

MINUTES OF THE DINGWALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN DINGWALL ON MONDAY 8th MAY 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), Brian Simpson (BS), Jack Shepherd (JS), Andrew Henderson (AH), Murray Mackay (MM), David Lockett, (DL), Cllr. G. Mackenzie

APOLOGIES: P. Jamieson, Cllr. A. Mackinnon

1.1 POLICE REPORT:

Sgt Matt Ravenhill attended tonight and read the Police Report for the month before answering questions.

- 13 persons charged with speeding
- 1 persons charged with not wearing seatbelts
- 1 person charged using mobile phone whilst driving.
- 0 persons charged with Drink Driving.
- 1 person charged with no insurance
- 1 person charged with careless driving
- 6 persons charged with other road traffic offences.
- 6 Assaults
- 5 noise calls.
- 15 Anti-social behaviour/ disorder calls
- 9 Vandalism.
- 4 Thefts.
- 2 Theft by shoplifting.
- 6 Drug offences.
- 1 Offensive weapon
- 5 Threatening and abusive behaviour

During the month of March there were 670 incidents logged in the Wester Ross/Black Isle/Dingwall area command of which 227 were for the Dingwall Community Council beat.

1.2 Members to speak to Cllr. MacKinnon and Cllr. G Mackenzie about 'safer routes to school' and see if there's any update for the Old Evanton Road area.

1.3 ST raised anti-social behaviour and littering of beer bottles and cans in a few areas around the town including the park, wooded area beside the Co-Op at Tulloch and Paradise Woods. The Police were asked to increase patrol where numbers allowed.

2. MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING OF 10TH APRIL 2017

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

3. CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS:

3.1 Lindsay McGarry had passed on the apologies of the two Youth Highland pupils who attended previously.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

4.1 New CC notice board/replacement of screens

Update - Replacement screens, since last month the screens for the notice board at Tesco have been replaced. Others are yet to be done.

Update - Southside car park, the joiner has collected the tiles now but needs instruction from the school to ensure he puts them up in the correct order. DL to confirm cost with joiner for this work once they have met this week.

Ongoing - Notice board at BoS, MM noted his difficulties with getting hold of someone at planning. Cllr. Mackenzie to take on board.

Action: Cllr. Mackenzie/MM to liaise with Planning Department re Bank of Scotland garden noticeboard.

4.2 Hector MacDonald monument

Update - NG has sent several e-mails to Hugh Gardiner but despite requesting a reply before tonight's meeting he had received nothing. NG is awaiting documents from HG but was previously under the impression that there were none as the survey completed by HC was visual. NG to arrange a meeting with HG so survey can be done by CC members whilst HG is in attendance. Cllr. Mackenzie to chase this item up and speak to HG.

Action: NG and JS to carry out survey and produce a report after liaising with HG.

4.3 Paradise woods

ST noted that a tidy up of the area and general litter pick down the 'back track' has been proposed with the Countryside Ranger, Marcia Rae (MR) and the Girl Guides on Saturday 1st July. ST to arrange with MR and liaise with DL for volunteer group to join in if they wish. ST also mentioned that after the site meet in April, Nick Richards (Forestry) suggested that Steven Liddle may be able to help with future funding for the area. This is yet to be followed up.

Action: ST to organise tidy up and confirm details next month.

4.4 Ferry point seating

Ongoing- DMS will not undertake the work of concreting the benches in place. AF to complete funding application for money from CGF.

Action: AF to progress.

4.5 Christmas lights / Crowd funding

Update - MM noted that he had returned all faulty lights, they have been sent to Fife and he has asked for a quote to bring lights up to date / for a refresh. The crowdfunding page has a target of £3000 set to raise funds for more lights. GM noted that he has completed the online application for the token appeal at Tesco's but we are on a waiting list. ST suggested that smaller lights are bought for the lamp posts, at approx' £150 per light, two could be bought for every one of the larger lights that we currently have. This would allow the town to have better coverage (comparison of Alness and streets in Inverness given) and cover both the south and west entrance to the town.

