

any form of discussion, on the whim of one Councillor expressing his own opinion that these were examples of Nimbyism. At the meeting Councillor Paul Oldham, when asked by the presiding officer, had nothing to add, which would suggest he condoned Laurie Fraser's insulting remarks.

We feel Laurie Fraser should reflect on his conduct at that HCPM and at the very least should apologise to the objectors and the C&WNCC.

On behalf of the Watermill Foundation and Watermill Enterprises, Joanna McGregor thanked DF for the statement, saying that she felt very hurt by Cllr. Fraser's comments after all the work the charities do for disabled people. She was particularly worried about the speed of traffic on the narrow road and the safety of disabled people and those with learning difficulties attending the facilities.

DF reiterated the issue of lack of planning training for CC members and lack of support from the local Councillors, as some are on the Planning Committee and so unable to comment on applications. He stressed that the CC rely on the local Council representatives to pass on their views to the HC Planning Committee. AM had always understood that if a CC, which reflects the views of local residents, comments on an application then that is what should be put forward by the Councillors to the Planning Committee. Cllr Jarvie said that those views would be added to the application, along with all the others. She stressed that Councillors are obliged to read all the documentation on applications in order to then be able to comment.

c. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

(1) Bonfire

LR passed on an update from Stevie Webster regarding the proposed bonfire event: An application for funding has been submitted to the Winds of Change SCIO. SW is to meet with Lord Cawdor on either 15/08 or 18/08 to agree a site for the bonfire. There is then to be a community meeting on 18/08 for volunteers wishing to assist with the event. Based on the number willing to show their commitment to help, a final decision will be made by the Trustees of the Winds of Change regarding funding at their next meeting.

(2) Tree Planting

LR said that with the site agreed by Lord Cawdor, an application was submitted to the Woodland Trust for a pack of trees, containing a mix of rowan, silver birch and wild cherry. This has been approved and the trees will be delivered in November for planting. A site meeting is being arranged with Hazel Cowan of Cawdor Forestry, Julia Jerrett of Cawdor School and Fiona Lewthwaite of Nairn Beekeepers Association, to assess requirements for preparing the ground for planting. **Action:LR**

d. Website and Social Media Communications

LR was unable to give an update as she is waiting to speak to Lewis Gell, who, it's believed, is updating the Community webpages on the Cawdor Community Association website. More information should be available at the next meeting. **Action:SW/LR**

AM added that anyone with a community alarm should be aware that when broadband cables are being upgraded, the Highland Council will need to replace their alarm system.

e. Neighbourhood Watch Signage

SW will also be discussing this matter with Lord Cawdor at their meeting on 15/08 or 18/08. Update to follow at next meeting. **Action: SW**

f. Dog Fouling in Piperhill/Culcharry Woods

SW had reported back that there are no dog poo bins at either end of the woods. Cllr Jarvie will look into this matter on our behalf.

SW had also sent a copy of the anti dog fouling poster designed by the school children to Cawdor Estate Office, in case they wish to make copies for further distribution. JW added that these had originally been printed by the CWNCC and LR thought that any further posters should also be printed by the CC. LR will check with SW..

Action:Cllr. Jarvie/LR

g. Smiddy Brae, Cawdor

Derek Hamilton reported that, according to Alistair Davidson of Bowlts, the Smiddy Brae is owned by Cawdor Estate, not the Dowager Countess. Those requiring access to their businesses have been asked to contribute to the cost of repairs, but they had already repaired the pot holes a few years ago at their own cost. Highland Council recycling lorries do the most damage to the road surface and it is regularly used by the public to access the recycle bins. The CC could perhaps contact both Estates for comment, but will discuss this before taking any action.

Action: CC

h. Paid facilitator for Community Council

DF felt that the CC members should first agree what line to take with this matter and so will defer this discussion until all CC members are available for comment.

i. Traffic Speeds on B9090

Cllr Jarvie had contacted Richard Porteous of Highland Council with the issues raised at the last CC meeting and read out the detailed letter to the meeting, which included photographs of the areas of most concern . Meg Robertson stressed that traffic calming measures are the only way to tackle the speed of traffic as speed restrictions are not being adhered to, particularly coming from the traffic lights over the bridge past Newton Road heading to Brackla. The response from the HC highlighted budget restrictions and pointed out the existing safe pedestrian route past the Estate Office. The issue will be looked into by the Road Safety team.

LR mentioned that Police Scotland had noted the speeding concerns and will attend with a speed detection device when duties permit. DF added that this doesn't work as drivers flash lights to warn others of a speed trap.

MR asked whether vehicle speed monitor strips could be used to get data on traffic. These have been used in the past, at the Whitebridge, and statistics were forwarded to the CC. DF said that these strips have been used to gauge speeds at various points along the B9090 to gather data for the Nairn Bypass. LR will ask Police Scotland if they will consider a trial of traffic speed monitor strips in Cawdor. Other suggestions were discussed.

DF said that regarding the access from the footpath onto the B9090 at the bridge, the overgrown shrubs have been cut back on both sides of the road, making it much safer to see/be seen.

