

# GRANTOWN ON SPEY and VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**at**

**The Grant Arms Hotel Granttown –on – Spey at 19.00 Hrs**

<b>Present:</b>	Linda Coe	Chair (LC)
	Ewan MacGregor	Vice Chair (EM)
	Beatrice Oliphant	Treasurer (BO)
	Martin Bradshaw	Secretary (MB)
	Tin Artus (TA)	
	Catriona Brown (CB)	
	Bill Sadler (BS)	
	John Halliday (JH)	
<b>Also present:</b>	Muriel Cockburn	Highland Councillor (MC)
	Roy Hewitt	Resident
	Jeannie Munro	Resident
	Margaret Ross	Resident

## 1. Welcome:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending

## 2. Police Report:

As there was no police presence at the meeting, no Police Report was given

## 3. Minutes of last Meeting:

BS requested that under Item 5 heading of New Spey Bridge he wished to insert the word 'lighting' in connection with the works carried out; also in Item 8 he wished the word 'would' replaced by the word 'could' and finally under Item 11 he wished to make a few amendments to clarify his comments. All these suggestions were approved

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were approved

Proposed: TA

Seconded: LM

#### 4. Matters Arising:

- Clock: MC said she had requested an update but had not yet heard further  
**MC to pursue with HC**
- Trees: BS said he was disappointed since the CC wrote to HC in August but it was clear that no action at all had been taken on the Report since Grant Stewart has stated that he had not heard from the CC.  
MC said that she thought that the matter was being dealt with but she will check  
**MC to pursue with HC**
- Old Spey Bridge: LC advised that she was still waiting to hear from Colin Howell but this would not be until after they had completed their survey of all the Spey bridges  
**LC to contact Colin Howell again**
- Skating Pond A number of dates for the proposed meeting with Gavin Miles at CNPA have been suggested; EM will pick this up and attend. It was agreed that a major fund raising exercise will be required it is a major asset of the village but substantial funds will be required to clean up the pond and make it an attractive asset to the village. EM advised that he had spoken to a number of the people previously involved with curling on the pond. They had told him that it used to be the case that each Spring the pond was drained by opening the sluice into the burn; it was allowed to dry out after which they would cut the reeds, clear out the rubbish and generally clean up the site before refilling it. This was never a particularly expensive operation and if this practice was re-adopted it would allow any funding obtained to be used to improve the general amenity value of the site. He added that they were of the opinion that this could still be done – the last time it was carried out was the year after CNPA took over responsibility. He confirmed that they had added that they would be ‘happy’ to do it again and that they thought local joiners ‘would not be averse’ to erecting planks around the site, as at present the supporting post seemed in reasonable condition .  
**EM to confirm meeting date and attend**
- Salt Bin MC said she had gone back to the relevant Manager in HC who has now confirmed that there will be *NO* Salt bin placed in SW High Street. Reasons given are: - there is an existing bin nearby, the ground is relatively flat and there is insufficient footfall in the area to justify a new salt bin.  
**No further action required**
- Health Centre. LC reported that she had written to Kenny Rodgers, the Project Manager for the proposed development confirming that the CC supported the Health Centre management in their determination to deliver on the promise that Health, Social Care and Minor Injuries provision will continue to be available in the Health Centre following the closure of ICH. The response she had received indicated that all relevant parties were in agreement that the footprint of the Health Centre must be expanded to meet all the requirements of the Health Centre, following closure of ICH and the completion of the new hospital. However, the matter has to be agreed with the Scottish Government who are considering the Full Business Case for the new

hospital, which will include costing for the new Health Centre, which will hopefully release the necessary funding

BS advised that contact had been received from the QC to the NHS Highland Culture Enquiry who requested response to allegations which had arisen in the Enquiry that there had been no consultation about the new hospital/Health Centre in the first place and that subsequently many suggestions made to NHS Highland had been simply ignored. TA pointed out that unless the CC had all the necessary information it would be dangerous to support anything of this nature. After discussion it was agreed that this was not really a matter in which the CC should become formally involved but BS would contact Kelsey Tainsh, who was also involved, and request him to write to the Enquiry and copy all communications to the CC.

LC advised that, for funding purposes, the new Aviemore Hospital is linked with the new Skye Hospital and that if there were major problems with the Skye hospital then this could impact on the new Aviemore hospital and even if the new hospital was not built there may be insufficient funds to refurbish ICH. MC confirmed that her information is that all the funds to NHS Highland for the building of the new Aviemore hospital have been allocated and are secure.

**BS to contact Kelsey about response to the Enquiry**

Local Development Plan: BS suggested that there should be a move towards informal meetings to discuss all aspects fully and suggested that the CC set up another Community Engagement event to achieve this. It was agreed that this would be appropriate.

Bus shelter: BS said that he had met with Stagecoach and HC at an Accessibility meeting in Kingussie and they had agreed that this was a good idea and that it would be established 'in the Spring'. He added that there is a further Accessibility meeting in February which he will attend and he will raise this with all relevant parties – again. He added that at this time there was not further information to report on routes and timing changes from Stagecoach.

