Minutes

Dingwall Community Council

12th November 2018

# In Attendance

Jack Shepherd (Chairman) (JS), Fred Lees (FL), Nigel Greenwood (NG), George Murray (GM), Brian Simpson (BS); Agnes Simpson (AS), Andy Foley (AF), Mary Foley (MF), David Lockett (DL) Cllr M Paterson, Cllr A Mackinnon, Cllr G Mackenzie, PC James MacIver, Scott MacLennan (SPP) and several members of the public (MoP).

# Apologies

A Henderson, Cllr. A. MacLean. Murray Mackay, Sgt Alasdair Goskirk.

# 1. Police Report

As Alasdair Goskirk was not available to attend the meeting Police Constable James MacIver attended in his place.

The following are the crimes, offences and antisocial behaviour and other incidences of note dealt with between 4th October and 9th November, 2018.

165 calls were logged for this area during the last month: 33 calls classified as advice/false calls; 16 calls relating to your disorder/ egg throwing; 12 Social care assistance calls; 14 calls relating to social media/telecom issues; 7 missing person reports and 24 road traffic matters.

There have been 27 fixed penalty notices issued over this period which relates to efforts being made to tackle the issues of vehicles using the pedestrian precinct. This is being emphasises with the introduction of Operation CEDAR.

There are ongoing discussions being held relating to your disorder/antisocial behaviour which has improved in Dingwall with the help of Tesco, but has increased in the neighbouring villages.

Also discussed was the problem of cyclists not having lights and wearing dark clothes so hard to see in the winter which could lead to accidents and also the fact that they are cycling against the flow of traffic on the High Street, but members were advised that this was not against the law.

The constable also took note of the concerns regarding a car parked on Mill Street next to the railway crossing which was causing problems with the flow of traffic.

Cllr Paterson also asked the constable to pass on thanks at the Police Station for the loan of a piper on Armistice day.

Key Messages - Operation CEDAR introduced and will focus on reducing road deaths and casualties as well as influencing driver behaviour. Education will be a key element of the operation and will replicate the efforts of Police, Fire Service, NHS and Local Authority throughout other areas in the North.

Any concerns, incidents or sightings should be reported to Police Scotland using the 101 non-emergency phone number.

Any information (drugs) can also be reported anonymously using Crimestoppers on – 0800-555-111

# Approval of Minute

* 1. The minutes of Community Council Meeting of 10th October 2018 were accepted by DL and seconded by BS.

# 3. Constitutional Matters

None this month

# 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

* 1. **Hector MacDonald Monument**

Still nothing going forward with this after two years which is frustrating. A survey has been requested but still unable to do this. CC are not in a position to consider an asset transfer of the monument. All stated concern at the lack of movement and the consensus is that HC are stalling. As far as crowdfunding GM feels that it should not be the CC paying for surveys. Also HC have said that they had no public liability for the safety of members of the public as not an issue as CC have this in place. NG to request a breakdown of specific points that the HC disagree with in our report, this will hopefully allow us to make some progress. It was also suggested that a meeting should be set up with Wm Gilfillan and the local councilors to discuss the issue further as there appears to be a stalemate. Cllr Paterson has approached the HC CE regarding this.

* 1. **Canal Foot Bridge**

No progress so far but it is felt that the Inverness and Region fund should be distributed around the area and not only used in Inverness.

* 1. **Car Parking**

The charging for parking will be discussed at the next area meeting and any charges will not be until the start of the next financial year. The charges appear to be a false economy as if parking charges are introduced many members of the public in outlying areas will cease to come to the town and shops on the High Street will close thus reducing the income from business rates. Cllr Paterson has discussed this with HC CE and will keep on top of this.

**4.4 Canal Path Mess**

Most of the work has been completed but there are still two areas needing work done. It was also noted that there were several areas covered in Japanese Knotwood. This was removed a few years ago but has come back. Treatment is needed as this can lead to all sorts of problems regarding infrastructure of nearby properties.

**4.5 Dead Trees**

There is still a problem with dead trees around the town with some falling over. The trees at Craig Road to be sorted shortly especially the ones near houses. The work to sort out the tree problems will be begin shortly starting at the Back Road. Cllr Mackenzie is working on this at the moment.

# 5. Treasurer Report

* 1. **General Account**

Main account: The balance on 12th November is £2743.17 which includes a donation of £200 from Beyond Events for stage hire at Ullapool Festival and a payment of £22.08 for materials to fix sign at Ferry Point.

DCC Christmas Lights Account has a balance of £2090.75 after donations from local businesses and from collection boxes throughout the town. The total is after the payment to the Reindeer Centre, Aviemore for Lights Switch-on Event.

# 6. Correspondence

**6.1 Meeting**

JS went to a CC forum and felt that this was useful and such meetings are a good idea and should be attended whenever they came up.

He also asked if anyone could attend a CC Workshop on 24th November but had no response so he said if possible he would attend.

# 7 A.O.C.B

* 1. **Christmas Lights Committee**

The committee are doing really well with the fundraising with special thanks to GM and MM for all their help with the collection boxes.

At their recent meeting GM, MM and two MoP managed to get a loan of lights as a lot of the older ones were beyond repair. They have also been able to get an HC worker to erect the lights in his own time. They are also looking for more help and are holding another meeting on Wednesday.

* 1. **Armistice Day.**

It was noted that the Armistice Day went really well, and that the lighting of the Clocktower added to this and it is hoped that it will also be lit up for the Christmas Lights switch on.

* 1. **Roads**

FL brought to attention the state of the road on Tulloch Street from the Lidl road end and the turn-off to Mart Road was in a terrible state with potholes and uneven surfaces. The road needs to be resurfaced but it appears to be a problem finding out who is liable for this. HC are always promising to get this done but never get anything done about it. Ian Moncrieff from HC is aware of this problem.

**7.4 Christmas Tree**

The BBC have visited the Nigg Apprentice Academy regarding the Christmas Tree which they are manufacturing for Dingwall and are also visiting the site where the tree will be erected to enable them to do a story about it.

* 1. **Noticeboard**

It was decided that when the Minutes are posted on this that it will state that they can also be read at the local library.

* 1. **Mineral Bridge**

Munro Gow brought to attention that the wall near the Mineral Bridge was in a bad state with a hole and that if there is any movement in the trees above it could lead to a landslide. Cllr Paterson has already spoken to Ian Moncrieff regarding this but will do so again.

# 8. Date and Venue of next meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, 10th December in Room 11, Dingwall Academy at 7pm.

# 9. Planning and Licensing.

**9.1 Cruickshank Court**

Still nothing being done about the state of the area. AF and MF met with the new caretaker and he informed that quotes have been requested regarding this, but they are not hopeful of anything being carried out. When planning permission was given regarding this area is was in provision of certain condition which have never been carried out. AF is going to look into this with the appropriate authorities.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

**THESE MINUTES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE LOCAL LIBRARY.**