Action: LR

3. Police Report

LR read out the Police Report from Sgt Erskine, a copy of which is shown at Annex A below. She added that Sgt Erskine is stepping down from his current role and will be moving to a job in Firearms Licensing. Thanks were expressed for all that he has done to support the community over the years. Sgt Craig McGhee, based in Aviemore, will be our new liaison officer.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

DF gave the Treasurer's report a copy of which is shown at Annex B. He reported that the Balance on 8th August was £3362.32

He pointed out a £15 payment to ASCC, which was refunded. This is the Association of Scottish Community Councils and has not been in operation for a number of years. The bank direct debit has now been canceled.

LR mentioned that the annual Highland Council grant has been approved, but DF said that it is not yet in the CC bank account.

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

MR reported that there have been 4 small applications, including plants and a strimmer for Cawdor village, a grant to help Cawdor Tots set up again and an insurance policy for the year, and 1 large grant pending for the community bonfire event. The current balance is just over £82,000. DF pointed out that a large grant was approved for the Cawdor Bowling Club, who have welcomed this and have bought some new equipment to maintain the green. A new Bowling Club committee is in place with a new website and a 5 year plan to encourage more members.

6. **Cawdor Street Lighting**

DF said there had been a number of problems with the street lights in Cawdor, but he'd been in touch with the HC lighting department who had been in Cawdor this morning, replacing 8 or 9 lights. The recurring issue is due to the quality of the lighting used and HC are looking for replacements. If anyone knows of any faulty lights, please let DF know and he will pass the details on to the relevant HC contact.

7. **AOB**

- **Seagulls in Cawdor village** - JW said that there has been an increase in the number of seagulls around the village and that they are being fed by a number of residents. They appear to be eating the food put out for the feral cats, which may be returning to previous levels with troughs of food being left out all day. MR added that there are people who are actively feeding the seagulls. LR offered to speak to the residents concerned. **Action: LR**
- **Cawdor Church closure** - MR said that it was announced that Cawdor Church is to be closed and those that attend church in Cawdor will go to Croy. This transition will take place in a year's time. The church building will be sold. The news was met with shock and sadness.
- **Thank you from SSPCA** - The SSPCA appeal for cat food for their Inshes Kennel received donations arranged by Audrey and John at the Cawdor Shop. A large box of food was delivered to Inshes and the SSPCA wished to thank Cawdor area residents for their generosity.
- **Help for Cawdor pupil** - JM raised the issue of a Cawdor pupil who is required to have 2 adults to take them to the Highland Cycle Ability track for their weekly activity. The school can only provide 1 adult and so the pupil must miss this activity. LR stated that the funding for lessons last session had come from the CC, as the last of the Community Resilience funds. JW added that this means

that the school may have lost a PSA, which would impact on other pupils. DF suggested approaching Cawdor Community Association and Cawdor Parent Council for funding assistance.

Following the meeting, James Cook explained that the cycling activity is not being continued this session, but not because of any funding or staffing issues at Cawdor Primary.

- **Engage Highland funding survey** - Cllr Jarvie explained that this is funding for local groups with ideas for projects. LR will pass on the details to the other CC members and can forward information to any other interested groups. **Action:LR**

The meeting was brought to a close at 8.50pm

The date of the next meeting is 10th October 2022

Annex A to Minutes of CWNCC Meeting dated 8th August 2022 - Police Report

OFFICIAL

Cawdor & West Nairnshire Community Council Meeting

Monday, 8th August 2022

Date of last meeting: 13/06/2022



POLICE REPORT

- Attempted break-in to an honesty box in Delnies area, late evening on 21/07/22. A 47 year-old recidivist was subsequently arrested for this crime and has been remanded in custody.
- Scam involving receipt of text message by older resident of Piperhill, purportedly from NHS Track & Trace. Message suggested recipient was close contact and required to order PCR test. Clicked on link to pay nominal charge before realising con. Bank immediately contacted and cards cancelled. No financial loss but unsolicited letters subsequently received.

Concern in minutes regarding speeding traffic on the B9090 at Newton Road noted. Circulated to colleagues for attendance with speed detection device, duties permitting.

PS Graeme Erskine N0875

Nairn Police Station

Annex B to Minutes of CWNCC Meeting dated 8th August 2022 - Treasurer's Report

C&WNCC Treasurer's Report for Meeting 08/08/2022 - No.4

Bank Reconciled at last meeting 13/06/2022	= £3428.82
Income	=£15.00
Expenditure	=£81.50

Since the last meeting on 13/06/2022the following has happened:

Income Refund from ASCC	=£15.00
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Expenditure SO for ASCC (Has now been cancelled 08/07/2022)	=£15.00
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Expenditure Roddy Balfour's Retirement Gift	=£42.50
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Expenditure for <u>HNM</u> – Courier Advert	=£24.00
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Bank Reconciled to 08/08/2022	=£3362.32
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There are no further outstanding transactions.

D J Fraser 08/08/2022