**BS to attend Accessibility Meeting and report**

Grantown in Bloom: It was noted that the planter opposite the Craighynne at the site of the RTA had now been righted but that it was empty. BO said that she will attend to replanting the box but that volunteer help will be required.

**BO to manage**

A question was raised as to the ownership of the fence which was damaged in the accident and will need to be repaired.

**LC to make enquiries and advise**

Cycle path: BS confirmed that the matter is progressing, funding has been received from Sustrans to carry out a feasibility study on the route etc. – this has now gone out to tender and a decision is 'imminent'. BS said that he is on the Steering Committee and, as reported previously, there is a further Accessibility meeting in February which he will attend.

**BS to attend Accessibility Meeting and report**

Birchview:

CB reported that there had been no new planning application but noted that there had been a change in the Letting Agents. MC pointed out that Boat of Garten had invited the Head of Planning to one of their meetings and that he had found this extremely helpful, so this might be something worth thinking about. EM enquired whether or not 'Party Houses' were subject to any different or additional regulations or licensing requirements from other B&Bs or Guest Houses. MB advised that as a general rule 'ordinary' B&Bs or Guest House do not need any formal licensing and, apart from Fire Regulations, are not generally subject to any such regulatory regime. MC added that it was possible that they might be covered by Entertainment Licence provisions. It became apparent that the issue of 'Party Houses' is a common concern in Badenoch & Strathspey and MB agreed to contact Karen Derrick to discuss whether this was an issue which could properly be raised at the next B&S CC Forum.

- MB to contact Karen Derrick to raise issue at B&S CC Forum
- BS to extend invitation to John Doherty [HC Planning] & Gavin Miles [CNPA] to attend March Meeting

#### 5. Treasurer's Report:

BO confirmed that the balance as at 15<sup>th</sup> January was £3,116.28. A total of £572.80 will be banked on 17<sup>th</sup> January (Bank being closed on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January) which includes a donation of £500.00 from Reidhaven Estate. She confirmed that an additional sum of £122.80 had been raised by way of donations for bulbs. She advised that as at the date of the meeting there were no outstanding payments due. BO wished to add her congratulations to all those involved in the bulb planting – it was clear that Grantown was having to do it all alone.

LC confirmed that there was to be a meeting with Grantown Initiative(GI) in February to discuss among other matters of mutual interest, possible funding sources which may be available e.g. Scottish Towns Partnership.

Jeannie Munro asked whether GI meetings were private or could they attend. LC confirmed that all GI meetings were private but that GI members could observe. Roy Hewitt enquired whether this was right and proper MB pointed out that GI is a private company and is entitled to establish its own rules and procedures with no statutory requirement to allow the public access to its meetings, the CC has no formal connection with or influence over GI. LC advised that GI was set up to operate as a fund raising company and potentially a vehicle to hold assets, as the CC did not wish to own assets itself because of potential personal liability issues. Jeannie Munro said that she was concerned at the apparent lack of transparency involved with Community Councillors, elected to represent her, being involved in meetings to which she had no access. Roy Hewitt asked whether they should contact Stewart Dick, as Chair of GI, to find out whether they could have access to GI meetings; it was confirmed to him that that would be the appropriate course of action. LC further advised that the purpose of changing to bi-monthly formal meetings of the CC was to allow the various matters under consideration to be progressed and so be in a position to have news/progress reported to CC meetings, it was

stressed that no decisions are taken except at such formal CC meetings to which the community was invited. As volunteers Community Councillors have limited time to progress matters either with Highland Council or indeed at the many meetings they are expected to attend during the working week. Nonetheless they do their best and bi-monthly meetings do give them a chance to progress actions Jeannie Munro, supported by Margaret Ross expressed her considerable dissatisfaction with these arrangements and stated that she was not happy with them.

## 6. Highland Council Report:

MC advised:-

(i) that there was shortly to be a meeting of HC to deal specifically with Community Councils and the effect of the funding deficit facing HC but she had no idea of outcome of the consultation with CCs.

(ii) She stated that there was concern at the shortage of health care provision in Badenoch & Strathspey and that as a result there were discussions within the Community Partnership about ideas of volunteer help.

(iii) She added that as at the date of the meeting the land set aside for the new hospital in Aviemore had not yet been purchased although there was a further meeting on this subject scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> January. The meeting expressed its considerable surprise and dismay at this information particularly bearing in mind the assurances given to the CC during the meeting with NHS Highland and the Grantown Health Centre on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018

(iv) the Education Budget of HC was facing major cuts and big savings were going to have to be found but she was able to confirm that the Grantown Primary School Structure Plan had been agreed and was in place

Jeannie Munro expressed her dismay at the lack of carers available particularly following the promises which have been made as to availability following the closure of ICH. MC advised that in meetings of the recently established Integrated Health Care & Social Partnership there have been the beginnings of open and honest discussions on these matters.

