

# MINUTES

Dingwall Community Council

*10<sup>th</sup> June 2019*

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## In Attendance

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George Murray (GM), Brian Simpson (BS); Agnes Simpson (AS), Andy Foley (AF), Mary Foley (MF), David Lockett (DL), Nigel Greenwood (NG), Jack Shepherd (JS) Fred Lees (FL), Alasdair Goskirk (AG), Cllr A Mackinnon, Cllr G Mackenzie and several members of the public (MoP).

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## Apologies

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Cllr A MacLean, Cllr M Paterson, Sara-Lynn Thain.

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## 1. Police Report

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Alasdair Goskirk attended the meeting briefly as he had to go to another meeting.

He stated that there was nothing significant to report and that there was no increase in antisocial behavior.

He also said that there were a number of enquiries going on with regard to the new Domestic Abuse guidelines.

The nuisance caused by motorcycles and quad bikes being used in residential areas was brought up and that there had been a positive outcome from tenants regarding this. He also said that if it was youngsters that adults could be charged with an offence.

He also said that he may be transferred to the Caithness Division shortly but he would still be available via email.

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

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## 2. Approval of Minutes

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Minutes of CC Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were accepted by AM and seconded by NG.

Minutes of AGM were accepted by AM and seconded by NG

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## 2. Ron McAuley from Peffery Way Association

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Ron McAuley attended the meeting to bring the CC up to date with the progress regarding the new path between Dingwall and Strathpeffer. JS had been in touch via email with Ron.

The Strath end of the path is well ahead and is being used regularly. He also said that another grant had been received from the Scottish Rural Development Programme. The Dingwall end has also been completed but the central part was been worked on at the moment but more funds are required. The path covers 3.3km completed and total 5km with grass sections included. The Dingwall end is on Blackwell Street.

A plan was distributed to CC members (This can be found on their website)

Each section was colour coded as follows:

Yellow – Completed

Orange – Almost completed.

Light Green – Available for use but is still grass covered.

Dark Green – Difficult terrain but hopefully will be available later this year.

Red – Still in hands of landowners.

He also said that another bridge is being constructed at the moment and he thanked NG for his help with this.

Regarding core paths HC are reviewing these at the moment and it is hoped that the Peffery Way will be included.

Strathpeffer CC have approached the Inner Moray Firth Core Path Review regarding the path and asked that Dingwall CC back this too. This still does not mean that they can build on landowners' property.

This will be an all-purpose path for use by everyone.

It is hoped to use electric rickshaws to bring people out to the country.

The red sections have rights of access, but must be used responsibly and that the Access Officer needs to be involved about any problems.

Proper fencing is needed in these red areas with gates to enable animals and members of the public are kept apart. The Peffery Path organisers are willing to pay for this. They have already spent £10,000 on fencing.

The problem with motorcycles and quad bikes using the path will hopefully be diverted with the use of moveable chicanes to stop excess speed. These chicanes will be moved when the landowners wish to use farm machinery in their fields.

It is unlawful under the Road Traffic act to take a motor vehicle on a pathway and on private land.

Ron was thanked for bringing the CC up to date with the progress of the path.

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### 3. War Memorials

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Morris Coleman, Peter Angus and Lynne Jamieson attended the meeting to try to find out who was responsible for the upkeep of the Memorial Gardens in Station Square as it was not clear who owned the land. Cllr Paterson has been looking into this to see if HC is responsible and at the same time has been carrying out some weeding.

It is hoped that HC can cover the grass cutting.

The War Memorials in Station Square are really untidy at the moment with overgrown weeds and grass and something needs to be done urgently regarding these.

It was noted that on D-Day the Cambrai Cross memorial was covered in weeds.

The War Memorial outside the National Hotel has been well maintained with £3,000 spent on it by the British Legion and has been entered into a competition for best kept memorial.

As regards the War Memorials it is vital to know who is responsible for the upkeep. Volunteers are willing to help out regarding weeding etc but need to find out what they can and cannot do. Cllr MacKinnon agreed to look into this.

The local councilors are to hold a meeting regarding this issue and should have an answer for the next meeting, but meantime if anyone wants to carry out some maintenance they are free to do so.

This issue is a matter of civil pride.

