**Minutes**

Dingwall Community Council

*8th April 2019*

In Attendance

George Murray (GM), Brian Simpson (BS); Agnes Simpson (AS), Andy Foley (AF), Mary Foley (MF), David Lockett (DL), Nigel Greenwood (NG), Jack Shepherd (JS), Murray Mackay (MM), Fred Lees (FL), Alasdair Goskirk (AG), Donna Manson Chief Executive, Highland Council, Cllr A Mackinnon, Cllr M Paterson, Cllr A MacLean and several members of the public (MoP).

Apologies

A Henderson, Cllr G Mackenzie, Sara-Lyn Thain.

1. Donna Manson, Chief Executive Highland Council

Donna Manson attended the meeting and began with an update on Hector Macdonald Monument.

There was a meeting on 5th April with NG and William Gilfillan (WG) to go through the ins and outs of what would be required and it was stated that a full brief was required by Highland Council (HC) and that the CC would have to cover the cost but HC would contribute £2,000 towards this. The total cost could be circa £6,000 and it was said that perhaps the Common Good Fund or a Concessionary Grant.

A sub-committee could perhaps help towards moving things forward.

She said that once all was agreed that the HC insurer would be able to cover the insurance required.

HC are keen to bring this forward so a survey is required as soon as possible.

She also suggested that this could be brought up at the next Area Committee and the councillors in attendance agreed as it would help towards bringing this to fruition.

It was also said that insurance for the monument being covered by HC was a good thing as any excess would not have to be paid by the CC.

Donna Manson was thanked for setting up various meetings regarding the issue.

The Canal Bridge was then discussed. JS had a meeting with Stoddart Cranes and they said that it would be problem getting a 60 ton crane in as ground work would be required. The alternative was the use of a 250 ton crane but this would be costly.

After examination it was agreed that the abutments were in a good condition with only slight adjustments needed. If support under the bridge, possibly using a pontoon, could be in place the costs would be cut and funding would need to be sorted before this could go ahead.

Getting the bridge out by crane would make the repairs easier but would entail hiring the cane twice.

Donna said that Crowdfunding could possibly help towards the costs and that she would discuss this at a meeting with the Funding Committee and that HC will perhaps be able to get this off the ground. If footfall and use etc could be produced this will help towards this.

GM said that Crowdfunding did not work when it was tried for the Christmas Lights cost.

Cllr Paterson then said that a sign was needed to state that bridge should not be used. Also needed was a sign to say that the railway bridge over the canal should not be used.

GM said that a Rights of Way group had helped a town down south to repair their bridge. It was also mentioned that Scotways had given help in Tain for paths in their area. JS is to look into this. Also needed was to see if canal paths were Common Good Land.

Donna said that HC will help out and that WG and herself will attend CC meeting.

Regarding the Link Road and Flood Prevention Cllr Mackinnon said that an analysis was in the process regarding info and flood banks etc.

DL asked if the developer for the houses behind Neil Gunn Place had contributed anything towards the cost of upgrading the roads as this had been part of the planning approval.

Cllr Paterson said that adjustments are to be made at the traffic lights at top of the High Street to help with traffic flow.

Cllr Mackinnon then spoke of the town rejuvenation fund and said that £10,000 was to be divided between different towns in the area and that Dingwall was included in these. He was not able to give a breakdown of this yet and when he had that information that the CC would have to let him know what it was to be spent on.

Consultation was required to make sure that everything that needed to be done was included.

2. Police Report

Alsadair Goskirk attended the meeting to give the monthly police report.

**Local Policing Priorities**

Antisocial Behaviour

Drug & Alcohol Abuse

Road Safety

**Points raised from previous meeting.**

Resource Levels

**Incident Summary**

Demand showing a marginal increase from last month.

Public Protection - Incidents range from individual vulnerability, mental wellbeing issues as well as Domestic Incidents, Child Protection enquires and other ongoing Sexual Crime investigations.

Antisocial Behaviour - Some isolated issues across Dingwall but specifically vandalisms reported to properties and vehicles and include Dingwall Primary School where a window was smashed. No one has been identified as being responsible.

Court Curfews have reduced to 5 nominals with one person being apprehended on warrant for failure to comply with the specific conditions.

Concerning to note has been the disorderly conduct of youth at Dingwall Academy towards the end of term and resulted in the Police being called a number of times.

Dishonesties - A shed in the grounds of a private house on Castle Street was broken into and tools stolen. Appeal to anyone with any information to contact Police.

Drug & Alcohol Abuse - Further seizures of packages containing suspected controlled and prescribed drugs from the Post Office Sorting Centre. In addition persons stopped and personal amounts of controlled drugs seized. This can have an impact on employment and disclosure aspects.

Road Safety - Reduction in the number of fixed penalty notices issued however offences detected are for speeding and unacceptable and dangerous vehicle conditions. Two offenders have been dealt with for the right turn prohibition to the High Street.

