

Minutes of Meeting

Cawdor & West Nairnshire Community Council

Monday 10th October 2022 at 7.30pm

At Cawdor Community Centre

Present: CC Alastair McGregor (AM), CC Dougie Fraser (DF), CC Lizzy Rose (LR), CC Scott Heron (SH), CC Stevie Webster (SW), Joanna McGregor (JM), Vanessa McGregor (VM), Carlo Cabrelli (CCab), Philip Arkell (PA), Gordon Robertson (GR), Cllr Barbara Jarvie

SW began the meeting by introducing Philip Arkell, the new Managing Agent for Cawdor Estate, taking over from Rachel Bromby.

1. Apologies

CC Rowena MacWilliam, James Cook, Meg Robertson, Alec Rose.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th August 2022 and Matters arising

Proposed by Alastair McGregor

Seconded by Dougie Fraser

a. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

(1) Bonfire

SW informed the meeting that the bonfire will not be going ahead this year. The Cawdor Community Centre Association office bearers are in the process of changing over and there was not enough time for the new committee to organise an event of this scale. Permission had been granted and a site agreed by Lord Cawdor, but paperwork and licences were not yet in place, so the funding could not be agreed. Hopefully, it will all be ready for next year.

(2) Tree Planting

LR had a helpful site meeting with Hazel Cowan of Cawdor Forestry, Julia Jerrett of Cawdor School and Fiona Lewthwaite of Nairn & District Beekeepers Association. The site itself is a bigger area than previously offered and Cawdor Forestry is giving 60 trees (mixed oak and lime) to add to the Woodland Trust 30 trees (mixed rowan, silver birch and wild cherry). The planting layout is to be decided and Cawdor Estate have agreed to add the ground maintenance to their remit. The bigger site means that it can be further developed in the future, perhaps with benches, and will be open to the whole community. Planting is set to take place in November when the trees are delivered. **Action:LR**

b. Website and Social Media Communications

SW confirmed that Lewis Gell is in consultation with the Cawdor Community Centre Association to update their website, which has separate web pages for the individual community groups. Lewis feels that the website needs a complete overhaul to make it more user-friendly. SW will keep us informed of progress. **Action: SW**

c. Neighbourhood Watch Signage

SW met with Lord Cawdor to discuss this, but he is not keen to have too many additional signs around the village. SH will get a copy of the proposed sign and give it to the Estate office for approval. Signs could go in shop/business windows rather than on lamp posts. SH also has a number of the small Neighbourhood Watch stickers for residents to put in their windows if they wish. **Action: SH/SW**

d. Dog Fouling in Piperhill/Culcharry Woods

SW said that the Highland Council bin is not yet in place at the entrance to the woods. Cllr Jarvie explained that all dog poo bins are being changed to green rubbish bins due to Health & Safety reasons. This means they will be emptied more frequently, with the normal bin collection lorry.

Lord Cawdor would like the school children to design a new anti dog fouling poster and he will pick the winning design to be printed and distributed around the area. SW will contact James Cook to arrange this.

Action:SW

e. Smiddy Brae, Cawdor

SW confirmed that the Brae is owned by Cawdor Estate and the area where the recycle bins are located is owned by the Dowager Countess. It was felt that Highland Council should be responsible for maintaining the road, as their lorries cause most damage, when they come to empty the bottle banks. PA agreed to contact Highland Council, if the CC also back it up with an email. DF added that Alastair Davidson of Bowlts had tried to contact the HC about this before, with no success. JM wondered whether any of the Nairn Councillors could advise us if we contacted them. Cllr Jarvie suggested contacting Allan Mckechnie (Waste Department), as Richard Porteous of Roads Department has limited funding. The bottle banks have been in place for approx 25 years. Cllr Jarvie has already taken photos of the pot holes as evidence for HC.

Action:PA/LR/Cllr Jarvie

f. Traffic Speeds on B9090

LR contacted Police Scotland about the traffic speed/counter strips, but they are not responsible for this device. Highland Council was then contacted and asked about a trial of the monitor strips, so we are just awaiting a response.

Robin Pope of HC picked up on the traffic issue from our Minutes and contacted Lisa Mackellaich (Road Safety) to enquire about a second SID (Speed Indicator Device) for Cawdor village. LR responded to that email to stress that another SID was not our preferred option, as we don't think it is successful in slowing traffic.

Police Scotland reiterated that they would visit Cawdor with a speed detection device when duties permit. LR replied to that offer, thanking Police Scotland but pointing out that the drivers warn each other when there is a Police speed trap in operation.

CCab brought up the excessive traffic speeds in the Back Street of Cawdor, particularly going to the business centre in the old school. PA offered to send a circular to tenants reminding them of the 20mph limit.

Action: LR

g. Seagulls in Cawdor village

The number of seagulls has gone down again since the CC meeting 2 months ago, but LR did speak to the residents who feed the feral cats about the issue and other local residents. The problem seems to have sorted itself out.

3. Police Report

LR read out the Police Report from our new Community Sergeant, Sgt Craig McGhee, a copy of which is shown in Annex A. Sgt McGhee will try to attend the next meeting in order to introduce himself.

