

MINUTES OF THE DINGWALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN DINGWALL ON MONDAY 10th APRIL 2017

PRESENT: Nigel Greenwood (Chairman) (NG), George Murray (Co-Secretary) (GM), Andrew Foley (Treasurer) (AF), Fred Lees (FL), Peter Jamieson (PJ), Mary Foley (MF), Brian Simpson (BS), Jack Shepherd (JS), Andrew Henderson (AH), Murray Mackay (MM)
Cllr. M. Paterson.

APOLOGIES: Sara-Lynn Thain, David Lockett, Sgt Matt Ravenhill, Lily Fraser, Catherine Mackay

1.1 POLICE REPORT:

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

15 persons charged with speeding	7 Assaults
3 persons charged with not wearing seatbelts	5 noise calls.
4 person charged using mobile phone whilst driving.	15 Anti-social behaviour/ disorder calls
2 persons charged with Drink Driving.	4 Vandalism.
7 person charged with no insurance	4 Thefts.
0 person charged with careless driving	2 Theft by shoplifting.
10 persons charged with other road traffic offences.	6 Drug offences.
5 Missing persons	0 Offensive weapon
0 bail offence detected	1 Sexual offences.
27 advise/assistance calls	9 Mental health/ vulnerable person incidents.
6 medical matters	3 Domestic incidents
1 house fire	1 Sudden death
	1 water incident
	1 Fraud

During the month of March there were 673 incidents logged in the Wester Ross/Black Isle/Dingwall area command of which 204 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.

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.

Members asked how many of the "other road traffic offences" were caused by parking on double yellow lines. The question was also asked about how many times Dingwall had been visited by Traffic Wardens. GM to email Di Agnew for information.

It was noted the Police are continuing to monitor the parking on the pavement opposite the Police Station.

AF mentioned that some of the information on the road sign at the entry to the High Street had been painted out. Cllr Paterson confirmed that Ian Moncrieff is the person responsible for such matters in the HC.

Action: AF to contact Ian Moncrieff to determine what the plans are for access to the High St.

2. MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING OF 13TH MARCH 2017

2.1 With regard to Matter Arising 4.9, Cllr. Paterson commented that the bins had not been removed because of people putting all sorts of rubbish in them but because of cables being laid for the new electronic bus sign.

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

3. CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS:

3.1 The AGM would be held on Monday 8th May followed by a normal monthly meeting. AF confirmed that the accounts had been forwarded to Moats for checking.

Questions were asked about the insurance and it was confirmed that Dingwall In Bloom would be covered. Public liability insurance is required for Christmas events, Christmas Lights, and the use of the stage

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

4.1 New CC notice board/replacement of screens

Update - FL had tried to clean the screens with no success and it was decided that GM should go ahead and get the new screens installed

Ongoing - NG has collected one tile and has passed on to the joiner who now says he needs all of the tiles. The joiner was to have collected the tiles from the school before the Easter holidays.

Ongoing - It was decided to go ahead with the erection of the notice board outside the Bank of Scotland so it would be ready for the summer. However, BoS has asked whether or not Planning Permission is required. We need to check with Planning Dept.

Action: GM to organise with the Sign Centre.

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

4.2 Hector MacDonald monument

Update - NG and JS had not yet been to see the Monument but plan to do so asap. They will provide a written report together with photographs.

Action: NG and JS to carry out survey and produce a report.

Cait Gillespie also said that it was the intention to get the NC500 tourists to stop off at the Monument as part of the heritage of Dingwall.

4.3 Paradise woods

Cllr. Paterson mentioned that a Silver Fern was to be saved by just cutting off the dead top of the tree.

SL had sent an email concerning 3 trees being cut down at 5.40 pm. Cllr. Paterson confirmed that this would not have been HC employees.

Action: SL to arrange a progress meeting with Nick Richards and Marcia Rae on her return.

4.4 Ferry point seating

Update- AF confirmed that he had contacted 4 contractors but only one had put in a quote, the others saying that they were too busy to take on the job. Di Agnew had confirmed that AF had made the effort to get more than just one quote.

FL raised the question that maybe the concreting could be carried out by Dingwall Men's Shed but there was a concern that they would be undercutting a local business. It was agreed that DMS should submit a quotation for the work.

Action: AF to progress

4.5 Crowd funding

Ongoing - MM provided some brief details.

Action: GM to contact Tom Norton (Community Officer) at Tesco to try to get a slot in the "green" tokens appeal 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: Member of public to give list to NG to allow him to highlight specific concerns with the school/Mears and to get a firm commitment from them to undertake the required tree planting.

