

Minutes of Meeting

Cawdor & West Nairnshire Community Council

Monday 26th June 2023 at 7.30pm

At Cawdor Community Centre

Present: CC Stevie Webster (SW), CC Alastair McGregor (AM), CC Dougie Fraser (DF), CC Lizzy Rose (LR), CC Rowena Macwilliam (RM), Cllr Barbara Jarvie, Cllr Michael Green, Joanna McGregor, Alec Rose, Vanessa McGregor, Philip Arkell

1. Apologies

Cllr Laurie Fraser, Cllr Paul Oldham, Meg Robertson, Jenifer Walker, James Cook, Carlo Cabrelli, Beryl Cabrelli

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 17th April 2023 and Matters arising

Proposed by Dougie Fraser Seconded by Rowie Macwilliam

a. Dog Fouling signs for Piperhill/Culcharry Woods

SW has asked Macsigns in Inverness to produce the sign.

Action:SW

b. Smiddy Brae, Cawdor

Alec Rose proposed that his team could do a robust patch repair job, when they are doing a similar project on potholes on the Kilravock Castle drive. The jobs could be done at the same time, sharing the traffic control equipment to keep the costs down. SW was concerned that the layer of tar on the Brae is not thick enough for patch repairs, but AR said that they would dig down deeper to meet requirements. He will put a quote together for the work. LR will contact the parties involved and set up a meeting with the Highland Council. Cllr Green offered to get a response from the Roads Dept.

Action:LR

c. Road Safety issues following report from the Highland Council

Lisa Mackellaich sent the actual speed records, taken during the one week trial, as the previous report with mean average speeds was not detailed enough. The data showed that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the vehicles passing through the two check points on the B9090 in Cawdor were speeding, some up to 60 mph. Vanessa McGregor reiterated how dangerous it is for vehicles exiting the Newton Road and DF said that the report confirmed this was the worst area for speeding.

Cllr Green offered to raise the issue with the Police Inspector at their next meeting and will follow this up with the Highland Council. It was agreed that further traffic calming measures are also required. LR asked if he could also chase up Richard Porteous for a road safety team meeting to discuss the best way forward.

VMcG also commented on the dangerous Hedges Brae on the B9090 and the need to keep the verge cut for visibility.

AR added that there is a blind summit on the B9090 at Lower Cairnglass, so vehicles exiting Clephanton have about 7 seconds before they see traffic in the dip. There could be a head on collision if cars are not aware of this. This could be added to the issues all along the B9090.

PA reiterated the idea of a footpath on the bridge in Cawdor village, which he would like to raise with Cawdor Castle estate. DF had looked at this issue before, but with new personnel it would be worth looking at it again.

Action: LR/Cllrs/PA

d. Website development

SW passed on a verbal quote from Lewis Gell of £250. Fiona Leiper had already given CC members a detailed quote of £400 and had responded very quickly to additional questions asked. LR added that she would be the main contact, sharing Minutes and information for adding to the website and that Fiona is ready to begin work now. It was agreed by all to accept the quote from Fiona. **Action:LR**

e. Potholes on B9006, approach to A96

The potholes have been repaired very quickly by the Highland Council. The Daless to Drynachan road has not yet been repaired, and the fault reports are piling up. Cllr Jarvie said that money had been set aside back in 2021 for the Drynachan to Daless road, but wasn't certain if this was when the tar/chipping resurfacing was done.

f. SSEN Powerline Beauly to Peterhead public consultation update

LR reported that a public consultation had been set up in Nairn, after the last CWNCC meeting, and had information booklets for anyone interested. The final pipeline route was not finalised. PA commented that our section of powerline does not have the same issue as others, due to the existing powerline corridor, which has space to accommodate the new powerline. LR had asked about getting a presentation in Cawdor, but SSEN would prefer to do a Zoom meeting if we want that.

3. Police Report

There was no Police Report from PC Michelle Milne to read out at the meeting, but details will be forwarded on when we receive them.

4. Treasurer's Report

DF gave the Treasurer's report a copy of which is shown at Annex A. Bank reconciled 26/06/23 at **£3,684.97**

5. Cawdor and West Nairnshire Community Benefit Organisation

SW and DF gave a brief update.

- Mostly small grant applications were submitted.
- The electronic system for updating the signatories is complete.
- A gazebo has been purchased to set up a stall at the Nairn Show and generate more interest and applications.
- The CC received a grant of £2,000 for the Big Cawdor Picnic, but only used £1160.47, with £839.53 being refunded.

