

## **Nethy Bridge & Vicinity Community Council**

### **Minutes of meeting held on**

**Thursday 5th February 2026**

**At 7:30pm in the Community Centre**

**Present:** S.McCook (Chairman), H. Tucker (Secretary), E. Ibbertson, D. Black, F. Cormack, F. Gilchrist, J. Grant

**In Attendance:** Cllr B. Lobban and 2 members of the public.

**Welcome:** S. McCook welcomed everyone to the monthly meeting.

**Apologies:** L. Parker, E. Curley (Dorback)

**Co-opting new member:** Fraser Gilchrist was duly co-opted as a member of the Community Council.

**Declaration of Interest:** None

**Minutes of last meeting:** Proposed : E. Ibbertson Seconded : D. Black

**Matters Arising:** Items already on the agenda

**Police Report:** None

**Members of the Public:** Matter of the school path not being cleared during the snowy period. Path became so icy that Parents and children were walking on the road. Cllr Lobban stated that this was not an adopted path. H. Tucker mentioned that this had been raised many years ago with the Council and that, the then head Teacher was told that clearing the path was the responsibility of the school. Suggestion to contact Safer Routes to School to see if they can help. No alternative unless path is bought from the landowner and is adopted.

**Dorback Estate:** S. McCook and H. Tucker had attended two meetings recently. One for interested parties and the other openly advertised for any members of the community to attend. The latest meeting with the Scottish Land Reform Commission also included representatives from Oxygen. Progress was being made with a desire to have good lines of communication and engagement. Oxygen has already donated to the Fire Fund and the school library refurbishment. Ed Curley Estate Manager was engaging with

locals and is keen to establish cultural and heritage walks on the estate and have school field trips. The estate is actively employing local contractors and using local businesses and is keen to do more. On another estate they have helped a local to establish his own business and would consider the same for Dorback. Oxygen intend to have a stall at the Spring Gathering to enable further community engagement. There would also be an article in The Nethy. They and the SLRC will be attending the March CC meeting to discuss further plans. H. Tucker suggested using the vacant noticeboard on the riverside to display village news. This would allow Dorback to display their newsletter for those not online. This suggestion was met with agreement as it would allow RSPB to display maps/information of work they are undertaking.

**Riverside Project:** H. Tucker had received an email inviting a full application for this project to be submitted by the 2nd March. This was not felt to be feasible for a full application to be ready. Discussion followed as whether to just apply for the sign refurbishment this year and the riverside next year. Cllr Lobban said that it was unlikely that we would be successful in consecutive years. H. Tucker will contact Alison Tanner asking whether to wait for 26/27 allocation for total project or whether to try other sources of funding for signs e.g. Ward Discretionary Fund.

**Aultmore Bridge:** There has only been one tender to replace the bridge and the quote was more than expected. CNPA will discuss the quote next week. There was still a hope that the bridge would be completed by May. Question was asked about future maintenance but there is no budget for that.

**Planning:** None

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance is £3,572.07. Another donation for the Fire Fund had been received and would be forwarded to the family.

**Councillor's Report:** Cllr Lobban stated that they had been busy getting ready for the budget in two weeks. He mentioned that there had been discussion with CNPA over the proposed caravan site at Croftronan. HC and CNPA have no authority over the project if it hosts five or fewer vans. Those present thought this was wholly unfair as there were usually stringent planning rules for other applications. Question was asked whether Balnaan bridge was permanently closed. Cllr Lobban thought it was as it would cost five million pounds to replace. H. Tucker asked if he could help with replacing the bin, that had been removed from the bus stop beside the playing field. She had requested one several months ago and as yet not had a response.

**CNPA Report:** None

**AOCB:** Question asked if there had been any update from Tulloch homes re the community garden. S. McCook had spoken to them in October and they said it was still planned. This would be followed up.

There is a tree in school wood which is precariously perched on another and overhanging the footpath. H. Tucker will contact Alban Thom to ask him to remove it.

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 5th March at 7:30pm**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.