

Minutes of Meeting
Cawdor & West Nairnshire Community Council
Monday 12th February 2024 at 7.30pm
At Cawdor Community Centre

Present: CC Lizzy Rose (LR), CC Robin Pope (RP), CC Dougie Fraser (DF), CC Stevie Webster (SW), CC Marion Mackay, CC Mike Ogden, Alec Rose, Vanessa McGregor, Joanna McGregor, Jenifer Walker, Victor Laidlaw, Meg Robertson (MR), Richard Jones, Susan Saunders, Andrew Robb, Bob Ferenth, Cllr Barbara Jarvie (Cllr J), Cllr Paul Oldham, Andy Peck, Liz Peck, Graham Griffith (GG), Sarah Quirie, Federica Steffani

1. Election of Office Bearers, officiated by Cllr Barbara Jarvie

Cllr Jarvie thanked the CWN Community Group for covering issues during the period of abeyance and welcomed the new Community Council with a full complement of 9 members. She invited nominations for Office Bearer roles:

- a. Chair - Stevie Webster Proposed by Robin Pope, Seconded by Lizzy Rose
- b. Vice Chair - Robin Pope Proposed by Lizzy Rose, Seconded by Stevie Webster
- c. Treasurer - Dougie Fraser Proposed by Lizzy Rose, Seconded by Stevie Webster
- d. Secretary - Lizzy Rose Proposed by Stevie Webster, Seconded by Robin Pope

All CC members agreed to adopt the Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils.

2. Appointment of the Minutes Secretary

Lizzy Rose agreed to continue at present on the understanding that a Minutes Secretary is sought at our earliest convenience.

3. Apologies

James Cook, Cllr Michael Green, CC Alastair McGregor, CC Pat Clifton, Philip Arkell, Carlo Cabrelli, Beryl Cabrelli, Jenny Nalder

4. Minutes of Meeting held on 9th October 2023 - approval

Proposed by Robin Pope, Seconded by Dougie Fraser

5. Minutes of CWN Community Group Meeting held on 11th December 2023 and Matters Arising:

Proposed by Joanna McGregor, Seconded by Stevie Webster

a. Snow Plough and Gritter - Handover of ownership to CWNCC

SW thanked the West Nairnshire Safer Paths group for securing the funding from the Winds of Change for the equipment on behalf of the CWNCC. The transfer of ownership to the CWNCC was signed and a copy given to all parties concerned. The equipment has already been operated successfully to keep the school brae pavement clear.

6. Treasurer's Report

A copy of the Treasurer's report is at Annex A. The Bank reconciled on 12/02/24 at £3,477.23.

7. Planning Applications

a. 23/05795/FUL - Erection of house, Land south of Craigellachie Cottage, Wester Galcantray

The question of provision of a septic tank and drainage was raised due to the hard rock base at the site. Plans have already been approved by SEPA and Scottish Water.

b. 23/05858/FUL - Demolition of Pavilion, Erection of Pavilion, Cawdor

Bob Ferenth explained that the Bowling Club are hoping for a decision on 20/02/24 before moving to the building warrant stage and potentially starting to build at the end of the year. He confirmed that it would be a community asset.

c. 23/05237/MSD - Development, Land NE of Delnies Old School House

Cllr Oldham commented that while this site was zoned for housing in the old Inner Moray Firth Development Plan, it is not on the new IMFD Plan due to be adopted by the Highland Council in May. This change may affect the application. Meg Robertson asked if there was provision for a roundabout access on the A96 and this was confirmed.

8. Cawdor & West Nairnshire Community Benefit Organisation (SCIO)

MR gave an update. The AGM was held on Tuesday 6th February. All the Trustees remain in place. The Office Bearers were elected as follows:

Chair - Meg Robertson

Secretary - Jenifer Walker

Treasurer - James Wallace

Recent awards given:

West Nairnshire Safer Paths - Snow plough and gritter £4,812.00

Cawdor Primary School - Annual Maintenance Grant £15,000

Cawdor Village Plants - £500

Trustees are delighted to welcome any applications and also any new members. Anyone living within the CWNCC area is eligible to be a member, at no cost, and details are on the website www.windsofchangecawdor.com

9. Haventus Port of Ardersier - Community Benefit Fund

RP gave a brief summary. A Community Liaison Group meeting took place on 01/02/24. The Port development is progressing. A community benefit fund is being set up by Haventus, £100,000 per year for 10 years, to be administered by Foundation Scotland. The next stage is establishing a group to oversee this on behalf of the community, to include members from Nairnshire, Culloden and Ardersier Community Councils. A workshop, open to members of the community, will be arranged in Ardersier. Details will be added to our website.

10. Broadband

SW reported that the Culcharry group set up by Mark Lochhead to look into getting the superfast Broadband has not yet seen progress. The date he was given for the service is 2027. Those at Regoul who had approached Erik Spence of NorthSat, have also been unsuccessful so far. Internet speeds across the area are dire, particularly Cawdor, Brackla, Geddes and Regoul.

RP added that Openreach is to switch off all analogue lines and convert them to digital, which may cause issues during a power cut.

The Community Council would like to invite representatives from the relevant organisations to explain the situation to the community at a meeting.

Residents in Clephanton and Cairnglass now have access to fibre optic cable, but have to take it from the road to their property. There are green boxes with fibre optic cables in place at Cawdor, Brackla and the A939 junction. Newton Road also has good Broadband reception.

