

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

PRESENT: Nigel Greenwood (Chairman) (NG), George Murray (Co-Secretary) (GM), Andrew Foley (Treasurer) (AF), Murray Mackay (MM), Fred Lees (FL), Brian Simpson (BS), Mary Foley (MF), Jack Shepherd (JS), David Lockett (DL), Peter Jamieson (PJ), Cllr. G. Mackenzie, Cllr. A. Maclean.

APOLOGIES: Sara-Lynn Thain, Andrew Henderson Cllr. MacKinnon, Cllr. Paterson.

(JS mentioned he has had a conversation with a couple of Dingwall Academy Students and he had hoped to see them at the meeting but as they had arrived he would follow up with them.)

1.0 POLICE REPORT:

1.1 There was no Police report to be read out and no Police presence

2. Minutes of COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING OF 13TH November 2017

2.1 The minutes were accepted on a motion proposed by MM and seconded by JS.

3. CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

3.1 none

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

4.1 New Bank of Scotland CC notice board

Ongoing – Application for Advertising consent and payment has now been received by Highland Council via ePlanning online.

4.2 Hector MacDonald monument

Update – The report by NG and JS has now been distributed. Cllr. Maclean stated she has seen the report and noted there was no mention of liability. JS went on to explain a little about the risk assessment and how it was achieved. During a fairly lively discussion JS and a Member of the Public went on to suggest ‘*Sponsor a step*’ may be one way of assisting with any funding required.

4.3 Ferry point seating

Update – AF informed the meeting that all furniture had now been ordered and was expected to arrive before Christmas. The furniture would kindly be stored at Knockbain Farm. There are still some plinths that require completion round the edges.

4.4 Pefferside Park, pond & bins.

Update: Cllr. Mackenzie informed the meeting that 2 new bins are now in place within the park and the Salt bin has now been removed.

4.5 Canal footbridge

Ongoing: Cllr. Mackenzie stated that the initial findings from the report on the bridge were “very damning” and it would most likely be removed very soon. The Cllr. Added that he would try to get a copy of the report to members ASAP and also suggested that focus should now be on a replacement. Members asked to be kept informed of any progress on the bridge’s fate.

4.6 MSP Kate Forbes

The Chair advised that a meeting had taken place with the MSP and that although no minutes were taken mostly planning policy issues were discussed along with the Community Empowerment Bill and possible Community Vito’s. MF asked if it would be possible to create a list of various Highland Council Department contact points and make it public. The MSP was also interested in the possibility of further meeting including the Public sometime in early 2018

4.7 Craig Woods

No further progress at this time.

4.8 Christmas Lights switch on Event

MM reported that the Xmas lights switch on drew a good crowd and this was mainly due to the presence of the Reindeer in the torchlight procession from the County Buildings and then in their pens beside the stage. There was most likely going to be a shortfall of approximately £700 this year but if all were in agreement, this would be taken from the Xmas Lights account.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT:

5.1 DCC General Account

The general account balance is currently standing at £4307.65

5.2 DCC Christmas Lights Account

The lights account balance remains at £1874.13. no change from last meeting

Notes:

- Main Account £2000 Donation from Gough Trust for Ferry Point Project anticipated this week.
- Projected cost of furniture from Marmax (not included above) £4702.80 including VAT and delivery
- Lights Account £600 awaited from Highland Council for Christmas expenditure

6. A.O.C.B.

6.1 No News from Dingwall Volunteers other than a few bulbs starting to appear 😊

6.2 Pot Holes – FL has been in conversation with HC regarding 4” pot hole at the school entrance

6.3 Laura Macalister via Cllr Maclean has offered to action any items directly when possible if she is added to the minutes list

6.4 MF brought up excess snow was sliding off various roofs on High Street buildings which could be a danger to the public.

6.5 Ferry Point – Flood Defence works have confirmed that some of the Poplar trees will be felled from January to allow new growth of the Chestnut trees

6.6 MoP brought up that 3 of the 4 Finials are now missing from the Railway Station Building roof. He is making enquiries and hopes to update next meeting.

7. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 8th January 2018 at 19.00 in Room 11, Dingwall Academy.

8. PLANNING / LICENSING

8.1 HMO licence application – An application has been received by HC for a number of flats at Cruickshank Court in the town. It was agreed that the Chair would submit an objection on behalf of the Community Council but also that all members should also submit objections.

8.2 Dingwall Valley – A new Car Valet business has started using the old Travis Perkins building at the South entrance to the town. It would appear not to have any planning permissions and it was decided to push this issue with the council.