**Notable Incidents -** None.

**Key Messages**

\*Brexit preparations / policing implications

\*Police Scotland consultation https://consult.scotland.police.uk/consultation/2019shape

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

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of CC Meeting of 10th March 2019 were accepted by MM and seconded by NG.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

**4.1 Hector MacDonald Monument**

See Section 1 above.

**4.2 Canal Foot Bridge**

See Section 1 above.

**4.3** **Road Surfaces**

Still nothing done on Tulloch Street, and it was said it would possibly be done in this financial year. This should have been completed in November last year, so still ongoing.

**4.4 High Street Rejuvenation**

See item 1 above.

**4.5 Achany Road Junction**

Cllr Paterson said that the Ward Manager is holding a meeting with Ian Moncrief to discuss this.

**4.6 Christmas Lights**

New brackets will possibly be replaced very shortly and this will be monitored.

MM said that he was unable to go ahead with anything until this is completed and that things needed to get moving.

It was said that Alness had a good display last year but they had plenty of lampposts on their High Street which helps with hanging the lights. Dingwall with less lampposts need to have brackets on buildings in place.

As this is supposed to be completed in time for the Wade Walk GM asked JS to send an email to find out how this is going forward and April was the time stated for this to happen. MM needs to know where the brackets should be placed.

**4.8 Japanese Knotweed**

This still needs attention along the path from the end of Jubilee Park to the bridge at the ferry. Cllr MacLean has asked about this but HC not doing anything at the moment. Will monitor this.

**4.9 Feil Maree**

It was said that the new arrangements for the stall were good to go and MF asked if the CC wanted a stall for this and it was agreed that they do. This takes place on the first Saturday of September.

**4.10 Illuminated sign outside Barbers**

This was switched on at the weekend. A Retrospective Planning application was in the process but as this is a Conservation Area and it was said that it needed to be taken down.

**4.11 Craig Wood**

Trees have been taken down and more of these will be felled when the new gas lines are put in place and the problem of water at the bottom of Kinnairdie Brae will also be fixed at the same time. Path at St Catherines not complete but work is in progress and needs to be completed this week.

**4.12 Pefferside Park Rejuvination**

The park is looking good but still issues of water across paths which is causing damage to the surface. The work still needs to be signed off and some of the wooden sidings have not bedded in yet.

MF asked with the CC could do something towards this. GM said that Betty’s Baps was looking into some of the issues.

MF also said that the Bowling Club needed help with getting more members and it was said that Highlife Highland may be able to assist with this.

It was said that it has been 70 years since the park was gifted to the town by the Fire Brigade Club so things could be done in commemoration of this.

A skate board park has been asked for by youths and it was said the old dump would be a good place for this.

**7.10 Condition of Canal Banks**

FL said that dredging of the banks of the canal had been mentioned but this would cause problems with the old sewage pipes.

It was also said that HC and the Flood Prevention group are not concerned at the moment but will keep monitoring this.

5. Treasurer Report

**5.1 DCC Main Account**

Bank balance as reported at March Meeting £2710.17

Cheque to Zurich Municipal re Insurance Cover 2019-20 – 273.57

Cheque to George Murray/Octopus Online re Domain Hosting and Maintenance for DCC

website - £64.95

Financial Position as at 08/04/19 £2371.65

**5.2 DCC Christmas Lights Account**

Bank balance as reported at March Meeting £4434.57

Financial Position as at 08/04/19 4434.57

6 Correspondence

**6.1 NHS**

Letter received from NHS Highland regarding funding for help with funding for health issues.

7 AOCB

**7.1 Peffery Way**

A 1km section at the Dingwall end should be finished shortly by being linked with Knockbain Road with the next section a Fodderty to being in May.

A MoP said that the section around Mill Street will cause problems with noise etc. and also that she had not been consulted regarding this. She was informed that she should get in touch with the council by Cllr MacLean as objections were still being received.

**7.2 Rubbish behind Business Park**

Cllr Paterson said that a member of the public had been in touch with her regarding rubbing behind Business Park and that she would pass this on to HC.

8. Date and Venue of next meeting.

Next meeting will take place on Monday, 13th May in Room 11, Dingwall Academy at 7pm.

9. Planning and Licensing.

**9.1 Cruickshank Court**

AF will keep on monitoring this.

**9.2 Extension of Waverly Inn.**

A member of the public brought up the proposed extension of the Waverly Inn by the owners. This would cause issues with privacy to the surrounding properties with rooms overlooking gardens and houses.

He also said that the owner was proposing having another entrance to the hotel but this would cause problems with parking in the area as a new entrance would reduce the number on Castle Street. This is also in a conservation area. It was agreed that the CC would put in an objection to this.

**9.3 Demolition of house in Mill Street.**

A resident in an adjoining property was concerned that this would cause problems to her home as it was in lower ground.

She was informed by the councilors in attendance at the meeting that this would not go ahead until a Risk Assessment had taken place. She was also told that she should get in touch with the architect involved as he/she would have all the details regarding the demolition and that Health and Safety would also be involved.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

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