Minutes

Dingwall Community Council

11th February 2019

# In Attendance

George Murray (GM), Brian Simpson (BS); Agnes Simpson (AS), Andy Foley (AF), Mary Foley (MF), David Lockett (DL), Cllr A Maclean, Cllr G Mackenzie, Cllr M Paterson and several members of the public (MoP).

# Apologies

A Henderson, Sara-Lynn Thain, Cllr A Mackinnon, Nigel Greenwood, Jack Shepherd, Murray Mackay, Alsadair Goskirk.

# 1. Police Report

Alasdair Goskirk could not attend the meeting but emailed an update.

 **Dingwall Community Council – Police Update - February 2019**

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

**Points raised from previous meeting. -** Cyclists in and around the Town Centre

In**ncident Summary**

Demand across the period has increased markedly when compared to that the previous year.

Public Protection - 20 related concerns raised for individuals and mental wellbeing issues. As highlighted before, these include Domestic Incidents, Child Protection enquires and other ongoing Sexual Crime investigations.

Antisocial Behaviour - Reported incidents have seen a slight increase and in particular instances of vandalism to properties and vehicles around Deas Avenue and Chestnut Road. Court Curfews have reduced to 4 nominals. Reports have been submitted for breaches of these Iorders and court proceedings are awaited.

Despite the time of year it is still concerning to note that complaints are still being made about the disorderly conduct of youths who have been throwing objects at cars and being a general nuisance.

Dishonesties - Reporting period saw instances of theft by shoplifting from Tesco, Poundstretcher and the Original Factory Shop. Positive lines of enquiry are being followed.

Plea to those who are tempted to reply to emails and calls, where the offer to increase their return on investments appears attractive. Think carefully! If it appears too good to be true then it is. Individuals are still reporting the loss of personal savings.

Drug & Alcohol Abuse - Warrants have been executed recently in a number of houses in Dingwall. This has led to recovery of significant quantities of controlled drugs and persons taken into custody. Dingwall Officers have been supported in these by Officers from the Police Support Unit, Dog Section and Crime Teams. Throughout February there is a planned period of action under the banner Operation Ram, so further activity is anticipated.

Tackling the scourge caused by drugs is a priority for the Dingwall Policing Team and these successes cannot be achieved without the information provided by the public.

Road Safety - As reported in the media, results from the Festive Drink Drive Campaign saw a disappointing increase in those willing to take the risk and drive after consuming alcohol. Despite this offenders are still being reported with two arrested during this reporting period.

There has been a slight reduction in the number of fixed penalty notices issued for other traffic related contraventions, which may be attributable to the recent inclement weather conditions. 3 Offenders have been dealt with for the right turn prohibition to the High Street.

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 December 2018 were accepted by AF and seconded by DL.

# 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

* 1. **Hector MacDonald Monument**

This matter is still ongoing. NG has emailed HC requesting that the let the CC know what it wrong with their proposals, he will be asked to follow this up.

NFU Insurance have been approached for a quote on Public Liability and a survey report is being processed for £5 to £10 Million,

HC have been asked to provide building Insurance.

The meeting arranged for 8th February had to be cancelled and another is in the process of being arranged with Wm Gilfillan. Also Ian Blackford MP would like to go up the tower.

Meanwhile waiting for response from HC.

**3.2 Canal Foot Bridge**

Nothing has been advanced with this so far. It was noted that Dingwall Community Development Company (DCDC) want to help with this matter. Possibly a meeting between the CC, DCDC and the new Chief Executive of Highland Council, Donna Manson and Robin Lingard. GM to get in touch with them.

AF and MF are also members of DCDC. It was also suggested that other major issues in the town should be brought up at the meeting.

**3.3 Car Parking**

There has been no movement so far. Consultations regarding this will take place before September this year. There was no mention of this at the Arear Committee meeting.

It was also stated by Cllr McKinnon that HC will not take up the Parking Tax for workplaces even it allowed.

**3.4 Wall at Mineral Bridge**

Cllr M Paterson has been trying to get something done about this.

