked whether there were traffic wardens in the town yet as he had received complaints regarding the lack of parking. Miss B G Oliphant asked if speed police were in town. The Chairman agreed to ask Cllr J Douglas to look into both issues.

Action: BM/JD
41. Mr K Kinnaird asked what was happening with the NHS dentists as from his experience there was currently a two-year waiting list for an appointment. The Chairman agreed to ask Cllr J Douglas to look into it.

Action: BM/JD

Item 11

Next meeting

42. The Chairman confirmed the next meeting would be on Tuesday 18th April at 7 p.m.
43. Agenda items will need to be sent by Saturday 8th April in order to be included.
44. Thanks was given to the Chair.
45. Meeting closed at 21.05.