

MINUTES

Dingwall Community Council

9th September 2019

In Attendance

Brian Simpson (BS); Agnes Simpson (AS), Andy Foley (AF), Mary Foley (MF), Jack Shepherd (JS), Sara-Lynn Thain (ST), George Murray (GM), Fred Lees (FL), Andrew Maciver (AM), Cllr M Paterson, Cllr A MacKinnon and several members of the public (MoP).

Apologies

Cllr G Mackenzie, David Lockett, Cllr Angela MacLean, Nigel Greenwood.

1. Police Report

Dingwall Community Council – Police Update - August 2019

Local Policing Priorities

Antisocial Behaviour

Drug & Alcohol Abuse

Road Safety

Points raised from previous meeting.

Incident Summary

Please see attached excel spreadsheet for call demand figures for Dingwall.

Public Protection

Incidents range from mental wellbeing issues as well as Domestic Incidents, Child Protection enquires and other ongoing Sexual Crime investigations. Notable is the increase in concern calls around individual vulnerability, which has a significant impact on policing resource pressures.

Antisocial Behaviour

Reported incidents are around the same as the previous period.

Reports of off road motor bikes and quads are continuing to be received mostly from the Millbank Road area. This can be illegal and lead to antisocial behaviour orders.

Dishonesties

Acquisitive crime remains relatively low, however two males were arrested following an attempt theft from Dingwall Recycling Centre on 07/09/19. These males were kept in custody appear at Inverness Sheriff Court today, 10/09/19.

Drug & Alcohol Abuse

Information continues to be received and the community is thanked for this as this enables a more intelligence led approach to be taken. Suspected controlled drugs continue to be intercepted in the postal service, two incidents of such were reported in August.

Road Safety

There were 14 road traffic incidents during August in the local area, which included enforcement of road traffic offences and officers attending at road traffic collisions.

Notable Incidents

Key Messages

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

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of CC Meeting of 12th August 2019 were accepted by AF and seconded by MF.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Hector MacDonald Monument

When Wm Gilfillan left a breakdown in communication occurred but Carron McDairmid took this on and MF stated that she has done well regarding this issue.

SLT received an email from her regarding the monument as below.

Community Services has asked our development team to arrange a structural engineer survey. Our Community Services budget will cover the costs of the survey. The scope of survey is to include:

- Structural condition.
- Wind and watertight condition.
- Accessibility to all levels of the tower, including emergency evacuation if required.
- Condition of the top external floor fabric, under the duckboards.
- Recommendations of work required to deal with the above and what work would be required to make the monument accessible to the public, if this is possible.

The survey is being out-sourced to an external provider, but we are still in the process of identifying them. The businesses we normally engage with for this work are not available to do the work (too busy) so we have reached out to others and are waiting to hear back from them. When I know which firm is engaged and when they can start, I'll let you know. I might know before your meeting on Monday.

The point raised at the September meeting was why the survey carried out by NG had not been accepted and that also that JS only received an answer to the email requesting requirements he sent to Wm Gilfillan in June 2018 was not received until April this year.

Cllr MacKinnon confirmed that Community Services will pay for this survey.

3.2 Canal Foot Bridge

A positive outcome to this is that the canal banks belong to the Secretary of State for Scotland so the problem of getting the bridge in position will be less likely.

The bridge was installed in the 1990s by the army as this area is still designated as a firing range.

JS needs to get a programme of works in place. The new bridge is 1.5 metres wide and the existing abutments will be able to support the 15ton structure.

All the technical work is in good shape and this has been enabled by the good will of Dingwall businesses.

A member of the public asked if it was safe to walk along the canal banks as the signs for the firing range are still in place. ST asked if it was possible to remove the signs but FL said it was part of the history of the area. It was also asked if the Dingwall Museum could take these and Cllr Paterson is to talk to someone regarding this.

3.3 High Street Catenaries

The firm of Fairhurst are surveying these but it doesn't look likely to happen before Christmas. Action needed as this has been an ongoing problem.

Members of the public need to see something being done regarding the High Street.

GM asked if HC has a structural engineer and Cllr MacKinnon to look into this.

Regarding the Christmas Lights GM and MF to get together.

3.4 Grass Cutting and Core Paths

ST has been informed that the grass-cutting staff comprise of 4 full time members and 6 seasonal workers.

She received an email for Carron McDairmid saying that she will contact John MacKay to clarify the team size covering Dingwall and that they were concentrating on several key areas in the town and asked for help in the planning for the future grass cutting.