The current balance is **£127,426.93**

The Office Bearers have changed:

Chair - Meg Robertson Secretary - Jenifer Walker Treasurer - Lynne McSherry
James Wallace has joined as a new Trustee.

JMcG commented that the Highland Cycle Ability Centre would like to apply for funds but doesn't seem to fit any criteria. DF suggested putting in an application and seeing what the Trustees say.

AMcG raised an issue with the website application form. When filling in the form, it can't be printed off as it has to be done on the computer, which is difficult if others are contributing. SW thought this had been sorted, but will find out.

JMcG offered an open invitation to anyone wishing to come along to the Highland Cycle Ability Centre to see what they do.

AR said that West Nairnshire Safer Paths are looking to link Dalcross with Clephanton, by completing the 800m stretch to Croy. A collaboration of this project with the footpath over the bridge in Cawdor as part of a wider network, might attract more funding options. PA suggested that the Nairn River path could do with improvements.

7. **The Big Cawdor Picnic**

LR reported that the event had been a success with up to 250 people attending. Help came from Cawdor Estate providing the site, setting it up, sourcing and part-funding the band. Local community groups were involved including Cawdor Primary and the Cawdor Heritage Group. Village Greenery donated flowers, Cawdor Castle donated ice creams, people donated their time and gazebos, Nairn community donated bunting.

The Cawdor Bowling Club bowling trials on the same day worked really well, with a boost in membership.

7. **Bottle Bank at Smiddy Brae**

LR had been asked to raise the issue of people leaving boxes of bottles without putting them into the recycle bins provided. Cllr Jarvie suggested asking the school pupils to do a poster, like the anti dog fouling one. It's the same problem at the bottle banks in Nairn. One bin went missing for a while. DF explained that the Biffa lorry, which empties the recycle bins, accidentally dropped one into the lorry. It has since been replaced.

8. **AOB**

- **Nairn Academy structural check** - Cllr Jarvie said that Nairn Academy will be getting a robust structural check by a specialist team when the pupils are on holiday. The Highland Council will follow any recommendations. There should be an announcement on funding for the school on 30th July.
- **Closure of Country Bumpkins Nursery** - PA raised concern over the sudden closure of Country Bumpkins Nursery for local parents. The decision affected 180 children, including those on waiting lists. There are no available places for early years settings in the local area. Another nursery closed on the Black Isle last week. Stramash at Tornagrain is full. This is a problem when trying to encourage families with young children to the area. Cllr Jarvie had heard that another nursery might take over the Country Bumpkins site.
- **Praise for NHS** - Paramedics, Air Ambulance and Ambulances arrived at an incident at a cottage near Mill of Cantray Farm. JMcG praised the thoughtfulness of the Air Ambulance crew about where to land, especially with lambing ewes and barley to consider.
- **Cawdor Jubilee Wood** - Sadly many of the saplings planted last November did not survive the severe cold snap in December, including all the Woodland Trust mixed variety saplings. LR will work with the community groups involved to replace these and perhaps add some extra trees for the Coronation. **Action: LR**
- **Cawdor cemetery grass cutting** - Concern over the length of time between grass cutting sessions in the cemetery was raised and the grass cuttings all over the gravestones. This can vary, but the cemetery grass has recently been cut.

The meeting was brought to a close at 8.55pm.

The date of the next meeting is **Monday 14th August 2023**

Annex A - Treasurer's Report

C&WNCC Treasurer's Report for Meeting 26/06/2023 – No.9

Bank reconciled at last meeting 17/04/2023	=£3,708.97
Income	=£2,055.00
Expenditure	=£2,079.00
Since the last meeting the following has happened:	
Income from C&WNCBO (Grant)	=£2,000.00
Income from C&WNCBO (Grant)	=£55.00
Expenditure for Cawdor Big Picnic (Entertainment Kit Hire, Part Fund Band, Food, Drink & Consumables, Face Painter, Thank you Gifts).	=£1,160.47
Refund to C&WNCBO (Residue of grant)	=£839.53
Expenditure (Donation to Lucky2Bhere – Defib. Pads)	=£55.00
Expenditure for <u>HNM</u> Courier (Advert)	=£24.00
Bank reconciled to 26/06/2023	=£3,684.97

| There are no further outstanding transactions.