Action: NG to contact Mears.

4.7 Grey box at flower bed

Update - Quote from Acorn of £110 + VAT for a wrap for the box. Since the meeting, GM has received a few photographic suggestions with wall and Dingwall Coat of Arms and awaits response from CC members. Contact with Academy not now required.

Action: GM to organise.

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.

Update: Still no update from Cllr Mackenzie.

4.9 Royal Hotel bus stop and bins

Comments were made again with regard to the relocation of the bus stop, Wardens Lane and the South Car Park

Action: NG to chase up and contact David Summers regarding another walk around the town to investigate possible sites.

4.10 Right of Way at Dingwall Academy

Report from Robert Gordon University (Law Clinic) not forthcoming so far, but expected soon. If the route is shown to be a right of way, it will be down to the HC ensure it is opened and maintained.

Action: FL to await report then follow up.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT:

5.1 General Account

The general account balance is currently standing at £4303.99 including the grant of £2,000 from Dingwall and Seaforth Participatory Budget for the work at Ferry Point.

5.2 Christmas Lights Account

The lights account balance remains at £1874.13.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

6.1 Community Council Generator

NG had been contacted by Brian Wojtunik of The Rotary Club of Dingwall regarding the broken generator.

Action: MM to speak with Brain WojtuniK and inspect the generator to see if it can be repaired.

6.2 E-mail - green light near Bayne Drive

Update: Cllr Patterson reported that HC stated that they could not make these lights part-time but that maybe there could be some adjustments to the heads.

DCC wanted to know why these lights, which were only installed to make crossing easier for the schoolchildren, could not be turned off when not required.

Action: Cllr. Paterson to respond to HC that DCC is not happy with this response.

7. DINGWALL ACADEMY PUPIL REPRESENTATIVES

No pupils present. Hopefully they would be represented at the next meeting

8. A.O.C.B.

8.1 Dingwall Volunteers

A representative from the Volunteers was present and reported that one or two new volunteers had been turning up and that the advertising for more people would continue. The Seaforth Highlanders had been in touch about tidying the Garden at the Cambrai Cross, where the cross piece has become detached. Cllr Patterson suggested the garden at Castle Wynd as another area where the volunteers could do some work.

Action: JS to email DL

8.2 Cait Gillespie from the Glen Wyvis Distillery was present and wanted help and advice on how to improve the signage for tourists doing the HC500 route so that they could be directed into Dingwall. Dingwall is officially on the HC500 route and those who are using the "passport" system (though not all do), need to have their passport stamped to show they have completed the route. The signs to Dingwall are inadequate with the majority of drivers, when coming from the North, take the route over the Cromarty Bridge towards Inverness, bypassing Dingwall completely. The Distillery is setting up a 'Base Camp' within the Victoria Restaurant in the High Street, ahead of establishing its own visitor centre at some stage in the future. It was suggested that the Ross-shire Journal building (soon to become vacant) might be an appropriate location for the Distillery Visitor Centre.

8.3 There was discussion about the introduction of the new £30 charge (per bin) for brown bin emptying which comes into force on 1st July. The charge will be particularly hard on those having more than one brown bin. There was also some discussion regarding new opening times for the Recycling Centre on the Strathpeffer

Road. It seems that while the overall opening hours will not be affected, they will be spread across fewer days, so that the Centre will be shut for two days per week.

8.4 In response to a question, NG stated that the next phase of the Kinnairde Link Road should start in the FY 2018/19, once the flood relief work is completed in the current FY.

8.5 Dingwall Gala Committee Meeting

All invited to the meeting which will be held on Monday April 24th at 7.30pm at the Croft Restaurant.

9. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting, preceded by the AGM, will be held on Monday 8th May 2017 at 19.00 in Room 11, Dingwall Academy.

10. PLANNING / LICENSING

10.1 Licence variation application – Mallard Bar

Update: MF and AF attended the Licensing Board on Tuesday 28th March.

The application was granted subject to mandatory conditions and to the local and special conditions applied.

It was suggested that the local residents should be contacted to say that if they have any concerns in the future, to contact the DCC.

10.2 Unauthorised car wash facilities

Central garage site

Ongoing:

Site next to Lochgorm Furniture

Update: Still ongoing. NG had commented to the Planning Dept on behalf of DCC. A member of the public has written to HC with regard to H & S issues and to bring in SEPA.

Action: DCC to continue to monitor progress

The meeting closed at 20.50