

In Attendance

J. Shepherd (Chairman), S. Thain (Secretary), A. Foley (Treasurer), F. Lees, M. Mackay, N. Greenwood, M. Foley, Cllr. A. MacLean, Cllr. G. Mackenzie, Sgt. Goskirk, Robin Lingard (Dingwall Community Development Company)

Apologies

D. Lockett, G. Murray, B. Simpson, A. Simpson (Co Secretary), Cllr. A. McKinnon, Cllr. M. Paterson

1. Police Report

1.1 Sgt. Alsdair Goskirk attended the meeting to give the monthly police report. Please see attached report.

2. Approval of Minutes and Constitutional Matters

2.1 There were a few corrections to the draft minutes from April.

Page 2 - Points raised with Donna Manson specifically the Town Centre Funding scheme are to be rephrased.

Page 6 - item 7.1 should read 'at Fodderty'.

2.2 Acceptance of the minutes was then proposed by AF and seconded by MF.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

3.1 Hector MacDonald Monument

Members considered the requirements for the survey brief and a unanimous agreement was made to request that the Highland Council go ahead and organise the survey. NG detailed that Colin Mackenzie (Insurance Officer) stated in e-mail that the HC will put forward £2000 of the money required to pay for the survey. He asks that the CC contribute £4000 towards the cost of the survey. It was also stated that Stuart Duncan, Property Manager has agreed that the HC will arrange the structure and condition survey and pay any remaining balance. Members agreed to give £1000 towards the cost of the survey, which is almost half of the total limited funding that the Community Council have. Members will look to apply to the Ward Discretionary Budget or Common Good Fund for further financial support.

The CC hope that this survey will give information about the structure that both the CC and The Highland Council would accept and allow to properly consider the Fire and Accessibility risks. Robin Lingard (RL) noted that this point that the DCDC are looking to create a heritage trail, consisting of 10 sites throughout the town. They have a members meeting on Thursday 16th May to discuss.

Action: NG to e-mail William Gilfillan and state the CC agreement of the survey brief, noting the proposed financial contributions and asking him to begin the tender process.

3.2 Canal Foot Bridge

Ongoing - No update from discussions last month with Donna Manson.

3.3 Road Surfaces

Cllr. G. Mackenzie noted that the Highland Council has a programme of works for some key areas in the town and they are working towards completion. Item removed from the agenda for now but members to monitor works.

3.4 High Street Rejuvenation

See last month's minutes re' Town Centre Funding. Item removed from the agenda.

3.5 Achany Road Junction

Ongoing - last month Cllr Paterson was to meet with Ian Moncrief. Cllr. Paterson was not in attendance tonight therefore there was no update. It was proposed that a 'stop sign' be erected at the junction.

3.6 Christmas Lights

Update - Fairhursts have been appointed by the Highland Council to carry out a survey of the brackets on the High Street, previously used to attached Christmas lights and banners.

3.7 Japanese Knotweed

Ongoing - no progress from last month and members fear the growth of knotweed will be left unattended creating significant problems in the future. The growth has already spread from one small area to all the way up the canal banks.

Action: ST to e-mail Doug Miles (Amenities Department) and Department of Agriculture for advice.

3.8 Feil Maree

The Community Council has a stall booked for the 7th September. Members to man the stall are yet to be agreed. Item can be removed from the agenda for the time being.

3.9 Illuminated sign outside Barbers

Ongoing - item is making a mockery of the Planning Department. Members discussed their frustrations with the item and the 'no reply' situation from staff in the department. Again, it was highlighted that items such as this demonstrate the little influence that the Community Council have. This item was first raised with the HC via e-mails in February and by Cllr. Graham Mackenzie at the request of the CC. In March the CC were assured the sign would be removed. E-mails were sent on the 29th April by NG and then on 8th May by ST to Cllr. Graham Mackenzie, Julie Ferguson (JF) and Dafydd Jones (DJ). There has been no reply to these e-mails from JF and DJ.

A further e-mail from NG sent on 13th May prompted a reply from Julie Ferguson to stating that as officers were at training events out with the town, she could not provide an update but would do in the near future.

Action: Cllr. G. Mackenzie said he would chase this again.

3.10 Craig Wood

Ongoing - works are still ongoing and the path is not complete/returned to its original condition. Majority of dead trees have been cut down. MF raised a point that one or two dead trees have been left standing despite having fallen over and lying at a dangerously close angle to the road/houses.

Action: Cllr. G. Mackenzie to look into the remaining dangerous trees mentioned above.

3.11 Pefferside Park Rejuvenation

No update and nothing to note. Batty's Baps (runs the café in the park) are looking to do some small works / general tidy up. Item to be removed from the agenda.

3.12 Condition of Canal Banks

Noted that Highland Council is monitoring the erosion of the canal banks but they are of the opinion that there is no problem.

4. Treasurer Report

4.1 DCC Main Account

Bank balance reported on 13th May 2019 £2536.65 and accounts shown during the meeting.

4.2 DCC Christmas Lights Account

Bank balance reported on 13th May 2019 £4434.47 and accounts shown during the meeting.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Community Council Member

The Chair read a resignation from member Murray Mackay. All noted their gratitude to MM for his time, commitment and efforts on the Community Council. MM noted that he was leaving for several reasons but mostly notably the lack of progress with items, frustrations with the Highland Council and lastly, to open a space within the CC for a younger member.

6. AOCB

6.1 The Peffery Way

There will be a visit next month from Ron MacAulay to provide a progress update on the project. JS noted that the Seaforth Highlanders have donated a bench to the project.

6.2 Ross County Celebrations

All agreed that it would be a nice gesture to write to Ross County Football Club and congratulate them on their recent victory and promotion.

Action: ST to write the letter.

7. Date and Venue of next meeting

Next meeting will take place on Monday, 10th June in Room 11, Dingwall Academy at 7pm.

8. Planning and Licensing.

8.1 Cruickshank Court

No update

8.2 Extension of Waverly Inn

The Community Council put in an objection to the extension last month as it had to be in by the 18th April. Members did raise the point that it was easier to make comment on these applications and have a general awareness of them when the CC were statutory consultees which they are no longer, as per planning policy.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Please note that the items on the May agenda are slightly different to those in the minutes. Please use the sub headings for reference and not the item numbers.

THE MINUTES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE LOCAL LIBRARY.