LC referred to the Winter Resilience Scheme, she stated that the discussions seemed to have stalled because if HC are to provide all the necessary equipment and supplies then the CC must have somewhere to store it all. BO pointed out that the question of storage generally is a major issue

LC to write to HC again asking for an update on possible storage

JH reported that the proposed WiFi project had received substantial support from all of the relevant affected CCs, with the exception of Carrbridge and that funding had been secured for the initial 15 month trial but there is a problem in determining who actually makes the actual decisions relating to funding – HC/HIE/STP. He said that STP had emailed HC and HIE raising the question of match funding and any input would be appreciated

**MC left the meeting at 20.38 following conclusion of the discussions relating to Item 6**

## 7. Highland Council Discretionary Grant:

LC advised that the CC has until the end of February to put forward a case for the use of the £500 Discretionary Grant available from HC and she proposed that this should be put forward on behalf of Grantown in Bloom. It was agreed that this suggestion should be followed and BO agreed to deal with this.

**BO to prepare the case on behalf of Grantown in Bloom and submit**

On the subject of Grantown in Bloom BO confirmed she had been advised that the local person who had indicated they would be willing, under the Community Payback Scheme (CPS) to paint the seats, bollards and bins in The Square was no longer part of the programme. BO agreed to contact the scheme again as the street furniture will have to be sent to Inverness for refurbishment as no facilities are available in Grantown; she also understood that such equipment is made in Inverness under the CPS provisions and she will make enquiries

**BO to contact CPS**

## 8. Planning:

BS advised:-

(i) Beachen Court: as he reported to the last meeting the matter is extremely complex and technical and he proposed and it was agreed that the CC would continue to support the views expressed by Gordon Bullock;

(ii) Seafeld Ave application re photovoltaics & heat pump: – CC had no comment;

(iii) Achnafearn Forest Track: CC had no issue with application;

(iv) Mackay Ave house extension: CC had no issue with application;

(v) Conservation Area Appraisal: matter is still with HC there should have been a response in December but it was now unlikely before February

## 9. Parking:

LC rehearsed the history of the proposed Enforcement Order and confirmed the receipt of the revised proposals from Shane Manning. BS agreed to print off large scale copies of the revised plan and MB and EM will use such copies to carry out a further check that they accord with the comments made by the CC previously. There was a discussion as to whether the CC should organise a separate community engagement exercise in the YM/Legion/GAH on the single issue of the parking scheme proposed so as to be able to contribute to the HC Consultation exercise

**LC to establish the consultation timeline from Shane Manning**

## 10. Toilets:

Following a detailed discussion it was agreed that pressure must be brought on HC through Andy Summers to re-open the Burnfield toilets EM reported that at Hogmanay there were some 25 campervans parked up in the Burnfield car park thinking that the toilets would be

open. It was the unanimous view that the CC had to continue to vigorously pursue this matter with HC.

## 11. Correspondence:

LC reported she had received the following:-

- (i) Fiddler of Strathspey Festival: the festival is attempting to raise funding and have already received letters of support from Grantown East, The Clan Grant Association and Seafield Estate and would like a letter of support from the CC, it was however noted that the CNPA had declined to write such a letter. It was agreed that BS would prepare such a letter for signature by LC if available or alternatively EM would sign in her absence;
- (ii) Community Partnership meeting 23/01/19: TA confirmed he would attend on behalf of CC
- (iii) Meeting re New Hospital on 22/01/19: MB said he would attend if possible
- (iv) Scottish Rural Action: they are carrying out a rural housing survey, details will be requested
- (v) Gynack Bend: a request had been received to support an approach to realign the Gynack bend on safety grounds. BS indicated that this was relevant to the issue of the Dulnain Bridge – Grantown cycle/walking paths and he agreed to pursue the request in connection with the on-going discussions.

## 12. AOCB:

EM referred to the Silent Soldier statue unveiling at the Legion, he reported that the CC had received a good deal of positive feedback from the unveiling ceremony. He added that it will soon be lit from below and have a permanent facility at the bottom to hang a daily wreath

EM further reported that he had met Fergus Ewing in connection with the water issues and he had confirmed that he would get Scottish Water to carry out the necessary testing

LM said she had also met Fergus Ewing to discuss broadband provision. She had been informed that there was a scheme whereby householders could get a grant of approx £50 to help erect antennae to improve broadband reception from local masts. Unfortunately the scheme had now closed but she had been informed that a new scheme would be opening in January 2019. This would be available to residents in Dava, Advie & Cromdale.

Jeannie Munro raised the question of the proposed Clash Gour Windfarm. She maintained that this was the first time that there was a proposed windfarm on the Dava and within the GoSVCC area upon which the CC had not commented and expressed her disappointment. Jeannie Munro stated that there should have been advertisements about the proposal in 'The Strathy' but it seemed there had been no such advertisement. BS agreed to contact LibertyOne as soon as possible and he and LM would work together and liaise where possible.

BO raised the question of the Strathspey Hotel. EM observed that it was clear the developer needed as much of the land at the rear as possible for parking and was encroaching more and more onto the HC land at the rear. It was agreed that Stuart Black should be chased as soon as possible concerning parking at this location.

**13. Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 19.00 in the Grant Arms Hotel

**THE MEETING TERMINATED AT 21.40**