Action: MM to continue to look at options for Christmas lights.

4.6 Poor state of Dingwall Academy grounds

Update: NG e-mailed Mears on 28th April and noted that an inspection of the grounds was happening today with the Rector and Mears staff.

Action: NG to follow up after inspection.

4.7 Grey box at flower bed

Ongoing - no update

4.8 Signage around the town

Ongoing - apologies from Cllr Mackenzie. ST noted that 8 redundant grey poles have been removed from Tulloch Street.

4.9 Royal Hotel bus stop

The bus contract renewal date was request before thought could be given to moving the bus stop.

Action: Cllr. G. Mackenzie to get this information for next month.

4.10 Green light at Bayne Drive

GM is liaising with members of the public so they know this is in hand. No update from Cllr. Paterson.

4.11 High Street signage

Update from AF with regards to the signs being blacked out at the entrance to the High Street from the traffic lights. Lengthy discussion was had about the signs being confusing to drivers and the amount of cars driving down the pedestrianised area. It was suggested that cameras be used to monitor who is regularly driving down but this could be problematic as who would monitor the camera. Members to consider further.

4.12 Mallard Bar

The late license until 3am was granted to the Mallard Bar with conditions. ST to write to local residents and detail that if noise is excessive they should report it to the Police (101 number), the Licensing Board and/or the CC.

Action: ST to write to the house next to the Mallard and the houses opposite on Station Road.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT:

5.1 General Account

The general account balance is currently standing at £4289.99.

5.2 Christmas Lights Account

The lights account balance remains at £1874.13.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

None

7. DINGWALL ACADEMY PUPIL REPRESENTATIVES

None in attendance.

8. A.O.C.B.

8.1 Dingwall Volunteers

Update - DL noted that approx' 20 - 30 person hours are being completed each week. He hopes to have a planting programme ready this week. An excellent effort all round with ongoing work in a few areas including Craig Road garden and the park.

8.2 Pefferside Park

A member of the public asked that signs are improved to show that no dogs are allowed in the park. ST noted that several members of the public had messaged on Facebook to ask why park is closed. All agreed that ideally the CC would have known about the closure of the park beforehand so it could be put on social media to prevent people arriving at the park to find it closed. ST asked Cllr. G. Mackenzie if he could confirm what is actually being upgraded. Di Agnew (DA) has said a replacement of play equipment but it looks like rubber has been put in to replace the bark but no change in equipment (younger children's area). ST also noted that a member of the public had been in touch about the contract for the café at the park. All agreed it would be great to see this open again for summer. DA was to deal with this after election work.

8.3 Right of Way - Dingwall Academy

FL spoke with the purpose of making each CC member aware of the ongoing dispute concerning the right of way through the grounds of Dingwall Academy. Members were reminded that a claim was made in 2006 to Highland Council with regards to this. FL stated that as members of (DCC) we are required by the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors to act in accordance with the law and to ensure that the interests of the community are observed by Highland Council. FL asked to CC to take on this item and pursue the right of way case. A vote was had with the proposal to take this item no further, the majority agreed with no proposal for an alternative option.

9. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 12th June 2017 at 19.00 in Room 11, Dingwall Academy.

10. PLANNING / LICENSING

10.1 Car wash at Central Garage site

Update - this is now operating with relevant planning application.

Lexo car wash - no update or comment from planning and the facility is still closed. Cllr. Mackenzie to speak to Environmental Health with regards to the removal of rubbish lying at the site.

10.2 Licensing - application for variation of license at the Victoria, 4 High Street

Applicant wishes to increase on sale hours to commence at 1100 daily and add off sales with hours of Mondays - Sundays 1000hrs to 2200hrs on behalf of Glen Wyvis Distillery. All agree that there was no comment to make.