

# MINUTES

Dingwall Community Council

8<sup>th</sup> July 2019

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## In Attendance

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Brian Simpson (BS); Agnes Simpson (AS), Andy Foley (AF), Mary Foley (MF), David Lockett (DL), Nigel Greenwood (NG), Jack Shepherd (JS), Cllr A MacLean, Cllr M Paterson and several members of the public (MoP).

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## Apologies

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Cllr A MacKinnon, Cllr G Mackenzie, Sara-Lynn Thain, George Murray, Fred Lees, Andrew Maciver.

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## 1. Police Report

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No report this month.

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## 2. Approval of Minutes

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Minutes of CC Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were accepted by MF and seconded by DL.

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## 3. Matters Arising

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### 3.1 Hector MacDonald Monument

Wm Gilfillan from HC has recently retired but everything will carry on as usual with Karen McDermitt now the contact with HC.

The money is now in place for things to proceed with funds from HC, Insurance Scheme, DCDC and the Common Good Fund.

A surveyor has not yet been appointed. NG to monitor this progress.

### 3.2 Canal Foot Bridge

The replacement bridge will be 2 metres wide and will be of hardwood with non-slip walkway. This bridge will be 15 tonnes and the existing bridge is 8 tonnes so the abutments will need to be checked to see if they are strong enough.

The crane will need to be placed on hardstanding and this will be on land at the water treatment plant. Two trees will have to be felled to make room for this but on completion new trees will be planted. All fences taken down will also be replaced or if residents in the area agree, this can remain as additional parking.

The timescale for the design and ordering of new bridge is 18 weeks. NG will contact CTS to begin technical approval of the design.

If planning is required it is hoped that the local councilors will back the CC. As this is a replacement it is hoped that planning will not be needed as hopefully that all is in accordance with HC's design team.

Career and Learning own the existing bridge and perhaps they will adopt the new one.

The local businesses who have provided the funds still wish to stay anonymous.

### **3.3 State of road surfaces.**

Tulloch Street has not yet been touched though Station Road has been completed to a good standard.

Margaret Paterson said that the Tulloch Street resurfacing is due to start and will include the hole near Bank of Scotland, the road opposite the Baptist Church, drain at bottom of Kinnairdie Brae, the road at St Clements Church on Tulloch Street, the hole at parking place at front of National Hotel, the lying water outside the Royal Bank of Scotland and the signage at Achany Road.

The steps at the County Garage also need to be fixed as they are dangerous and perhaps a ramp may be put in place.

No exact date was given for the work to begin.

### **3.4 Christmas Lights and High Street Canteries**

John Allan from HC Lighting and Communications has been in touch with Fairhurst to find out the scope of the works for the Highlands which was very positive and that he had received the costs and following submission of template reports will arrange a programme of inspections starting in Dingwall.

Once terms are agreed he will issue a contract based on the Scottish Excel Framework which meets the HC procurement rules but avoids having to go through a formal tender process which will speed up proceedings. A deadline of October has been set for completion of reports for all sites and Dingwall being first should come in sooner.

New lights for the Town House would cost £600 but would be better financially for the CC. Lights which change colours would also be an option.

The costs for attaching lights to HC lampposts will need to be looked at. Margaret Paterson said HC will let CC know the cost.

Andrew Maciver said he was hopeful someone who would carry out any electrical work. He also said that Jim Evens helped with the bunting for the Gala Week

Reindeer will still be at the Lighting Opening.

Even though Murray Mackay is no longer a CC member he will continue to help with the Christmas Lights.

### **3.5 Japanese Knotweed**

MF met with Douglas Miles from HC and walked the Peffery Path and it was noted that work had been done on the knotweed which was easily accessed but the ones out of reach were still abundant.

HC does not own this path and it may belong to Conon Fisheries.

The section of path which this concerns is from Tulloch Street to the Railway line.

### **3.6 Illuminated sign outside Barbers**

This has now been removed by the owner of the building after the Enforcement Officer got in touch with him.

### **3.7 Craig Wood**

The owner of the land has now been established and he will be contacted and invoiced for the work done to remove the dead trees and to get him to fell the dead trees at the top.

The road and pavement from Craig Road to the Mineral Bridge will be swept when the work is completed.

The owner of St Catherines needs to replace the wall he removed and reinstate the path. He has a deadline of 3 years to complete the task.

### **3.7 Grass Cutting**

The fortnightly grass cutting and six-weekly strimming are too far apart and everywhere is looking disgraceful especially the area around Roberts Bridge. The standard of work this year is really poor and needs to be sorted out quickly.

All work carried out by volunteers is extremely good.

Some members of the public have offered to do some grass cutting but Health and Safety issues may prevent this. JS is looking into this issue but anyone wishing to carry out grass cutting etc is welcome to do so.