4. Treasurer's Report

DF gave the Treasurer's report a copy of which is shown at Annex B.
Bank reconciled to 10/10/2022 at £3,888.64

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

GR reported:

Since the last CC meeting on August 8th we have only received two applications for funding. Both from Cawdor Primary School and we were pleased to support funding to enable the children to have a Pantomime performance of Snow White, in the school, in the lead up to Christmas.

Furthermore, we were pleased to support an application for assistance with the costs of transport to swimming lessons in Nairn for 87 pupils. This funding will be matched by the Parent Council.

The application for funding the village bonfire was withdrawn. The Community Benefit Organisation would have provided financial support had it proceeded.

The CWNCBO currently has £148,328 in its bank account available for eligible applications.

There was a complication with the Cawdor Bowling Club application, which the CWNCBO are trying to help them resolve. Lord Cawdor has also been very supportive.

A discussion followed regarding how to encourage others to come forward with projects. AM commented that big projects rely on a good feasibility study, but the problem lies in getting the money to fund this, which can be thousands of pounds.

PA asked whether the balance of funds was spread across bank accounts to get fiscal protection. GR replied that they are taking advice from charity commissioners, emphasising that they wish to be good stewards of the funds, rather than take risks.

6. **AOB**

- **Street cleaning** - HC will be sending the sweeper lorry to clear the leaves off the streets in Cawdor village in mid-October
- **Black car at entrance to Balloan Farm** - A black car has been parked at the layby at the entrance to Balloan Farm for months. A notice inside the car states that it has been arranged to be picked up, with a phone number. SH commented that if it was on a public road that it would have had a 28-day notice attached to it. GR said that it had gone the other day, but was then back again later. It has been reported to HC by Cllr Duncan Macpherson, but it could take time to process.
- **Cawdor village signs** - PA mentioned that the Cawdor village road signs approaching from the west are in a very poor state. Is this something which HC can repair/replace? This will not be a HC priority and it could take some time before they get round to replacing them. Any damaged speed signs however are seen as a priority.
- **Damaged lamp post in Cawdor village** - PA highlighted a lamp post in Cawdor which was damaged in the recent high winds and has been reported to HC. DF stated that the Lighting Department is dealing with the lamp post and has been repairing the street lights, the SID and the traffic lights in the village.
- **Nairn Councillors attendance** - SW asked how we encourage our other Nairn & Cawdor Councillors to attend meetings. Cllr Fraser had intimated that he would attend tonight's meeting, but hadn't turned up. LR said she would email Lewis Hannah, the ward manager, to ask for improved representation.
AM recommended minuting that we welcome our other councillors in their absence.

Action: LR

- **SSE New pylons from Peterhead to Inverness** - This will run in conjunction with the existing pylons, which will remain in place, although some may be put underground. A long period of consultation, with construction in 2030. Cllr Jarvie highlighted that the maps/plans were not very detailed and did not show the ancient woodland and wildlife areas.
- **Horse riders** - SH mentioned a lady from Piperhill, a horse rider, who wanted to raise the idea of signs warning traffic of horse riders on the roads. She was invited to the meeting, but was not in attendance. In the absence of details, this item could not be discussed further. Cllr. Jarvie recommended that the lady get in touch with her and she will follow it up.
- **Churchyard path improvements** - Cllr Jarvie had arranged to have the paths in the churchyard cleared of moss, and all the edges cut back. The job is now complete and looks fantastic, as well as being much safer. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Jarvie for her input. VM noted that there are still a lot of artificial flowers in the graveyard, which are no longer permitted.

The meeting was brought to a close at 8.50pm

The date of the next meeting is 12th December 2022

Annex A - Police Scotland Report

OFFICIAL

Police Report August - September 2022, Cawdor and West Nairnshire Community Council

CR/69780/22 – Cawdor Church, Housebreaking with intent to steal, Between 28/08/2022-02/09/2022, suspect has forced entry to locus via west door which had been forced open from the outside, internal lock broken. No items stolen. Local enquiry negative. No forensic opportunities. This incident remains undetected.

I am aware of the ongoing issues re speeders at the B9090 Cawdor Village please be rest assured that local officers have been made aware of this and will conduct speeding checks where operational circumstances allow. I have appraised roads policing of this matter. I have also provided advice regards traffic monitoring/counter strips.

Being new to the role of community Sergeant for Badenoch, Strathspey and Nairn I am totally committed to listening to the concerns of our local communities and working together to identify issues and create solutions. Should anyone wish to highlight any community issues please get in touch. Due to shift work email is the best form of contact. I can't always guarantee an immediate response however I will return all emails. Obviously for any immediate or ongoing incidents please report these in the usual manner (101 or 999).

My email address is craig.mcghee@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Annex B - Treasurer's Report

C&WNCC Treasurer's Report for Meeting 10/10/2022 – No.5

Bank Reconciled at last meeting 08/08/2022	=£3,362.32
Income	=£555.12
Expenditure	=£28.80

Since the last meeting on 08/08/2022 the following has happened:

Income Highland Council Grant	=£555.12
-------------------------------	----------

Expenditure for HNM – Courier Advert	=£28.80
--------------------------------------	---------

Bank Reconciled to 10/10/2022	=£3,888.64
--------------------------------------	-------------------

There are no further outstanding transactions.

D J Fraser 10/10/2022