

MINUTES OF THE DINGWALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING held in Dingwall on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2017

PRESENT: Nigel Greenwood (Chairman) (NG), Fred Lees (FL), Brian Simpson (BS), Jack Shepherd (JS), Andrew Henderson (AH), Murray MacKay (MM), David Lockett (DL) taking Minutes; 9 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Sara-Lynn Thain, George Murray, Andrew Foley, Mary Foley, Highland Councillors.

1. POLICE REPORT to be sent to the Secretary
- 1.1 Sergeant Alasdair Goskirk delivered an informal police report in which he briefed DCC on how policing worked at a local level, the main problem areas and how DCC and the public can work with the Police in reporting problems in the town. Main subjects were anti-social behaviour, family issues and traffic offences.
2. MINUTES of DCC Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2017
- 2.1 F.L. pointed out that the subscription to Scotways of £20 should be recorded. The Minutes were accepted on a motion proposed by AH and seconded by DL.
3. CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS. None
4. MATTERS ARISING from the Minutes:
- 4.1 Bank of Scotland garden notice board. The application for Planning Permission for the board is in hand and will be lodged with Highland Council Planning. Southside Car Park board and display has now been completed and installed. Councillors would like to arrange for a publicity photograph to include contributions from Dingwall Academy Arts Department. Thanks due to Dingwall Academy and Iain Kerr, joiner who completed the installation of the board at no charge to DCC. DL suggested that it might be a good idea to consider some kind of timber treatment to the structure.
- 4.2 Hector MacDonald Monument  
Permission was received from H.C. to visit the monument for the purpose of preparing DCC's own risk assessment with a view to future public access. NG and JS carried out the visit and will report back when they have completed their reassessment. First impressions are that potential problem areas could be addressed. Funding can be sought to correct any deficiencies. It might be helpful to seek advice from the local Fire Brigade regarding casualty evacuation issues.
- 4.3 Ferry Point Seating  
AF had updated the project costs in the light of new estimates provided by contractors approached by DL. In the absence of AF, DL explained how the new quotations for the creation of concrete plinths differed from Strath Coils' s quotation. The new estimate of £3,942 is made up of joinery and builder costs and project management (£3,057) and direct purchase of bulk concrete by DCC (£745) and hire of machinery (£140). The works would be supported by DL's own machinery and labour. The difference between this and the previous quotation of £7,270 is the reduction of concrete thickness from 150 mm to 100mm, to be compensated by adding steel re-enforcement over a compacted aggregate layer. See attached report from AF who has also made an application to the Common Good Fund to make up the shortfall in funding the entire project (£5,737).
- 4.4 Funding for Christmas Lights  
MM has applied for crowd funding. Quotations received for refurbishment of existing lights but were very high. Discussion needed as to how to proceed. Dingwall Fire Brigade Club was at an early stage for a planned switch-on date of 9<sup>th</sup> December. More money and discussion needed.

4.5 Poor State of Dingwall Academy Grounds

NG reported that some of the trees had been replaced. Nothing further heard but there may be some progress in July to be reported at next meeting.

4.6 Grey Box at Traffic Lights Flower Bed.

Progress towards "wrapping" the grey box is ongoing. In the absence of GM, it is hoped that there might be more news at the August meeting. Several members complained that the broken lamp post next to the grey box had not been replaced and was unsightly.

4.7 Signage round the Town.

Awaiting Councillor McKenzie to arrange a meeting with the Community Works Manager for improvement to the South Car Park. There followed a discussion about inappropriate turning manoeuvres from Mart Road towards Tesco's. There were also comments about parking and redundant signage in the town. (GM)

4.8 Royal Hotel Bus Stop

Still need to have more ideas about re-location (GM)

4.9 Peffer's Park and Pond.

Robert Moore challenged DCC to insist that HC find a solution to the problems with the pond (mainly algae). There was a discussion about how the problem might be solved and members believed that there was a perception that SEPA had prevented any emptying of the pond into the River Peffer to allow for regular replenishment of the water. It was felt that HC and SEPA should revisit the whole question of water quality in the pond and it was hoped that Highland Councillors would be able to make suitable enquiries and report to the next meeting. DL and members of the public complained that yet again there was a major problem of inadequate rubbish bins and a regular unsightly mess of overflowing rubbish being spread by seagulls. See report from Dingwall Volunteers (DVs) 5.0

5.0 TREASURER'S REPORT - circulated by AF.

5.1 General Account balance of £ ....

5.2 Christmas Lights Account balance of

5.3 There have been disbursements to Dingwall Gala (£500), Word on the Street (£150)

A grant application for Ferry Point has been lodged for £3,350.

Income received of £100 for hire of stage from Maryburgh CC. MM asked for funding to repair speaker cables for the stage, max. £100, which was approved.

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Crown Estate Bulletin available for members.

7 DINGWALL ACADEMY

It was agreed that D.A. be asked to propose up to 2 pupils who could serve as reps of the Academy DL suggested that DCC should give an indication to D.A. of the sort of role that the representatives might perform.

8 A.O.C.B.

8.1 Dingwall Volunteers

DL had circulated a monthly report by email and had copies for members. He affirmed that satisfactory progress had been made in restoring planted areas in Seaforth Gardens, Peffer's Park, Ferry Point and next to County Buildings. DVs were also going to repair a broken gate near Craig Road level crossing. Again, the problem of rubbish was aired. A member of DVs asked for an official "thank you" to Peter and Lyn Jamieson for all their valuable work for Dingwall in Bloom. This was unanimously agreed.

## 8.2 Grass Cutting

It was noted that the standard of grass cutting throughout the town was much improved.

FL complained that the old Lemons yard was a possible environmental hazard due to piles of rubbish. It is also unsightly.

9 DATE of NEXT MEETING – 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2017

## 10. PLANNING/LICENSING

NG noted that some tidying up work had been done at the site of the Lochgorm car wash. Although temporary planning permission has been granted, with conditions, he speculated that this might not be taken up.

It was noted that planning approval had been refused on the proposed development behind Robertson House, Greenhill/Park Street. The applicant is appealing. DCC will maintain its current comments to the appeal.

DRAFT