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### 4. Matters Arising

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#### **4.1 Hector MacDonald Monument**

Wm Gilfillan from HC has recently retired but everything will carry on as usual. Di Agnew has received the paperwork regarding funds from The Common Good Funds and there is to be a meeting next Monday regarding this.

Everything looks really promising at the moment. NG has enquired if a surveyor has been appointed and things appear to be moving on.

#### **4.2 Canal Foot Bridge**

Good news on this is that a new bridge is to be put in place thanks to the funding from three individuals who wish to remain anonymous. JS has been informed regarding this and is to be speaking to near neighbours to let them know what is happening.

Stoddarts have been back to look into the removal of the old bridge and installation of the new one.

JS/Di Agnew are to get in touch with Robert Campbell from Care and Learning regarding this.

#### **4.3 Achany Road Junction**

Road signs will possibly be needed.

#### **4.4 Christmas Lights**

GM has been in touch with HC regarding finances needed

No level of funding has been agreed. Cllr Mackenzie said that a surveyor has not yet been appointed. And Cllr MacKinnon said that certain protocols had to be followed.

Cllr Mackenzie is going to look into this issue.

The new Community Fund could be used when deciding what is to be proposed. The deadline for proposals is the end of June.

DL asked if the owners of the properties had agreed to the new fittings proposed.

A meeting is to be held by DCDC with Robert Lingard to work out what are the priorities for the Community Groups. GM said that a letter is being sent out regarding a meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> June to all groups.

A list of all the community groups is to be made.

Another meeting is to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **4.5 Japanese Knotweed**

This still needs attention along the path from the end of Jubilee Park to the bridge at the ferry but it is extremely hard to get rid of and can only be done at the end of the year, as cutting back does not work. Cllr MacKenzie will speak to the person in charge of this.

#### **4.6 Illuminated sign outside Barbers**

The local councilors were told not to get involved with this issue as legal matters need to be followed and this is with the lawyers at the moment.

#### **4.7 Craig Wood**

There are still trees to be removed and the path has not been reinstated yet.

Dog bins need to be put in place. Lynne Jamieson has had a dog bin ready for installation for the past four years but has not been able to do this yet.

The trees at the top side of the path have not been removed as HC is not liable for these and the owner of the land needs to be found as they are responsible for the removal of dead trees.

The trees behind St Catherines need to be removed as they will cause problems and the owner has stated that he will deal with this.

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### **5. Treasurer Report**

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#### **5.1 DCC Main Account**

Bank balance as reported at May Meeting £2536.65

Cheque to Dingwall in Bloom – Grant from Highland Council £175.00

Financial Position as at 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 £2361.65

## **5.2 DCC Christmas Lights Account**

Bank balance as reported at May Meeting £4434.57

Financial Position as at 08/04/19 4434.57

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## **6 Correspondence**

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### **6.1 Ross County**

Letter has been sent to Ross County congratulating them on their promotion to the Premier League.

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## **7 AOCB**

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### **7.1 Grass Cutting etc**

The CC were informed that grass cutting would be done every 2 weeks and that strimming and use of weedkiller every six weeks. This would make most areas in the town look really badly maintained. It was also noted that the town is in the worst state it has been for years.

Other towns in the area appear to be getting this done more frequently.

It was also said that some weedkillers can be dangerous and care must be taken when in use.

The High Street is also in a bad state with weeds throughout.

It was suggested that the owners of Licensed premises in the town to be approached regarding the removal of rubbish around the High Street.

### **7.2 Co-option of Member**

With the recent death of Andy Henderson and the resignation of Murray Mackay a space was available for the co-option of a new member.

The appointment of Andrew MacIver was proposed by GM and seconded by NG and after a vote from members at the meeting it was agreed that he be accepted as a co-opted member.

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

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Next meeting will take place on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> July in Room 11, Dingwall Academy at 7pm.

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## **9. Planning and Licensing.**

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### **9.1 Cruickshank Court**

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

## **9.2 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..

## **9.3 Bridge Junction.**

This appears to be going ahead with the only option up for discussion is the moving of the bus shelter.

## **9.4 Ross House Flats**

These appear to be well planned with Ark Estates as developers. The CC will not be objecting to this proposal, and NG to get in touch to let them know that the CC is happy with these plans.

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