**Minutes of Meeting**

**Cawdor and West Nairnshire Community Council**

**Monday 9th December 2024 at 7.30pm**

**At Cawdor Community Centre**

| **Item** | **Details** | **Action** |
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| **Present** | CC Mike Ogden, CC Dougie Fraser, Kirsty Rose, CC Lizzy Rose, CC Marion Mackay, CC Alastair McGregor, Joanna McGregor, Jenifer Walker, Hugh Robertson, Meg Robertson, Alec Rose, CC Stevie Webster, Sue Sanders, Jenny Nalder, Rowie McWilliams, Philip Arkel, James Barnett, Graham Griffith, Tony Twist, Vanessa McGregor, Cllr Barbara Jarvie, Julie McIntosh |  |
| 1. | **Apologies**  James Cook, Cllr Michael Green, Alex & Ann Rennison, CC Robin Pope, Cllr Paul Oldham, Abi Ferrie |  |
| 2. | **Minutes of Last Meeting (14/10/24) and Matters Arising**  Proposed - Mike Ogden  Seconded – Alastair McGregor  **a. Van parked at Clephanton crossroads –** SW would speak to the owner of the van again but it was noted that he could not be forced to park elsewhere.  **b. Cawdor Christmas tree lights** – The event organised for the switch on of the lights had been a great success. The lights on the tree outside the school are however not working properly and are switched off until SW can contact the lighting department to have this fixed. LR thanked KR for sorting out which lights were needed and put in the application for the money from the CWNCBO. PA asked if they were to take them down again and this was agreed. Thanks to Rob Craigie for organising the telehandler to help with the hanging of the lights.  c. **Snow Plough and Gritter Volunteers** – SW had asked some people but they were no longer living in the village. Cawdor Estates were still doing but it was felt that this should be shared. There had been a school parent who had volunteered. WhatsApp group to be set up to co-ordinate this. PA stated this should be Community Council led. Storage of the gritter needed to be organised as well. Currently it was stored at the joiners yard but there was an issue there with having access to the equipment. SW asked if it could be kept in the school grounds but keys for getting in were again an issue.  **d. Maintenance of White Bridge –** LR had been in touch with the HRC regarding the maintenance of the old white bridge. The council advised that it was their responsibility and that funding had been set aside for renovation of the bridge but this will not be done at this time of year. Meanwhile, Steven Grant of the Roads Department had spoken to the structural technician to get a survey done to get some interim work done if necessary pending refurbishment next year. | SW  SW  SW/PA |
| 3 | **Treasurer's Report**  A copy of the Treasurer's report is attached (Annex A).  DF – At the last meeting the bank reconciled at £3784.62. Since then we have had an income of £724.52 and expenditure of £749.51. This was mostly the grant for the Christmas lights from the Windfarm fund and the purchase of lights for the trees – Kirsty had got a better price than expected for the lights which accounts for the difference.  Bank reconciled at £3759.63 today and a refund will be issued to the Windfarm fund when a receipt is passed on.  The tombola at the Christmas lights switch on on Friday 6th December had raised £142 and this money would be donated to the Primary 7 Fundraiser. |  |
| 4 | **Police Report**  No police report was received.  It was noted that no police report had been received for the last three meetings. The CC do email the police in time for each meeting but no reply is received.  BJ said to keep asking for them in the hope that this would change. A report is available but it is not specific to the Cawdor area.  Contact is PC Michelle Milne |  |
| 5 | **Planning Applications**    24/04519/FUL Erection of house at Blairnafade – application was withdrawn  24/04801/PNO - Agricultural building opposite Clephanton - no objections raised. |  |
| 6 | **Cawdor & West Nairnshire Community Benefit Organisation (SCIO)**  MR – Awards since last meeting   * Cawdor Guides had received £500 for an outing. * the previously referred to application for Christmas lights at the school and shop and sundry items - £1157. * Cawdor Rangers Unit Start up for girls aged 14 – 18 received £300 for subsidising their subscription to GirlGuiding Scotland * Cawdor Tots received £500 for ongoing costs   The CBO is looking into replacing the board and the map next to the fountain which was damaged in a recent storm.  Following this weekend's successful village event they have made a donation to the Fire Brigade and the Tractor run, both of which enhanced the event.  The CBO is still hopeful that the new playpark equipment will be in place December / January but this is weather permitting.  Next trustee meeting – 21st January 2025 |  |
| 7 | **Port of Ardersier Community Benefit Fund** -  KR – there was a meeting recently and various awards were made. Awards are going well but the fund is oversubscribed. LR – the port of Ardersier Community Liaison group is to meet on Tuesday 10th December and DF, LR and MO are all attending.  JM raised an issue that the Port of Ardersier had rejected an application from the Highland Cycle Ability Centre because they fell within the windfarm area. However, KR said that this was not the reason their application had been rejected, and that it didn’t meet some other criteria. KR would discuss with Foundation Scotland as the wording on the letter must have been incorrect. |  |
| 8 | **Road and Traffic Safety Issues**  LR – there had been a temporary road closure in the village in the run up to Christmas scheduled but thanks to Cllr Jarvie and CC Robin Pope that had now been postponed so that there was no disruption to Cawdor businesses during December. Thanks to Cllr Jarvie for this.  LR – road closure on the A96 with the diversion coming through Cawdor which seemed unnecessary given that the work was taking place at Balloch. Cllr BJ – people could pass comments on to the up coming A96 Campaign.  DF – the first closure mentioned in the back street in Cawdor there had been no consultation with the CWNCC regarding this which is a legal requirement. Cllr BJ had put in a formal complaint about this. There should be letters coming out before the re-scheduled date. Council had also offered to put up ‘businesses open’ road signs as well.  SW – noted that they were required to give 28 weeks notice before closing any major road.  Speed Limitations on the B9090  SW – had a report back from Robin who wasn’t present at tonight's meeting which he would read some of. Stevie Webster, Robin Pope and Dougie Fraser had taken a walk round Cawdor to look at what could possibly be done to improve the situation with people speeding through the village and had come up with several suggestions.  