RP asked residents to supply data from internet speed checks to support the CC case. A general discussion took place. **Action: SW**

11. Local Place Plan

LR had an update from Mandy Lawson of NICE. A public consultation event will take place on Tuesday 12th March, from 4 - 8.30pm in the Cawdor Community Centre. A leaflet will be sent to IV12 postcodes, promoting the 9 local events, including this one. This is an opportunity to have your say about the focus of the Local Place Plan for Nairn and Nairnshire, which will become part of the Inner Moray Firth Development Plan.

Cllr Oldham added that he knew of one area, with a completed LPP, already seeing it being brought into consideration on some planning issues. **Action: All**

12. AOB

- **Police Report** - See Annex B
- **Damage to bridge** - Alec Rose informed us that the footbridge at the mouth of the Cawdor Burn has been washed away in the recent floods. SW will raise this with Philip Arkell. **Action: SW**
- **Riverside path** - Sue Saunders raised concerns over the state of the riverside paths, overgrown in some areas and washed away in others. LR added concerns from the Rennisons at Little Rosefield regarding the river encroaching their property during storms and spate due to erosion of the riverbank. Cawdor Estate is in discussions with SEPA to allow the use of armoured rock or gabions to shore up the riverbank.
- **Fallen tree in River Nairn at Rosevalley** - Joanna McGregor asked who is responsible for removing a fallen tree in the river, which is blocking and diverting the flow, causing substantial flooding to the road and threatening property during recent storms. SEPA has an interest, but the landowner is responsible for the trees on the riverbank. AR suggested asking the Salmon Board for advice. Details to be passed on. **Action: RP/Cllr J**

- **Speeding traffic in Cawdor** - MR raised the issue of the speed and volume of traffic going through Cawdor. The speed monitor strip trial was for a very short time with limited data. The through traffic is the main problem and no traffic calming measures to slow it down. RP thought we should raise this with the Road Safety team. There was agreement that further traffic calming measures are required. Speed cushions and pinch points were discussed. Andrew Robb suggested getting Fergus Ewing on side and Transport Scotland contributing to the costs. **Action: RP**
- **Footpath along B9090** - SW suggested that this ties in with the traffic calming issue and funding could be sought from Winds of Change, but whoever takes on the project would have to consider the maintenance of the path. Cllr J suggested funding from Active Travel Network. GG added that the Dowager was in favour of supporting a path on her land.
- **SIDs in Clephanton** - Andy Peck commented that the Speed Indicator Devices in Clephanton are set at 30mph, but the speed limit signs are 20mph. This has been reported. RP added that the signs can't be reset to 20mph, so the HC are waiting for new signs, paid for by Transport Scotland. He suggested asking for the 30mph SIDs to be reused in Cawdor **Action: RP**
- **Defibrillator in Clephanton** - LR wished to thank Liz Peck for arranging for the new defibrillator in Clephanton and the successful training session by Peter White for 16 local residents. Liz is just waiting for Highland Council to provide the post and box for it to be erected.
- **Cllr Roddy Balfour** - LR said that members were saddened at the news of Cllr Roddy Balfour's passing and praised his support for the community over the years, including the Whitebridge replacement, a project he saw through from start to finish. His memorial service took place in the Chapel at Fort George on Friday 2nd February. A letter of condolence from CC members was sent to his family.
- **Jubilee Wood** - LR said that there may be a Coronation bench being added alongside the tree planted in November, courtesy of the Lord Lieutenant. Saplings from the Woodland Trust to make a hedge will be delivered in March, ready for volunteers to assist with planting. This will be for year round colour, giving interest for birds and wildlife. **Action: LR**
- **New nursery** - Rose Buds Day Care is to take over the Country Bumpkins Nursery site. For further information, contact 07818 492470.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

The date of the next meeting is **Monday 8th April 2024**

Annex A - Treasurer's Report

C&WNCC Treasurer's Report for Meeting 12/02/2024 – No. 12

Bank reconciled at last meeting 09/10/23	= £3,422.23
Income	=£55.00
Expenditure	=£Nil

Since the last meeting the following has happened:

As there was insufficient applicants to form a Committee the C&WNCC went into abeyance. This meant that there could be no outgoing transactions from our account.

Another problem created by the C&WNCC being in abeyance was a large grant application to C&WNCBO to purchase a gritting machine to clear the footpaths leading to the school and other problem areas could not be processed. West Nairnshire Safer Paths Group undertook successfully to apply for the grant allowing the money to be paid into and out of their bank account. The equipment was supplied and paid for by WNSPG on the understanding once the C&WNCC was functioning again the equipment would be transferred to and owned by the CC.

Income from C&WNCBO (Grant)	=£55.00
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Bank reconciled on 12/02/2024	=£3,477.23
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There are no further outstanding transactions.

D Fraser

C&WNCC Treasurer

Annex B - Police Report

POLICE REPORT

Summary of incidents reported to police in the Cawdor area:

1. October 2023 – B9090 Four motorists charged in this month in relation to speeding offences.
2. November 2023 – A disturbance whereby one male was arrested and charged in relation to a disorder offence in the Cawdor area.
There were also 2 motorists charged in relation to road traffic offences.
3. December 2023 – B9090 - Two motorists charged in relation to a road traffic offence.

Officers from the Road Policing Unit have been in the Cawdor area on a few occasions which has proved successful in both detecting and deterring speeding offences. They hope to continue to return to the area.

Kind regards

PC Michelle Milne

Nairn Police Station

OFFICIAL