Minutes

Dingwall Community Council

10th December 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), Murray Mackay (MM), Cllr A Maclean, Cllr G Mackenzie, Sgt Alasdair Goskirk and several members of the public (MoP).

# Apologies

A Henderson, Sara-Lynn Thain, Cllr M Paterson, Cllr A Mackinnon.

# 1. Police Report

Alasdair Goskirk attended to give Police Update.

**Local Policing Priorities -** Antisocial Behaviour, Drug & Alcohol Abuse, Road Safety.

**Points raised from previous meeting -** Antisocial behaviour around Pefferside Park & Cyclists without lights.

**Incident Summary**

Calls and reports to Police from the area have been comparable with the same period last year. Demand is similar across the entire Policing area.

Public Protection:- 21 related concerns raised for individuals and mental wellbeing issues. These have included Domestic Incidents, Child Protection enquires and other ongoing Sexual Crime investigations A drop in reports of Missing Persons enquiries with 3 overall.

It was also stated that there was a rise in indecent pictures being sent by text and social media and that not only the sender but others may be affected by this. There is support available to the senders of these images and to those who receive them.

Antisocial Behaviour:- Incidents reported include vandalism at Tesco’s where the toilets have been damaged. Offenders have been identified. 5 disturbance incidents where in all cases the perpetrator was apprehended. Curfews currently on 7 nominals. To reiterate, these are court orders and essentially restrict the movement and liberty of the individual. Failure to abide by a curfew can lead to imprisonment. So far Police have reported 2 persons in the last week for breaching such conditions.

To help with this Tesco has removed the free wifi to hopefully stop people hanging around the store.

Limited public response in relation to the appeal posted across social media platforms over the vehicle marks at the Ferry Point.

Dishonesties:- Reporting period saw instances of theft by shoplifting from Tesco as well as those from private and industrial premises. A male was apprehended and charged in relation to the theft from the private dwelling.

Plea to everyone to ensure they keep their houses and outbuildings secure. The festive period offers opportunities to those who seek to benefit from those who leave doors unlocked and presents for loved ones unguarded.

Road Safety:- December has seen the start of the Festive Drink Drive Campaign. This is being supported locally and Officers are being assisted by colleagues from across the Division. In the first week, two drivers have been arrested and are expected to appear in court before Christmas.

The consequence of doing so extends far beyond the act itself. The risk of collision is greatly increased but the effects on an individual’s livelihood and impact on families cannot be understated.

18 penalty notices for a range of contraventions.

Cyclists:- He informed members that cycling against the flow of traffic is against the law but said that police had to prioritise what they do and that educating both cyclists and motorists is ongoing. Cyclists can be charged with careless and dangerous cycling.

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



The minutes of Community Council Meeting of 12th November 2018 were accepted by GM and seconded by AF.

# 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

* 1. **Hector MacDonald Monument**

Some members of the Community Council met with Ian Blackford (MP) and Cllr A Mackenzie met at the monument to discuss options regarding the opening of the tower to the public. It was noted that William Gilfillan did not attend. The CC is endeavouring to liaise with HC regarding this and hopefully a meeting can be arranged early next year.

NG asked if it was possible to find out what HC disagree with in the CC report and risk assessment as the CC has not heard anything regarding this and DL said that there was a standard format for dealing with issues like this.

**3.2 Canal Foot Bridge**

Borrobol Estate had been in touch with Di Agnew to say that they had a bridge for sale, but the pieces that JS had seen at the estate were unusable. They said that parts of the bridge were in Inverness and JS said he would have a look but from what he had seen already he did not hold high hopes regarding this.

He has still not heard any more about crane booms which may be an option.

It was also noted that the phone number on the sign at the bridge is incorrect. MF has been in touch regarding this and spent almost three hours being given several different numbers to call to no avail.

Cllr Mackenzie will address this.

**3.3 Car Parking**

There are no changes since the last meeting.

**3.4 Dead trees**

Removal of these has started. Cllr Mackenzie stated that there are countless trees around Ross-shire needing removing. He said if any trees were causing concern to get in touch with HC.

* 1. **Wall at Mineral Bridge**

This has not changed since last meeting but needs to be addressed as could cause a landslip. Di Agnew has advised one of the local supervisors to visit the site to have a look.

* 1. **Road Surfaces**

Cllr Mackenzie stated that repairs for the section of road on Tulloch Street is on the table and will be carried out in due course and he will let the CC know when this will take place.

* 1. **Toilets**

Work has started this week and is due to be completed by 21st of November. It was also asked if wheelchair access would be available when the new fittings are in place for payment for use. The lock on the disabled toilet at the side will be repaired to address this issue.

* 1. **Christmas tree from Nigg Academy**

This is now in place and looks good. Cllr Maclean said that she had shown pictures of the tree to other councillors and that there are several communities who would like to have one of their own.

Special thanks to GM and David Campbell for the transport and erection of the tree.

* 1. **Christmas lights**

The switch on of the lights was really well attended and everyone enjoyed the entertainment. Thanks for the success must go to all who helped to achieve this including members of the CC, Christmas Lights Committee, the Entertainers and the Town Hall staff.

MM was upset that the cabling was not checked beforehand as this had caused problems when erecting the lights. Cllr Paterson had been told that this would be done.

Cllr Mackenzie said that all 4 local councilors tried to get the cabling fixed and they are going to get in touch with HC to get a timetable for this to take place.

JS wants a professional examination to take place before next year’s lights are erected.

It was also noted that the lights need to be raised as the street level has risen since they were first erected in the 1980s due to the pedestrian area being resurfaced.

# 4. Treasurer Report

* 1. **General Account**

**Main account**: The balance on 10th December is £2710.17 which includes a payment to the British Legion for Remembrance Day Wreath.

**DCC Christmas Lights Account** This account has a balance of £2350.46 after donations from local businesses and from collection boxes throughout the town. The total is after the repayment to AF for Christmas Tree Stars and Procession Torches.

It was noted that £307.77 was collected at the Switch-on Event from the various collection boxes and buckets and thanks to all who supported this.

# 5. Correspondence

**5.1 High Ground Winter Project.**

Di Agnew sent an email regarding the work to be done over the winter**.**

**5.2 Early Bus**

A letter was received regarding the reinstatement of the early bus from Evanton. JS to get in touch with them to say that the CC will support them regarding this**.**

# 6 A.O.C.B

**6.1 Funding Opportunities**

JS checks this out each month to see if anything is available for this area.

**6.2 Station Finials**

Network Rail removed these and the CC do not know where they are as they need to be replaced as this is a listed building. Hopefully these are stored in Inverness.

Cllr Maclean is to get in touch with Frank Roach to find out if he knows where they are at the moment.

**6.3 Craig Road**

FL brought to the notice of the CC that unauthorized work was taking place behind a house in Craig Road which is causing damage to the core path around the town. It was also noted that building material was being illegally dumped in the woods alongside the house. A Stop Notice was in place.

Cllr Mackenzie is going to look into this.

**6.4 Sign on Craig Road**

It was noted that a sign erected by Network Rail regarding the new crossing had slipped during the recent winds and will need to be raised as dangerous at the moment.

**6.5 High Street**

MM asked the councilors to look into rejuvenating the High Street, with more features to encourage people to come into the centre of the town. He also thought it would be a good idea to have a variety of different outlets there.

It was also noted that more traffic management should be in place.

# 7. Date and Venue of next meeting.

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

# 8. Planning and Licensing.

**8.1 Cruickshank Court**

Nothing has gone forward regarding this. AF has emailed the Planning Department but has not yet received a reply.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO MEETING IN JANUARY.**

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