

MINUTES OF THE DINGWALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN DINGWALL ON MONDAY 12th JUNE 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), David Lockett, (DL), Cllr. G. Mackenzie, Cllr. A. MacKinnon, Cllr. A. MacLean, Cllr. M. Paterson

APOLOGIES:

1.1 POLICE REPORT:

Sgt Matt Ravenhill e-mail the report for the month which was read by ST. ST informed all that Sgt Matt Ravenhill was leaving his position at Dingwall Station and would no longer serve as the link Officer. All expressed their thanks to MR for his efforts and time over the past few years.

- 10 persons charged with speeding
- 2 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
- 10 Assaults
- 7 noise calls.
- 4 Vandalism.
- 5 Thefts.
- 2 Theft by shoplifting.
- 4 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 Cllr. G Mackenzie to look into 'safer routes to school' for the Old Evanton Road area.

1.3 Concerns were raised by a CC member about a convicted paedophile living in the town and wanted to raise concerns to Police.

1.4 Concerns were raised about traffic lighting / road signs / markings at the junction to the High Street. Concerns over no right turn onto the High Street were mentioned. Members discussed the possibility of no right turn marking to be painted on the road to assist drivers, especially visitors to the area.

2. MINUTES OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING OF 8TH MAY 2017

2.1 ST to correct AGM minutes to note that the balance was correct at the AGM with the £1000 in the account.

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

3. CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS:

3.1 None

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

4.1 New CC notice board/replacement of screens

Ongoing - Replacement screens to be put in place at the same time as the work to disguise the grey box at the flowerbed.

Update - Southside car park, the joiner has completed beading to board and the board is now with the school having tiles foxed to it. NG to visit school on Wednesday to see the work before it goes in place.

Ongoing - Notice board at BoS, GM noted that planning permission is required but would be at half the cost due to the application being a CC one. With the absence of Murray Mackay it was agreed that GM could do this item on and pursue the planning application.

Action: GM to complete planning application and report back next month.

NG to contact Ross-Shire Journal to see if they could cover the work on the board.

4.2 Hector MacDonald monument

Update - Cllr. Mackenzie chased this item up after discussion last month and has spoken to Hugh Gardiner. He reported that he had also spoken to Andy Summers, Head of Services. A copy of the initial survey completed by HC has now been received by NG.

Action: NG and JS to now go ahead and liaise to meet Hugh Gardiner at the town to complete survey.

4.3 Paradise woods

ST confirmed tidy up with Marcia Rae and Tina Dempster (Girl Guides) at 10am on Saturday 1st July - all welcome.

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

4.4 Ferry point seating

Ongoing- All discussed necessary funding for the benches and concrete plinths. AF noted that he was advised by the Ward Manager that a maximum of £5000 might be awarded to the project from the Common Good fund. With the estimate of £8000 for installation from contractors and £4000 purchase cost, there is a lot of money to find. Members discussed using CC funding to contribute to the project but all agreed even with this contribution that would be a significant shortfall. Members also question why, giving the current balance of the CGF, more money could not be given to such a much needed community facility. DL was given the go ahead to get a price for installation of benches.

Action: AF to progress and liaise with DL.

4.5 Christmas lights / Crowd funding

MM absent from meeting.

4.6 Poor state of Dingwall Academy grounds

Update: Meeting held on 8th May, NG received e-mail communication from Mears. One tree had been replaced and discussions held with Rector over evergreen trees at library as these continue to get damage. Feeding programme to begin in July to promote growth in school grounds.

Action: NG to follow up discussions with Rector.

4.7 Grey box at flower bed

Ongoing - Inverness Sign Company completing the work was chased up this am by GM.

4.8 Signage around the town

Cllr. Mackenzie spoken to Iain Moncrieff about improving signage. It was agreed to come back to this item and arrange a meeting during school holidays so ST could attend. MoP present will also attend.

4.9 Royal Hotel bus stop

Ongoing - GM spoken with Stagecoach and Cllr. Mackenzie is assisting. Suggestion of roundabout given by a member of the public if the main bus stop was to be relocated to the Southside carpark. Bus stop would remain at Royal Hotel but it would hopefully prevent buses parking in 2s and 3s. Cllr. Paterson noted that Councillors had a meeting with Hill Street resident regards the impact that the buses are having on property. Cllr. MacKinnon noted that a report will follow in a few weeks and the CC would be kept informed.

4.10 Green light at Bayne Drive

A dimmer is to be put on the light - Shane Manning is completing this item. Cllr. Paterson informed the CC that the HC said the light could not be turned off or put to part time. Cllr. Paterson to inform MoP, GM to forward name on.

4.11 Pefferside Park

ST discussed e-mail from Katrina Taylor and all discussed problem of current bins in the park, especially the wee ones park. All agreed that if two wheelie bins could be put in the park beside the lay areas, one at each, it would offer a solution. Members discussed the problem of algae in the pond and how terrible this looked. All discussed the point that there may be not solution as there used to be running water into the pond which prevented build up but now due to SEPA policy this has stopped. All agreed that unless a solution could be found the pond should be emptied and used for something else.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT:

5.1 General Account

The general account balance is currently standing at £4039.99.

5.2 Christmas Lights Account

The lights account balance remains at £1874.13.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Several items of correspondence were discussed including the following;

6.1 Dingwall Word on the Street

All agreed to give £150 donation to this great event and look forward to it running again.

6.2 Scots Way

All agreed to pay the £15 annual subscription.

6.3 Dingwall Bowling Club

NG noted the letter sent from the club asking for a donation. All agreed a donation of £100 to be given. It was also discussed that the club would be encourage to use the CC Facebook and website for publicity.

7. DINGWALL ACADEMY PUPIL REPRESENTATIVES

None present

None in attendance.

8. A.O.C.B.

8.1 Dingwall Gala

Representation from the Gala committee was made and a request of a donation to support the events. It was proposed that £500 donation be made, this was accepted.

8.2 Dingwall Volunteers

Statement provided by DL noting work ongoing in certain areas including Pefferside Park, Craig Road level crossing and Ferry Point. This area has been partially mulched with bark kindly donated by Munro's Sawmill.

8.3 Brown bin charges

It was noted by a CC member that despite a 3% increase in Council Tax charges, there was now a £30 fee to continue to make use of the brown bin service.

8.4 Grass Cutting

All agreed that the quality of grass cutting done throughout the town was a disgrace. This item had received a lot of feedback from the public via the Facebook page. Cllr. MacKinnon noted that a meeting had been held and the department have 3 weeks to correct the works.

8.5 Dingwall Players

AH noted that the group have expressed an interest in the creation of a town hub at the site of the Picture House. However, the price of £260,000 is expensive. It would be brought up with the Developing Dingwall Group.

8.6 Shop appearance

A MoP asked if shops on the High Street could be contacted to do a general tidy up in preparation for the Gala. Members discussed that a letter had been sent last year from the CC and hand delivered to all premises by GM and ST. The main positives were the removal of wheelie bins from the front of the Job Centre.

Action: ST to forward on copy of the letter to MoP.

9. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 10th July 2017 at 19.00 in Room 11, Dingwall Academy. Apologies were received from Cllr. MacKinnon for next month.

10. PLANNING / LICENSING

10.1 Lexo car wash, Lochgorm site

Planning application has been submitted again - NG to e-mail planning to reinforce comments made on behalf of the CC previously.