They were also getting in touch with Auldearn CC to see if they could work together on this ‘unofficial Nairn Bypass’ which also affects them. Auldearn had already got their traffic calming measures in place and hopefully there would be further improvement at Clephanton and Croy.  The bullet points they had come up with are as follows   * East gateway enhancement signage, dragon's teeth and Cawdor signage with raised section immediately east of the staggered crossroads. * Narrowing to a single lane on the bridge. This would need traffic signals as the visibility is too poor to allow a give and take option. These traffic signals would need to work in conjunction with the traffic signals at the school junction. This would slow traffic and also allow, hopefully for a better footpath over the bridge * Raised road at the school / shop crossroads. This would mean drivers would have to slow even if the lights were at green * Speed indication sign at the church is still not working. This needs repairing. * There is insufficient width at this west end of the village to allow pedestrian access. Could perhaps look at a give and take junction there along with a raised road to help with this and possibly make the foot path bigger.   Robin Pope is going to approach the council with these suggestions. They would initially try to get the improvements at the east and west ends of the village and if that was successful could try to get the rest. If we get raised platforms there would probably be a 20 mph limit imposed.  JN – asked about the junction up from the Howford coming on to the B9090. LR said that the council were cutting back the verge there to help improve visibility.  The proposal would be to ask this to be funded by Transport Scotland due to the ongoing failure to provide a bypass on the A96.  DF – there is an issue with getting council officials to liaise with the Community Council.  DF – even though school is set back from the main road the rules are that there should be a 20 mph limit if there is a school within 100 metres which the Cawdor school is. | RP |
| 9 | **Broadband**  LR – we need to provide a Unique Property Reference Number of all the homes in the area so that we can be given details of where they are in various overlapping programmes for the broadband roll out. PA – these numbers can be found online or on Council Tax bills.  LR had provided the list of properties to RP that they had used for the Local Action Plan.  KR – Cromarty have offered to provide the CWNCC with support if we can provide this UPRN to them. This will allow easy access to see where the properties are, which supplier they currently have etc and this would allow a plan to be developed.  SW to discuss with RP | LR  SW |
| 10 | **Cawdor Hub update**  KR – We have finished updating the meeting room and it is already being used by the community.  KR - AGM is on 17th December from 7 pm – all rooms will be open so people can see which rooms can be let.  KR – more wellbeing work for families to begin in the new year.  LR / SW – the new meeting room looks great for all types of groups to use. |  |
| 11 | **AOB**  RM – brought to the CC attention that the pedestrian crossing at the school junction often doesn't work. She reports it every time it happens. It seems to stop working when it's cold. SW to get in touch with the council to see if these can be sorted.  Cllr Jarvie – consultation is coming up about the boundaries for Community Councils. This is for public opinion on the suggestion that East Nairnshire CC area would be split between Auldearn and Cawdor. SW – more information needed on this so that it could be discussed.  GG - Thanked everyone for the support on the first weekend of the Cawdor Tavern under the new ownership of Cawdor Castle.  PA - Abigail Ferrie had been in touch and the research into the proposed playpark in Piperhill is ongoing.  PA – Fireworks / Bonfire – did we want to start getting this booked and organised. SW said yes we need to get started on this. SW suggested that a sub-committee would be the best way to go. A meeting to be organised before the next CWNCC meeting. LR to share the list from the last planning meeting of people who might be interested in being involved. JW asked that this not be a public meeting. GG asked who the entertainment license would be under. SW / JW this was to be discussed at the meeting.  MR – Abigail Ferrie had also been in touch with her with regards to the proposed Piperhill Playpark.  AR – AR had been working with Sustrans and Highland Council Active Travel on the National Cycle Route which runs along the B9091 between Balloch and Nairn via Cawdor. Ann McMichael from Sustrans was willing to come to speak to the CCC (perhaps in February) at some point about this.  AR – at the moment cars are parking on the cycle track at the leafy bends, Croy. Some bollards had already been put up. For discussion at next meeting.  Cllr BJ – no dog waste bin for the path at leafy bends, Croy as there were no street lights.  JN – asked about the boundary of the Community Council which runs down the middle of the road in Regoul. There was some debate about where the boundaries actually are. LR then pointed out that the school boundaries are different from the Community Council boundaries. DF said he had been trying to get maps for the Wind Farm Committee but had been unable to get any reply from the contact at the council. A response came from the Service User Manager and she was looking into it. SW – we would need to get new maps to sort out the correct information.  TT – Raised the issue of the plots for sale on land next to Curlew Cottage, Balfreish and their sale now being on the open market. LR – no further information had been received at the moment but she still had to write to the Scottish Office. The CWNCC had already been in touch with the planning office, they registered complaints and it had made no difference to the outcome and there was nothing further they could do about it. Now that this decision was made it was unlikely to be reversed. TT noted that this could happen with each landowner along that road now that this decision had gone this way. Cllr BJ – the decision is up to the 18 councillors who sit on the committee and that discussion is available to view on YouTube or on Highland Council, this may shed some light on different aspects of this planning meeting.  LR had a poster regarding the A96 corridor which provided information and asked for public feedback. | SW  SW/LR  SW  LR |
| 12 | **Date of Next Meeting**  10th February 2025 at 7:30  Meeting dates for the rest of 2025:  April, Monday 14th  June, Monday 9th  August, Monday 11th  October, Monday 13th  December, Monday 8th |  |

Annex A

