

**MINUTES OF THE DINGWALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN DINGWALL ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**MARCH 2017**

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

**APOLOGIES:** Murray MacKay, Cllr. A. MacKinnon., Cllr. A. Maclean, Cllr. G. Mackenzie, Sergeant Matt Ravenhill.

**1.1 POLICE REPORT:**

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

7 persons charged with speeding	1 Assaults
2 persons charged with not wearing seatbelts	5 noise calls.
2 person charged using mobile phone whilst driving.	10 Anti-social behaviour/ disorder calls
1 persons charged with Drink Driving.	0 Vandalism.
4 person charged with no insurance	1 Thefts.
0 person charged with careless driving	2 Theft by shoplifting.
5 persons charged with other road traffic offences.	3 Drug offences.
2 Missing persons	0 Offensive weapon
0 bail offence detected	1 Sexual offences.
33 advise/assistance calls	3 Mental health/ vulnerable person incidents.
	6 Domestic incidents

During the month there were 579 incidents logged in the Dingwall area command of which 159 were for the Dingwall Community Council beat.

Mitchell Hill Cemetery - A number of additional patrols of the area have been carried out over the month at various times of day, but no offences being detected. It appears the removal of the shed has removed the problems at present.

Abandoned car outside The National Hotel - This car has now been removed.

Burn Place Parking - Householders have been visited and advice passed. This will continue to be monitored and appropriate action taken.

Lochgorm/Lexo Car Wash Facility - Official planning process underway. Patrols continue to monitor obstructing the pavement etc.

**1.2** It was noted by members that they hope to see Police representation at the next meeting.

**1.3** Safer Routes to School - Cllr. Paterson noted that this was ongoing. Without the attendance of the Police nothing further could be discussed but GM did note that this item was left with local councillors and the Police after a meeting several months ago, which he attended. Has there been any progress or movement since then?

**Action:** ST to contact Cllr. MacKinnon.

## 2. MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING OF 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017

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2.1 To add 'recycle' to item 8.6 regarding the bins outside the Royal Hotel.

2.2 The minutes were then accepted on a motion proposed by AH and seconded by MF.

## 3. CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS:

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

3.2 Two S3 Youth Forum pupils from Dingwall Academy attended tonight with Lindsay McGarry (Dingwall Youth Development) - Lily Fraser and Catherine MacKay. The pupils spoke about Fusion, Rock Challenge and other extracurricular activities on offer in the local community. All members expressed their thanks to the girls who were great ambassadors for young people, members invited the girls attend future meetings.

**Action:** ST to add Lindsay McGarry to the CC mailing list.

## 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

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### 4.1 New CC notice board/replacement of screens

Update - GM reported that Cairngorm Windows turned down the job/giving an estimate for replacement noticeboard screens. He has received a quote from Inverness signs of £38 per door. All agreed this was much more reasonable and agreed that GM should go ahead and organise.

Ongoing - Southside carpark - NG to collect tile from the school and give to DL/joiner.

Ongoing - E-mail has been received from the Bank of Scotland questioning whether or not planning permission is needed before the notice board is erected in the garden area.

**Action:** GM to organise with the Sign Centre.

GM/MM to check with Planning Department re' Bank of Scotland garden noticeboard.

NG to collect tile and liaise with DL.

### 4.2 Hector MacDonald monument

Ongoing - recap of last month's e-mail from Hugh Gardiner and Highland Council unwillingness to have the monument open to the public. All discussed the supportive Ross-shire Journal coverage of this item in February and the support of members of the public, including an e-mail from Dr Jim MacPherson from the University of Highlands and Islands offering his support. MF also read a letter to the editor of the RJ in support of this item. ST informed members that Hugh Gardiner had got back in touch, as a result of an action from last month, to note that the inspection he carried out was purely visual from outside the tower. All agreed that with JS and NG professional background it would be useful if they carried out a health and safety assessment on the tower. Cllr. Paterson noted that a Council Officer would need to be present as people are not allowed to go off with the key. Members had a brief discussion about funding available through the common good fund, possible target group made up of volunteers would be needed if this was to be taken further. All agreed to stall on this and the involvement of the Fire Brigade/Mountain Rescue for the time being until NG and JS meet.

Noted that the commemoration service went very well - thanks to DL for his role on the day and to other CC member for attending.

**Action:** JS and NG to carry out survey.

#### **4.3 Paradise woods**

Update - ST met with Easter Ross Ranger, Marcia Rae on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February at Paradise Woods to discuss general tidy up of the area once the contractor work is done. ST reported that it was a useful meeting and she has since posted an update on the CC Facebook page with photos and asking for volunteers to come forward when a tidy up is organised. Five people have come forward and it was discussed that the Guides may be able to help here also. Members also raised concerns over phase 2 of the works which was due to be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> April and haven't started yet.

**Action:** ST to e-mail Nick Richards re' phase 2 of the works and keep CC members in the loop with regards to an organised tidy up.

#### **4.4 Ferry point seating**

Update - The CC have been awarded £2000 from the Ward Participatory Budget Event to go towards the cost of the new seas/picnic benches. AF noted he has been in touch with Di Agnew (Ward Manager) to look into other sources of funding. He is awaiting another quote for installation before moving forwards. All expressed their thanks to AF for his presentation last Saturday.

#### **4.5 Crowd funding**

Update - GM discussed that he has put together a crowd funding page for Christmas lights but he is concerned that it is not the most suitable way to raise money for the lights, further discussions are needed. All agreed that if the CC could get a slot in the green tokens funding appeal that is used in Tesco this would be ideal.