Grass cutting in many areas of Ross-shire is really poor and Di Agnew is taking this on even though it is not part of her remit.

Margaret Paterson said that no-one appears to be doing anything about this. Perhaps supervisors should be put in place to inspect the work done each day.

MF said that it is dangerous as the line of sight at junctions is obscured.

### **3.7 Peffery Way Path**

JS has been in touch with Core Path who have adopted the west end from Strathpeffer and it is hoped that they will also adopt the east end at Dingwall.

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## 4. Treasurer Report

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### 4.1 DCC Main Account

Bank balance as reported at June Meeting - £2361.65

Cash donation from Maryburgh Gala Committee re hire of stage - £75.00

Cost of Tartan material for the stage - £59.80

Financial Position as at 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019 - £2376.85

### 4.2 DCC Christmas Lights Account

Bank balance as reported at June Meeting - £4434.57

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

Notes:

### 4.3 Main Account

Anticipated income

Highland Council Grant for 2019-20 - £1077.01 (in process)

**Notional balance Main Account - £3453.86**

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## 5 Correspondence

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### 5.1 Update Dingwall High Street – Canteries

See 3.4 above.

### 5.2 Town Centre Fund Project Proposal

Dingwall Town Hall (A Dingwall Common Good Property).

This has been proposed for an upgrade as it is being underused as there are problems with access for the disabled and elderly to the large hall on upper floor as no lift in place.

The development of a Newton Room in Dingwall (funded by the City Region Deal, THC and Dingwall Common Good Fund £300,000) on the ground floor and a disabled toilet will improve the footfall.

Consultation – In 2011, following calls from the community to address making the upper hall accessible to all a steering group was formed led by THC and hall users, Dingwall CC and Dingwall Business Association to work to determine the future of the building.

An Analysis and Options Appraisal was completed to present options for a sustainable future for the Dingwall Town Hall Complex (THC).

Community consultation took place to ensure that the needs and desires of various groups were fully recognized.

2017-18 Developing Dingwall have been working with the Community and THC regarding development of the Town Hall.

2019 Support for application for Town Centre Funding towards project 'installation of a lift in Dingwall Town Hall' is supported by Dingwall CC, High Life Highland, Dingwall Means Business, the Newton Group Steering Group and the Dingwall and Seaforth Councillors.

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## 6 AOCB

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### **6.1 State of Notice Boards**

FL got in touch with JS to say that the blue tack holding up the notices is actually damaging the background and needs to be repaired.

Other notice boards in the town need to be cleaned and upgraded as many of the notices are out of date and unreadable and lichen is covering the notice board in the South Car Park. The groups who use the boards should be approached and asked to remove out of date notices as these will be removed at regular intervals and that if they want to put new ones up that will not be a problem.

Also the notice board outside the Bank of Scotland is for CC use and possibly a different key should be used for this one.

### **6.2 Circus Posters**

These are still up all over the town and need to be removed. Many of these were put up on the glass at front of notice boards obscuring the notices inside. They were attached with sellotape which has left marks on the glass.

### **6.3 Bins Outside Job Centre / Drinking Den**

MF went in to see them and asked them politely if they could take them round the back of the building, but they said the cleaner did not want to go round the back with the rubbish as there was a drinking den at the rear of the property. One solution to this is that the cleaner leaves the rubbish bags inside the building to be taken to the bins in the morning.

Also, the land owner at the rear of the buildings is unknown so will have to look into this.

MF is to report the drinking den to the Police.

### **6.4 Mitchell Hill Seat**

The seat halfway up the hill is in a terrible condition. Margaret Paterson is to look into getting a replacement. She thinks she may be able to find one shortly and will follow this up.

### **6.5 Railings in Station Square**

These belong to Network Rail and Di Agnew is dealing with this problem. The cost of repairs is estimated at £3,500 but needs to be sorted quickly as the Mayor of Cambrai is visit Dingwall in September.

## **6.6 Naming of new flats on High Street**

Both sets of flats require a name to let the developments go ahead.

After consultation it was decided that if the name at the front of Ross House is to be retained the flats at the rear should be Ross House Court, but if name not retained at front Ross House would be used.

It was also agreed that the other development on the High Street at old Picture House site be named Morganti Court.

JS to let council know.

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## **7. Date and Venue of next meeting.**

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Next meeting will take place on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> August in Room 11, Dingwall Academy at 7pm.

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## **8. Planning and Licensing.**

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### **8.1 Cruickshank Court**

AF has been contacting the Planning Department but is still not getting anywhere..

### **8.2 Extension of Waverly Inn.**

Objections from the CC have been sent and as there has been many local objections this matter will have to go to a Planning Committee. Local residents have been posting video and pictures on social media, of Lorries parked on Castle Street along with busses dropping people off late at night.

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