

MINUTES OF THE DINGWALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN DINGWALL ON MONDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2017

PRESENT: Nigel Greenwood (Chairman) (NG), Sara-Lynn Thain (Secretary) (ST), George Murray (Co-Secretary) (GM), Andrew Foley (Treasurer) (AF), Fred Lees (FL), Mary Foley (MF), Jack Shepherd (JS), David Lockett (DL), Brian Simpson (BS), Peter Jamieson (PJ), Andrew Henderson (AH), Cllr. G. Mackenzie, Cllr. M. Paterson.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. A. MacKinnon, Cllr. A. MacLean

1.1 POLICE REPORT:

ST read the Police report as Sgt. Alasdair Goskirk could not attend the meeting. See the attached document.

2. MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING OF 14TH AUGUST 2017

2.1 ST to correct 4.5 which should read 'planting' not planning.

2.2 The minutes were accepted on a motion proposed by JS and seconded by DL.

3. CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS:

3.1 None

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

4.1 New Bank of Scotland CC notice board/replacement of screens

Ongoing - No further forward with replacement screens.

Update BoS notice board - GM thanked Councillor G. Mackenzie for his assistance with this matter. Contact has finally been made with planning and a cheque is being arranged to pay for the planning application.

4.2 Hector MacDonald monument

Update - NG has completed report on the monument, he briefly detailed the report to members. The Fire Brigade are yet to visit the monument on a Wednesday night. All members had a brief discussion about next steps once the council receive a copy of NG and JS report. All members hopeful to organise a successful volunteer group to open the monument to the public on a rota for summer months. Action agreed for now.

Action: NG to e-mail report to CC members and HC asking for comments. Report will then later be e-mailed by NG to Hugh Gardiner.

4.3 Ferry point seating

Update - AF reported that funds of £2,500 had been received from the HC (Ward Discretionary Fund) for improvement works. Discussion had around works to be done with the current funding. AF detailed the plan to install 16 concrete plinths. NG, AF and DL to attend a meeting on Wednesday 13th September to discuss works and practicalities on site, liaising with members by e-mail. Works are scheduled to start in second week of October.

4.4 Funding for Christmas Lights

MM not in attendance so no update on funding. Discussion about town Christmas trees and the need to find funding for these soon. Members also revisited the idea of fairy lights on the trees on the 'ring road' now that the trees have been cut back. Members unsure about funding that had previously been ring-fenced for this. ST noted that she thought there had been problems with possible connection of the lights to the mains electric supply. All agreed that it would be fantastic to see this in the town, plan to revisit this when MM present.

4.5 Signage around the town / redundant grey poles

Ongoing: ST noted that she had been liaising with Laura Macalister (LM) (Roads Department) to have the removal of redundant grey poles around the town. Some had been removed but still many in the town. List had been e-mailed to LM and the department hope to have them removed by end of September. Several sign improvement works are underway including parking sign to turn into Southside car park that has been tidied up. ST will continue to monitor over the next few weeks. FL noted that he has continued to look at the white lines on Mart Road and the addition of a directional arrow for south bound lights on Newton Road.

4.6 Pefferside Park and pond

Update: All welcomed attendance from Marcia Rae (Countryside Ranger) at tonight's meeting. NG updated that the inlet and outlet of the pump had been checked at the pond and both were clean. Still to check if the pump is actually working. It was noted that Di Agnew (DA) is speaking with Pat Munro Contractors who completed the revamp of the pond in the past. She has recently returned from holiday, members were hopeful for an update next week. Discussion had around the algae and the problematic nature of it with DL sharing his experience of working with some ponds in the past. All agreed that this item had only moved on slightly and a lot of work was still to be done.

4.7 Craig Wood

Action from last month as a result of correspondence from a member of the public. ST has been in touch with MoP via e-mail and plan to co-ordinate a tidy up of some areas in Craig Wood once MoP returns from holiday.

4.8 Gully cleaner / concerns over town condition

Cllr. Mackenzie reported back that it was a year since the gully cleaner had been in Dingwall. Members noted that since last month's meeting and several significant issues with regards to the poor condition of the town were raised, some improvements/works have been completed. These included spraying of the weeds (although members did note that the spraying has left a yellow/orange line along some grassy areas killing the grass), gully cleaner has been seen in the town in some areas including Old Evanton Road and weeding has been done. Frustrations with regards to the terrible condition of a few buildings in the town were heard. CC members felt that it was unacceptable to be told by elected members/HC that nothing could be done to improve these or to get the owners to take more responsibility. CC members also noted their frustration with current planning policy that meant comments cannot be made on a planning application, on the back of another etc. All felt that this was wrong and often detrimental to the town and local community. Elected members noted that this was Scottish Government Planning Policy, not the Highland Council.

Action: ST to e-mail Kate Forbes to ask if representation can be made at a CC meeting or to book a meeting out with the CC monthly meeting to discuss the above and other issues.

4.9 Canal footbridge

NG (who also declared vested interest through work) reported that the bridge was closed due to timber decking being in poor condition and the sag (many argued the bridge has always sagged and surely this should be measured or surveyed to see if it has got worse) in the bridge due to a shift in the joints. During discussions it came to light that tenders for the bridge replacement had been sought without a report on why the bridge was closed in the first place. CC members asked the Councilors to provide feedback next month from the HC on why this has happened, where the replacement price of £150,000 has come from without a report etc.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT:

5.1 General Account

The general account balance is currently standing at £8029.27.

5.2 Christmas Lights Account

The lights account balance remains at £1874.13.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

None

7. DINGWALL ACADEMY PUPIL REPRESENTATIVES

None present.

8. A.O.C.B.

8.1 Dingwall Volunteers

Update from DL that Ding Vols are beginning to slow down at this time of the year but some work was still ongoing. Members were invited to meet for the last volunteer session this Saturday at 10am in the park. Brief discussion had over the park and in particular the slide/slide mound. Members discussed whether or not this might have been missed by the HC update in the play area.

8.2 Community Council generator

MF asked if it could be confirmed whether or not the CC generator was to be replaced, and if so, were the Rotary Club to contribute to this. Discussion had around the price of a new generator/condition of the old one and it was agreed to take the decision (without MM attendance) not to expect or ask the Rotary to contribute towards the cost of buying a new one. All agreed that a new one should be considered in the future up to the budget of £500.

Action: ST to e-mail Brian Wojtunik at the Rotary and confirm the above.

8.3 Christmas lights switch on

Discussion had around the switch on date for the Christmas lights in the town. GM reported that Dingwall Business Association is planning a market on the High Street for 2nd December and a MoP noted that the Fire Brigade Community Group were planning their Santa's Grotto for Saturday 9th December. Members demonstrated their support for both events but no decision was made for a CC switch on date until it could be confirmed whether or not MM had booked the reindeer.

Action: AF to check if reindeer have been booked and report back.

9. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 9th October 2017 at 19.00 in Room 11, Dingwall Academy.

10. PLANNING / LICENSING

10.1 Land at Drynie Farm Dingwall 17/04044/S42

Noted that this was not a new planning application but one which was granted some years ago. The applicant is asking for a relaxation of the Condition which restricts development until completion of certain parts of the Kinnairdie Link Road. No comment was made.

Apologies in advance of next month's meeting included ST, Cllr. MacKinnon and Cllr. Mackenzie.

DRAFT