

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE DINGWALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN DINGWALL ON
MONDAY 9th JANUARY 2017**

PRESENT: Nigel Greenwood (Chairman) (NG), Andrew Foley (Treasurer) (AF), Sara-Lynn Thain (Secretary) (ST), Fred Lees (FL), Peter Jamieson (PJ), David Lockett (DL), Murray MacKay (MM), Mary Foley (MF), Cllr. M. Paterson, Cllr. G. Mackenzie, Cllr. A. MacKinnon.

APOLOGIES: Brian Simpson (BS), George Murray (Co-Secretary), Jack Shepherd (JK), Cllr. A. Maclean, Sergeant Matt Ravenhill.

1. POLICE REPORT:

Sgt Matt Ravenhill presented his apologies to ST and e-mailed the Police Report for the month of December.

0 persons charged with speeding	5 Assaults (including 2 serious assaults) 0 noise calls.
0 persons charged with not wearing seatbelts	14 Anti-social behaviour/ disorder calls 6 Vandalism.
1 person charged using mobile phone whilst driving.	0 Attempted theft. 7 Thefts.
2 persons charged with Drink Driving.	4 Theft by shoplifting.
1 person charged with no insurance	8 Drug offences.
1 person charged with careless driving	0 Offensive weapon
13 persons charged with other road traffic offences.	0 Sexual offences.
0 Missing persons	3 Mental health/ vulnerable person incidents.
0 bail offence detected	

The Police report also detailed that speed checks carried out on Old Evanton Road with 1 driver being warned.

During the month there were 671 incidents logged in the Dingwall area command of which 200 were for the Dingwall Community Council beat.

Issue raised were raised last month with regarding BT Openreach vehicles parking at the top of Kinnairdie Brae, especially at peak times, causing an obstruction when working at the BT box. The Police report detailed that so far no vans have been traced but patrols will continue to enable suitable advice to be given.

Members discussed fraudulent behaviour on bank accounts of Dingwall residents.

Action: ST to e-mail Sgt Ravenhill and pass on members concerns.

2. MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING OF 12TH DECEMBER 2016

- 2.1 The meeting minutes were to be edited to 'duly agreed and accepted' under point 2.1.
2.2 The December minutes were then accepted on a motion by DL and seconded by AF.

3. CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS:

None - noted that there was no attendance from school pupils.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

4.1 New CC notice board/replacement of screens

MM to write to the agent who looks after the building for the Bank of Scotland and organise volunteers to put up the notice board in the small grassed area outside the bank, looking onto the pavement.

Replacement screens/Perspex sheeting for town noticeboards - No progress.

Southside carpark - DL reported that the joiner thinks a new sheet of all-weather ply is needed for the noticeboard. It was discussed that further contact with the school is needed to discuss fixing tiles to the board and a possible cover to go on front the tiles. An approx.' estimated cost of £200 for material and work was mentioned.

Action: MM to write to the Bank of Scotland and organise the fixing of the notice board.
NG and DL to liaise with the school and organise support of a joiner.

4.2 Hector MacDonald monument

No update due to GM absence however it was agreed the elected members would speak to Iain Moncrief at the next ward meeting to discuss progress/next steps.

4.3 Paradise woods

Update - Cllr Paterson reported that phase 1 of the work has started. Some CC members and members of the public noted they had been in the woods recently and that some of the larger trees had been cut down. Other trees had also been marked - Cllr. Paterson reported that these trees are to be cut down at a later date. It was also noted by Cllr. Paterson that Nick Richards et al hoped to get the work completed before the birds begin to nest. All agreed that although the woods continued to be very messy, in the long run it would be great to see the area tidied and the footpath clear to walk on. DL also offered his support with these works if required.

4.4 Ferry point seating

Update - AF had previously e-mailed all CC members and elected members a link to a PowerPoint presentation on the CC website and asked recipients of the e-mail to view the link before tonight's meeting. ST showed the PowerPoint and all agreed that 5 of the 'traditional' seats would look very nice in the area and vastly improve the appearance of current seating. Members also agreed to go ahead with the picnic benches and prices that AF proposed in his presentation. All expressed their thanks to AF for his efforts.

Members also discussed the plaques in memory of people on the current benches. When these seats are removed and replaced with new Community Council bought seats, what would happen with the plaques? Cllr. Paterson noted that traditionally benches put up in memory of someone are the responsibility of the family/next of kin i.e. maintenance etc. All agreed that where possible the CC would make families/next of kin aware of the seat removal/upgrade and that the new seats are a Community Council purchase. Plaques may be put on the new seats but this would be decided at a later date. The cost of the seats/picnic benches was briefly discussed. Members plan to apply to the Common Good Fund (AF already spoken to Di Agnew) and the CC is to raise money to pay towards costs.