**Action:** GM to contact Community Officer through Tesco's and see about a more appropriate 'just giving' or Facebook appeal for donations towards new lights/light repairs etc.

#### **4.6 Poor state of Dingwall Academy grounds**

Ongoing - there continues to be trees within the school grounds that are not thriving and there are several other areas needing attention. Member of public to give list to NG to allow him to highlight specific concerns with the school/Mears.

**Action:** NG to contact Mears before April meeting.

#### **4.7 Grey box at flower bed**

Update - NG communicated vote of last month to Colin Howell via e-mail. NG received a reply in which CH expressed his thanks to the CC. There was a suggestion tonight to 'wrap' the grey box with a print of the dry stone wall, there are a few companies in Inverness that offer this service. Two Academy pupils to speak to Art PT to see if the departments have any ideas on how to improve the appearance of the box now that it is staying.

**Action:** GM to speak to the Sign Centre about this when in contact regarding notice board screens.

#### **4.8 Signage around the town**

Ongoing - no update from Cllr. Mackenzie with regards to who deals with new and/or improved signage in the town.

#### **4.9 Royal Hotel bus stop and bins**

Cllr. Paterson reported that the reason for the removal of the recycle bins is that people were putting all sorts of rubbish in them. They have been relocated to the ferry point. All members were a bit surprised at this as it will not solve the problem and would have preferred if they were consulted especially as work is currently being undertaken to improve the area.

**Action:** ST to contact Katrina Taylor (Street Cleaning Department) regarding this and seek clarification.

## 5. TREASURER'S REPORT:

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### 5.1 General Account

The general account balance is currently standing at £2477.98.

### 5.2 Christmas Lights Account

The lights account balance is standing at £1874.13.

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE:

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### 6.1 Email - e-mail regarding Hector MacDonald monument

See above item 4.2

### 6.2 Facebook query - fly tipping in Craiq Wood

ST has passed on concerns to the Police. ST noted that she walked to the area highlighted via Facebook but could not see an evidence of the fly tipping.

### 6.3 Email - The Peffery Way

Miles from the Peffery Way group attended the meeting to thank the Community Council in person for the support they have given. He explained that the route is making progress and the final stage of planning permission has been granted.

### 6.4 E-mail - green light at Bayne Drive

GM noted that he had received an e-mail regarding the traffic lights at the entrance to Bayne Drive at the fact that the green light is on all night and disturbing the local residents.

**Action:** Cllr. Paterson is to pursue this item and to see if the lights can be switched to part time when the school is not in.

## 7. DINGWALL ACADEMY PUPIL REPRESENTATIVES

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No pupils present.

## 8. A.O.C.B.

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### 8.1 Dingwall Volunteers

DL noted that there has been positive press coverage and the group now has 11 volunteers and 7 active members. There is ongoing work at the park and two sessions have been undertaken at the Ferry Point. DL also reported that £1000 had been awarded to the group as part of the Ward Participatory budget event. This money is to go towards the cost of replanting, equipment, waste disposal etc. Summer will be key time for the volunteer group.

### 8.2 Right of Way at Castlebank House/Church

It was noted that the right of way here has been padlocked so people now must walk around the High Street and can no longer take the shortcut through the carpark/waste ground. Cllr. Paterson explained that Phil Waite is looking into this already.

### 8.3 Right of Way at Dingwall Academy

FL asked that this issue is put on the agenda for next month's meeting.

#### **8.4 Paving at the top of Hill Street**

A member of the public raised concerns about the broken paving stones on the steps/uneven pavements that are used from Hill Street/Southside carpark to cross the road and follow the signs up to the Hector MacDonald monument.

**Action:** NG to contact Iain Moncrieff

#### **8.5 Dingwall Gala Committee Meeting**

All invited to the above meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March in the Croft Restaurant.

### **9. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

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The next meeting will be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 19.00 in Room 11, Dingwall Academy.

### **10. PLANNING / LICENSING**

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#### **10.1 Licence variation application – Mallard Bar**

Members continued to discuss this item and the request that the Mallard remains open until 3am on Friday and Saturday evening. Members have discussed their views via e-mail and as a result of this MF has taken this item on board and submitted objections (on 9<sup>th</sup> March) with regards to the application on the following grounds; No' 3 on form - securing public safety, overspill onto the railway platform, noise pollution for the neighbouring residential area and noise of public leaving the premises and surrounding area in the early hours of the morning. MF noted that she received a reply from David Inglis stating that the license would be reviewed at a meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March.

#### **10.2 Unauthorised car wash facilities**

##### Central garage site

All discussed the issue of water running into Lidl's carpark and questioned where or not there was sufficient drainage for the facility. It was noted that there were also concerns with how the business would cope with a busy period and queuing cars. The application stated that two cars would be kept in 12 square metres which is inaccurate.

**Action:** NG to query some of the information on the application with planning.

##### Site next to Lochgorm Furniture

All discussed that the site continued to operate despite an enforcement notice being served. There has been no trading since Saturday. NG noted a few observations that he detailed in an e-mail to members including the unsuitability of the site, a loud generator that was required to operate the carwash, no facilities for staff, terrible state of the site, no description of the materials that will be used to build/improve the site. All members agreed with the list of the objections.

**Action:** NG to lodge objections on behalf of the CC.

The meeting closed at 21.25.