

# Minutes of Meeting

## Cawdor & West Nairnshire Community Council

Monday 17th April 2023 at 7.30pm

### At Cawdor Community Centre

**Present:** CC Alastair McGregor (AM), CC Dougie Fraser (DF), CC Lizzy Rose (LR), CC Stevie Webster (SW), CC Rowie MacWilliam, Philip Arkell (PA), Gordon Robertson (GR), Alec Rose (AR), Meg Robertson (MR), Hugh Robertson, Cllr Paul Oldham, Cllr Trish Robertson, Cllr Barbara Jarvie, Richard Jones, Carlo Cabrelli (CCab), Tony O'Sullivan (co-owner, Port of Ardersier), Gregor Ogilvie (Port of Ardersier), Nicola Drummond (Ness Planning, Planning Consultant for Port of Ardersier), Darren Ferguson (Port of Ardersier)

#### 1. Apologies

Cllr Laurie Fraser, CC Scott Heron, James Cook, Rob Clarke, Jenifer Walker, Cllr Michael Green, Vanessa McGregor, Joanna McGregor

#### 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2023 and Matters arising

Proposed by Dougie Fraser                      Seconded by Alastair McGregor

##### a. Neighbourhood Watch Signage

No further update, so item not discussed.

**Action:SH**

##### b. Dog Fouling posters for Piperhill/Culcharry Woods

SW has approached another company to produce the signs, due to delay with the previous company.

**Action:SW**

##### c. Smiddy Brae, Cawdor

SW has had a quote back for 40 tonnes of tar plus labour at £11,000, an improvement on the original £20,000, but still high. He is arranging a meeting with all parties to agree a way forward.

**Action:SW**

##### d. Traffic Speed Trial on B9090, Cawdor

Lisa Mackellaich sent a report with data from two locations in Cawdor, along B9090.

###### West Speed Count Location

Mean Average Speed of vehicles travelling in a westerly direction is 32.1mph

Mean Average Speed of vehicles travelling in a easterly direction is 31.4mph

###### East Speed Count Location

Mean Average Speed of vehicles travelling in a westerly direction is 32.9mph

Mean Average Speed of vehicles travelling in a easterly direction is 34.5mph

DF asked for the actual speed records, as these figures do not give an accurate record of the number of vehicles speeding in the village. This detailed information was given during the Whitebridge trial, with vehicle type and speeds recorded.

ER was concerned at the short time the trial was in place, therefore how limited the data would be.

PA asked when the 20mph speed limit comes into Cawdor - Cllr Oldham said Cawdor is not one of the villages listed for a reduced speed limit, due to not having houses on both sides of the B9090. Cllr Robertson suggested this could change at a later date.

MR said that Cawdor needs traffic calming to slow vehicles. SW also suggested another SID coming into Cawdor from the east.

PA thought that a footpath along the roadside could also slow down traffic - this has been looked into before by the CC with 2 main problems:

1. Two different landowners
2. The footpath on the road bridge is too narrow, so Highland Council won't take it on.

ER asked if the Councillors could chase up Richard Porteous for a Road Safety Team meeting in Cawdor, as she'd had no luck getting a response. **Action: LR/Cllrs**

**e. Manhole covers on Newton Road**

These have now been repaired.

**f. Howford Bridge approach**

The CC has given written support for a bid to the Scottish Strategic Timber Transportation to widen this section of road to make it safer. AM added that there should be a barricade on the river side of the road for added safety. Cllr Jarvie has taken photos of the area, noting that the edge of road markings are covered over with mud.

**g. Website development**

SW will ask Lewis Gell for a quote to create a website and give an indication of running costs. Also perhaps approach Fiona Lieper (Winds of Change website) for a quote. Cllr Jarvie suggested asking Nairn West & Suburban for advice as they have their own website. **Action: SW/LR**

**3. Police Report**

LR read out the Police Report from PC Michelle Milne, a copy of which is shown in Annex A.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

DF gave the Treasurer's report a copy of which is shown at Annex B.  
Bank reconciled 17/04/23 at **£3,708.97**

**5. Cawdor and West Nairnshire Community Benefit Organisation**

GR read his report:

Since the last CC meeting on 13th February, awards for a number of eligible proposals have been made.