Action - AF to go ahead and finalise cost of 5 'traditional' seats and picnic benches, AF also to cost concrete plinths for the seats to be fixed to.

MM to organise crowd funding towards to cost of the seat and picnic benches and a separate funding for buying new Christmas lights.

4.5 Poor state of Dingwall Academy grounds

Following on from last month's discussion around the planting of 4 new rowan trees, a member of the public asked for commitment for the future planting of replacement trees and general care/maintenance of the area.

Action: NG to contact Mears again and report back to members.

4.6 Grey Box at Flower Bed

Ongoing - last month it was agreed that NG would draft a letter (intended for the Highland Council) outlining the options (*leave as is, disguise it, move it, replace with a different-shaped box*) that had been discussed. The draft would be circulated to CC members for comment before being sent to HC. Due to GM absence there was no update on the circulation of the letter which NG had typed up.

4.7 Planning Ref 16/04218 - Phase 2 St Andrew's Rd

4.8 Planning Ref 16/04340 - Flats at Robertson House

All members discussed the residential development at Robertson House. A member of the public was very concerned about the nature of the development and highlighted significant objections to it, noting that he felt the application is misleading with regards to the nature of the development. People were encouraged to lodge their individual objections with the planning department if they agreed with these concerns.

4.9 Dangerous Trees in Craig Wood

Update - NG detailed the reply (20th December 2016) he received from Muir Homes Ltd who had previously acquired all of Thain Construction companies. The letter states that their lawyers have checked and the land mentioned on Craig Road is not owned by them.

Action: Cllr. Mackenzie will report back to the Council re' dangerous trees and latest landownership update.

4.10 Mount Rich Tree Line

Update - some members had look at the trees since last month but it was agreed that the CC did not wish to take on responsibility for this area from the Highland Council.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT:

5.1 General Account

A cheque (£204.40) had been sent High Life Highland re Hire of Lower Town Hall (for Developing Dingwall Group) and a cheque (£21.00) to Ross-shire Voluntary Aid re printing costs (for Developing Dingwall Group). With an income of £15 (annual Christmas payment from trusts), the general account balance is currently standing at £2392.98.

5.2 Christmas Lights Account

No change since December - the lights account balance is standing at £2874.13

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

7. DINGWALL ACADEMY PUPIL REPRESENTATIVES

No pupils present.

8. A.O.C.B.

8.1 Car wash facility at LochGorm

Update - Cllr. Paterson noted that she had spoken to Dafydd Jones (DJ - Area Manager North) with regards to the unauthorised car wash facilities in the town. The work undertaken to look into the car wash next to Lochgorm had revealed that the one next to Lloyds TSB also had no planning permission. Both businesses now

had until 21st January to submit a planning application. Members discussed their frustration with the current system and the fact that both businesses were continuing to operate with the okay from the Highland Council due to a possible retrospective planning permission claim against HC for loss of earning. All agreed that this standard of practice did not encourage people to follow correct procedures and was a disappointing attitude towards matters.

Action: Cllr. Mackenzie to pass a memorandum with an update from DJ to ST after the meeting and ST to circulate to all members.

8.2 DCC Sponsored Volunteer Group

Update - DL noted that the formation of the group is going well. DL has liaised with GM to organise a leaflet and online publicity. DL noted that the small garden in Seaforth Gardens had been proposed as the group's first project. ST and other members expressed their interest in volunteering with the group. All agreed that there is great demand for such a group in the town and expressed thanks to DL for initiating it.

8.3 Men's Shed Meeting, Dingwall

AF noted that meetings at the community pod are on Wednesdays at 11am. All men are welcome.

9. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13th February 2017 at 19.00 in Room 11, Dingwall Academy.

10. PLANNING / LICENSING

10.1 Tesco/Timpson Pod Application

Update - NG wrote to planning regarding CC objections to the above planning application.

10.2 Planning application 15/04651/FUL and review 16/00043/RBREF

Update - NG wrote to the Highland Council (Dr Stuart Black - Director of Planning) on 21st December on behalf of the Community Council to appeal against the decision that the planning department has made with regards to HRN Tractors planning application. In the letter NG noted that the Community Council, along with other individuals, made representation against the application, which was recommended for refusal by the local Planning Officer. The applicant then asked for a review, which was heard on 16th November, and the application was then disappointingly passed by the review body. The letter details a number of policies which the Planning Officer rejected the application under, NG provides more information with regards to the CC thoughts on these policies. The letter also asks that the application be referred to Scottish Ministers. All members thank NG and look forward to a response from the HC/Scottish Ministers.

Action: NG to send the letter to MSP Katie Forbes.