**3.5** **Road Surfaces**

Cllr Mackenzie stated that repairs for the section of road on Tulloch Street between the Lidl turn-off and Boots is on the table and will be carried out in due course and he will let the CC know when this will take place. A section from Station Road to the Mart is also on the agenda.

GM asked the HC Councillors why when the repairs at the Traffic Lights on Tulloch Street were being made was the problem with the road surfaces not undertaken at the same time to save money. They said they will pass on the CC queries regarding this.

Also discussed was the need for a new road to allow the development of more houses above Chestnut as any more traffic on Mill Street will clog up the roads. Also when talking about the new Link Road (now in limbo) it was stated that the traffic lights at the top of the High Street and the ones at the Tesco turn-off will be synchronized to allow a better flow of traffic.

It was noted that the flooding issues with the Peffrey at Burn Crescent are still on hold as this was going to be undertaken when the new road was being developed.

**3.6** **Toilets**

The toilets were subject to some vandalism, but thanks to Di Agnew they were swiftly returned to good repair.

**3.7 Tenant Participation Officer**

She will be invited to the next meeting. Cllrs Paterson and MacLean have visited area where complaints have been made.

**3.8** **High Street Rejuvination**

Nothing gone forward with this despite MM bringing this up at the last meeting. The Councillors are going to see if anything can be done regarding raising the height of the Christmas Lighting and banners for the Gala as the fixings are too low for safety reasons.

Cllr Mackenzie to find out if the Chief Executive has received the email regarding this issue.

A meeting was held a few years ago regarding the same issue.

It was noted that Dingwall in Bloom have several ideas for the High Street, including new large planters so that trees can be grown and Cllr Mackenzie looking into to getting the benches repainted.

**3.9 Station Finials**

These have now been reinstated.

# 4. Treasurer Report

* 1. **General Account**

Bank balance as reported at Dec Meeting £2710.17

Bank Transfer from Highland Council re Cost of Lighting Town Hall Tower Over Christmas Period £384.00.

Financial Position as at 11/02/19 £3094.17

Christmas Lights Fund

Bank balance as reported at Dec Meeting £2350.46

Cheque Donation from TSB Bank for 2018 Christmas Lights £170.00; Cheque to Brahan Farms Ltd re Purchase of Christmas Tree £100.00; Cheque to Keith Bauer (Prism Event Lighting) re Snow Flake Lighting at 2018 Switch-on Event £50.00; Cheque to Murray Mackay re Lighting Materials for Refurbishment of Christmas Light Assemblies £75.89; Bank Transfer from Groundwork UK re Tesco Bags of Help Grant for Christmas Lights 2019 £2000.00; and Cheque Donation from Dignity Funeral Directors for Purchase of 0ne-off Christmas Tree Star £140.00

Financial Position as at 11/02/19 4434.57

# 5. Correspondence

No correspondence noted at meeting.

# 6 A.O.C.B

**6.1 Feil Maree**

MF asked the councilors it there will be charges for road closures etc and was advised to ask HC regarding this.

**6.3 Craig Road**

The path has been reinstated and Planning has been granted for the retaining wall to replace what was taken away.

**6.4 Higher Ground**

The work in Pefferside Park has been well done and DL to send an email to thank them for the good work.

**6.5 Peffery Way**

The section between Dingwall and Fodderty is well on the say (approximately six weeks) and Blairninich will be reached on schedule.

**6.5 Recycling bins**

Recycling bins in Car Park 3 are often overflowing. Cllr Paterson to look into this.

**6.5 Achany Road Junction**

A member of the public asked if this could be looked into as some drivers do no indicate that they are going into this junction off the High Street and also speeding over the bridge towards the hospital.

# 7. Date and Venue of next meeting.

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

# 8. Planning and Licensing.

**8.1 Cruickshank Court**

The case for an illegal HMO has gone to court and was put back to then of the month.

Conditions in the planning agreement have yet to be undertaken. AF is struggling to get answers from the Planning Department regarding this issue

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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