I am delighted to report that the changes that have been made to the Winds of Change website have been very well received, and give a much better picture of the Charity's work.

- Cawdor Tots were awarded £500 for outdoor toys.
- Four local youngsters from the Nairn & District Pipe Band received funds for their uniforms totalling £1,750. Should any of these four recipients leave the band, the uniforms will remain with the Band for future members.
- £458 was granted for constructing footpath borders and landscaping in Clephanton. This included sowing wildflowers.
- £500 was awarded to Jean and Sandy Ford to continue their Cawdor village flower programme. This includes work at the Mound, Fountain, and the numerous planted tubs throughout the village.
- The cost of the very successful AGM at the Cawdor Tavern was £618.55
- £380 has been newly spent on the website improvements and a historic bill of £776.06 relating to the original creation of the website has been settled.

Current balance is **£129,365.56**

The Trustees are meeting tomorrow night, and will be welcoming a new Trustee, James Wallace, to the Board

MR added that there is a pending large grant application for the Big Cawdor Picnic.

## **6. Presentation by the Port of Ardersier development plans, by Nicola Drummond of Ness Planning**

Gregor Ogilvie, Development Manager for Port of Ardersier began with an overview of the development area and what has been done to clean up the site so far. The sand dredged from the port area will be used for future construction developments. There will be an oil and gas decommissioning and recycling zone. These recycled materials will be turned into reinforcement to be used in the wind logistics zone, to make floating wind turbine bases.

Nicola Drummond, Planning Consultant, then talked about the planning permissions, some already given in principle, for a port for decommissioning of energy products. There will be offices and infrastructure required to enable the port development. The main entrance to the port will have a new security building, and a heritage centre aimed at the community with a cafe area open to the public. A foot/cycle path will provide safe access from the heritage centre to the Carse of Delnies wood. There is a planning application to take over responsibility for maintaining the access road from the A96 to the port entrance. The port area has no special designations, but development is heavily monitored by Marine Scotland. The salt marsh and spit area are SSSI, protected and monitored by SEPA and Nature Scot, and there is an onsite ornithologist.

Q&A session followed. Key points raised were:

- Is there enough work for this development? - Plenty of work to share with other companies like Nigg and Global Highland.
- Could cruise liners ever use the port? - No plans for this, as it's not compatible with the industrial site, and not good to take business away from Cromarty.
- Hazardous material spills - Currently only a waste management licence, but hazardous materials require further protection of a membrane lining under hard-standing and interceptors to prevent leakage into the environment. This would all be done before any rigs are brought in for decommissioning.
- Employment for locals - So far 38 employees, living within a 15 mile radius, with up to 4,500 more jobs as the port develops in stages.
- Public access - Not to the Port site, but Secret Beach still accessible to part-way along spit, east of the Port, and foot/cycle paths around the development.

## **7. The Big Cawdor Picnic**

LR reported that the CC had been asked to look again at a Community event to celebrate the Coronation. Running short on time, a community picnic was suggested, with entertainment provided. Local groups were contacted to get involved. There will be a band (Cabin Fever), Highland dancers, some local members of the Nairn & District Pipe Band and lots of activities/games. It is taking place in the old school playground, with access to the old school for toilets and also as a wet weather option if necessary.

AM asked about wheelchair access to the old school - this is accessible to all.