It was noted that the flower beds around the town were looked after by volunteers. These volunteers are also taking care of bushes etc. as the workers don't appear to be bothered if they finish a job or not.

FL stated that volunteers are using their own equipment and asked if they should be supplied with petrol. Cllr Paterson said she had mentioned this to Di Agnew and was sure that she had taken it in hand. JS to look into this.

It was also stated that the core paths around the town are only done when resources were available and it was asked if the HC had a duty to maintain these.

Cllr Paterson is to look into the above.

3.5 Pefferside Park Pond.

JS said it was the wrong time of year to tackle this problem. The pump has not been working for a long time but what is needed is a bigger pump and it was suggested that Carron be approached regarding this as she seems to be very capable.

4. Treasurer Report

4.1 DCC Main Account

Bank balance as reported at August Meeting - £2376.85

Highland Council Grant for 2019-20 - £1077.01

Financial Position as at 9th September 2019 - £3453.86

4.2 DCC Christmas Lights Account

Bank balance as reported at August Meeting - £4434.57

Financial Position as at 08/07/19 - £4434.57

Notes: Robert More has agreed to take over the Treasurers Role until the council elections in November and was thanked by members.

5 Correspondence

5.1 Stage

An email was received regarding the stage stating that repairs to lights and new zips were required.

JS will speak to Murray Mackay regarding this and will take a look at the trailer to see what is needed.

ST said that the items used to be kept in Town Hall. It was also suggested that when the stage is hired out it should be looked at before going out and also when it was returned.

6.1 Ross Memorial Hospital

The small injuries department has been closed for some time and was scheduled to reopen this year but has not so far. ST to get in touch regarding this as in an emergency people need to know who to contact.

A floating doctor covers most of Ross-shire and Raigmore Hospital appears to be the only option as Invergordon and Dingwall are not available at most times. JS to find out if NHS 24 needs to be contacted before going to the hospital.

Cllr MacKinnon to look into the reason for Ross Memorial still being closed.

6.2 Recent flooding

A meeting is to be held on 16th September in the main hall in Dingwall Academy with a presentation and Question and Answer session following a drop-in session from 4.15pm until 6.30pm.

Highland Council, SEPA, Fire Service, Police Community Services, Scottish Water, Flood team and the Scottish Flood Forum all attending. Cllr MacKinnon will open the meeting and welcoming everyone and introducing the panel.

FL received an email regarding this and was asked for a meeting. It also stated in dry weather the culverts were ok but were unable to cope in stormy weather.

6.3 Removal of telephone boxes

Three telephone boxes in Dingwall are to be removed. These are in Bruce Avenue, Kinnairdie Avenue and Mill Street. Cllr Paterson is to help keep the red boxes.

6.3 Speeding on Old Evanton Road

A member of the public brought this up and stated that it was an accident about to happen. Wood lorries use this road and if two lorries travelling in opposite directions, they need to mount the pavement and this is a danger to the public.

Traffic calming measures may not help but the recent speed notification sign had helped for a while but this has not continued.

The school run time is one of the problems.

It was decided to keep this issue on the agenda for following CC meetings.

Cllr Paterson has spoken to Ian Moncrieff regarding this issue.

Cllr MacKinnon to look into the problem and will also approach the police.

7. Date and Venue of next meeting.

Next meeting will take place on Monday, 14th October in Room 11, Dingwall Academy at 7pm.

8. Planning and Licensing.

8.1 Bridgend Junction

The original plan was to put in a Link Road but this is not forthcoming at the moment so a new road layout at the Bridgend Junction was proposed with a new slip road onto Strathpeffer Road and the moving of the bus stop nearer to the railway crossing which did not seem a safe option. FL suggested that a roundabout may help this issue.

Cllr MacKinnon to find out what is actually going to happen.

8.2 Extension of Waverly Inn.

ST has discussed this with someone and was informed that several objections had been handed in and that there was also an online petition regarding this.

Commercial vehicles, buses etc. were arriving at all hours of the night disturbing nearby residents.

If five or more objections are received this should go to the Planning Committee.

ST suggested that we should get in touch by email to Julie Ferguson regarding this.

This definitely needs to be followed up.

JS to keep on top of this.

8.3 Community Council Nominations

CC members were reminded that nomination forms for the Community Council elections needed to be handed in by 12 noon on Thursday, 10th October.

THESE MINUTES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE LOCAL LIBRARY