PA added that the Cawdor Bowling Club will be open for toilets and will be offering a trial of bowling. The polo tent will be used as a bandstand with a stage for performers (SW suggested the old stage from the old hall, kept in the community container at the workshops). Parking will be in the field across from the old school, with disabled parking

next to the old school. The Community Centre is providing additional parking and toilets. Insurance is covered by the CC policy with Zurich. **Action: LR**

## 8. AOB

- **Wildflower Meadow in Cawdor village** - Carlo Cabrellii has approached Cawdor Estate with a view to creating a wildflower meadow in the field across from the old school. He received positive initial feedback and is now looking into this in more detail.
- **Potholes on B9006, approach to A96** - Alec Rose highlighted the dangerous potholes on the B9006, north of the junction for Loch Flemington and Croy, heading for the A96. His concern is that it falls between CC areas and as a result may be overlooked for repair. It lies within the Inverness area. He encouraged others to report this to the Highland Council.
- **SSEN Powerline Beauly to Peterhead** - Cllr Oldham highlighted the forthcoming public consultation events concerning the 400kV project. Dates for the nearest consultation events, with QR code for scanning, are included as an attachment. Cllr. Jarvie had asked for a Nairn/Cawdor event for those without transport and a morning between the 25th and 26th April was offered. GR added that SSEN would come to Cawdor if invited - LR to ask. **Action: LR**
- **The Big Cawdor Picnic Poster** - AM asked how it should be distributed to local residents. Most effective would be in local shops/businesses, notice boards and via social media and local websites. **Action: All**
- **Bench at Piperhill** - Cawdor Estate has been approached by the family of a former Piperhill resident asking to put a memorial bench next to the old ice curling rink, where there is already a concrete plinth. No issues with this.
- **Daless to Drynachan road** - This was Minuted at the last meeting, but PA asked if others could register the problem on the HC website. The more submissions the better.
- **Planning Training** - The Highland Council has informed the CC that planning training is now available. This will be an online "self service" guide rather than an in-person session. Details to be forwarded to CC members. **Action: LR**
- **Street lamps and SID** - DF reported that the street lamps and SID had been repaired, but had failed again two days later. HC has now separated the fuses for the SID and street lamp it is attached to, so that if one goes, the other is not affected.
- **Update on padlocked gate in Cawdor village** - DF had no update from Stewart Easthaugh, HC Access Officer. SW said there had been talks between the HC and Cawdor Castle to discuss whether the gate could be unlocked out of season and locked in season. This is not confirmed and planning is not yet passed.
- **NorthSat interest at Regoul** - Open Reach is not able to get fibre optic cable throughout the area, so sending out letters to local residents recommending using the £5,000 voucher with one of 4 companies, including NorthSat who put up masts. The new EE mast has already improved the 4G for some residents.

The meeting was brought to a close at 9.10pm.

The date of the next meeting is **Monday 12th June 2023**

## Annex A - Police Scotland Report

OFFICIAL

**POLICE**  
SCOTLAND

Cawdor & West Nairnshire Community Council Meeting

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023

### POLICE REPORT

Summary of incidents reported to police in the Cawdor area since last meeting:

1. March 2023 – Theft of a piece of work equipment from the Inchyettle area. Enquiries are ongoing.
2. March 2023 – Contained incident in Newton of Belivat where female was reported for disorder offences.

Officers continue to patrol Cawdor village and its surrounding area and are aware of issues of speeding.

Kind regards

PC Michelle Milne

Nairn Police Station

## Annex B - Treasurer's Report

### C&WNCC Treasurer's Report for Meeting 17/04/2023 – No.8

Bank reconciled at last meeting 13/02/2023	= £3,878.77
Income	= £Nil
Expenditure	=£169.80

Since the last meeting the following has happened:

Expenditure for Zurich Insurance (General)	=£86.00
Expenditure for HNM Courier (Advert)	=£28.80
Expenditure for ICO ZA Insurance (Privacy)	=£35.00
Expenditure for C&WNCC Accounts Auditor (Gift)	=£20.00

Bank reconciled to 17/04/2023	=£3,708.97
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There are no further outstanding transactions.

D J Fraser 17/04/2023

Treasurer