

GRANTOWN ON SPEY and VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 17th September 2019 at The Grant Arms
Hotel Grantown -on - Spey at 19.00 Hrs

Present:

Ewan MacGregor Vice Chair (EM)
Martin Bradshaw Secretary (MB)
Beatrice Oliphant Treasurer (BO)
John Halliday (JH)
Bill Sadler (BS)

Also present:

Muriel Cockburn (MC)	Highland Council
Jane Hope	Resident
Jen Tiller	Resident
Lynn Stevenson	Resident
Jeanie Munro	Resident
Margaret Ross	Resident

Apologies: Apologies received from Linda Coe, Catriona Brown, Laurie McLeod and Tim Artus

1. Welcome:

In the absence of Linda Coe, EM chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending

2. Police Report:

There being no representative of Police Scotland present there was no formal Police Report. However EM was able to give an update on the position. He stated that he had received an email from Police Scotland which advised that Inspector Tough, who is due to leave shortly, has appointed a designated officer to be responsible for Grantown and he has confirmed that this officer will be available for the next CC Meeting on 19th November. The email repeated the advice that if they become aware of antisocial behaviour or unlawful activity or any other problems residents should call 101 and report the matter.

Ms Stevenson (LS) wanted to raise the issue of tractors speeding through the Square. EM said that this had been noted together with the problem of cyclists riding on the pavements. He also advised that the Grammar School is becoming involved with attempting to deal with the cyclist

problem as well as antisocial behaviour generally. LS said that what was needed was for example a bike park where children can ride their bikes without causing problems to residents. Jen Tiller said that the Dulaig playpark would be a good space and which is at present underused.

3. Minutes of last Meeting:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th July 2019 were approved

Proposed: BS Seconded BO

4. Matters arising:

- **Abandoned vehicles:** EM reported that one of the vehicles has been removed and the other, in South West High Street, was reported on 12 September because it was apparently last taxed in 2018. Highland Council have been requested to enforce removal of this vehicle. Police Scotland are also involved since it is clear that it was driven to its present location.
- **Litter in Grant Road:** EM reported that it is clear that, at long last, the owner of the site appears to be attending to the problem but the position will continue to be closely monitored'
- **Trees in The Square:** BS reported that the dead, dying and diseased trees are due to be removed sometime, HC have indicated that this will be done "shortly" but it is unlikely to happen before the end of the year. Jane Hope indicated that it could not happen before Christmas in any event because of the consequent issue with the Christmas lights. She also advised that the replanting could only properly be done with relatively young trees, with all the necessary security, because the more mature the replanted trees are the greater the risk of disease. EM stated that it was hoped that sufficient funds would be available from the Town Centre Partnership (TCP) to renovate The Square, he confirmed that £265k had been made available for the towns in the Strath but no fixed amounts had been allocated to each community. LS asked how many trees were affected and would have to be removed. She was informed that at present there are 5 dead dying or dangerous trees which need to be replaced and that these are on both sides of The Square. MC advised that she had been in touch with the lighting department and was waiting to hear back from them and following that quotes would be obtained for the removal of the 5 trees but that nothing will be happening before the New Year.
- **Old Spey Bridge:** EM confirmed that at the last meeting John Bruce had agreed to enquire further at the Ward Meeting but no further information had been received
- **Strathspey House Clock:** as a result of enquiries it is now clear that it is up to the Factor to get the residents of Strathspey House to agree to carry out the necessary repairs but it was acknowledged that this could be problematical as not all of the residents are permanent and that in at least one case resident overseas

- **Buses:** LS informed the meeting that she was aware that, on a number of occasions, buses are using the Burnfield Car Park to turn around or rest. She was advised that the CC understood that Stagecoach should be using West Lodge now that the necessary repairs have been carried out but would continue to monitor the situation

5. Treasurer's Report:

BO reported that as at 17th September 2019 the balance was £3,852.96 with Income since the previous meeting being a donation of £250 from the Craigellachie Masonic Lodge for Grantown in Bloom and the HC grant of £693.13.

Expenditure since the last meeting was £228 for the whisky casks in South West High Street and compost; £633.60 in respect of the hanging baskets in The Square; an Invoice from HC in respect of the materials used by the Community Payback Scheme in The Square of £401.50. There is an un-presented cheque in the sum of £27.77 and that accordingly the balance after all cheques are cleared will be £3,423.69.

BO confirmed that the anticipated expenditure will be £ 750.00 in respect of hanging baskets; £86.00 Insurance premium; £28.00 CC Remembrance Day Wreath; Book tokens and Compost. Anticipated Income will be the Discretionary Grant from HC of £500 and a donation from Motormaniamia of £250.00

Jeannie Munro enquired why the amounts involved and those from HC were so small; **MC** responded by stating that the Administration of HC wanted to cut all payments to CCs completely and that the only reason that any payments are being made at all is that all the opposition parties on the Council combined to force through these limited payments.

6. Highland Council Report:

MC reported that the Town Centre Fund applications are presently being considered and the recommendations by Council Officers to the HC are due on 23rd September. She added that, not surprisingly, the fund has been heavily oversubscribed but she anticipates that the various groups will hear back from HC following a full Council Meeting in November.

EM pointed out that at the previous meeting in July John Bruce had agreed to look into the following matters:

- a. The state of the housing in Castle Road East - **MC** said that she had emailed the relevant department to establish details of their new proposals for this work after the collapse of the HMO application in respect of one of the properties, she had not to date received a response
- b. The condition of the drainage gullies throughout the town; **MC** had no information
- c. The responsibility of Landlords/Owners of properties for the repair and maintenance of guttering and drainpipes e.g. the Co-Op/Newsagents/Craft Lounge as all were in considerable disrepair - **MC** confirmed she would check on the position
- d. The access track to the Community tip - **MC** had no information
- e. He was to chase Shane Manning or his department for a substantive response to **LC**'s request for information but no communication had yet been received. **EM** pointed out that he had received a complaint from a resident of the High Street about parking restrictions' and PCNs being issued as when they had purchased their property this had purportedly come with "Residents' Parking"

f. Strathspey Hotel site clearance – MC said that she understood that the property was under new ownership and that the site would be cleared but she confirmed that she understood there were still substantial issues over planning

7. Planning Report:

BS reported the following matters:-

The CNPA had called-in an application regarding a track on the Glenbeg Estate, he confirmed that the CC planning sub-group would examine this application;

The Canopy at the filling station in Spey Avenue- he reported that there had been a new application in respect of the height and colour of the canopy which had been approved under ‘delegated powers’. He said that there was considerable disquiet about this whole process and the outcome;

The lane off Woodside Avenue/Mockbeggar development – BS advised that between themselves the residents had now managed to agree on the nature and extent of this development but a consequence is that the refuse bins will no longer be collected down the lane, because the refuse lorry will have access problems, and in future residents will have to place them at the top of the lane on Woodside Avenue;

He understood that CNPA have approved the plans for the new distillery but full details are not yet known

8. Applications for Funding:

EM stated that he was satisfied that this subject had been satisfactorily covered during consideration of other Agenda items and it was unanimously agreed to proceed to the next item of business.

9. Community Engagement:

BS confirmed that on Sunday 23 September during the Fiddler of Strathspey Festival there will be a further Community Engagement event in The Square

There then followed a detailed and wide-ranging discussion on the condition of and proposals for both the Mossie Road and Dulaig play spaces. Jen Tiller advised that a group had recently been set up to try and improve the Dulaig site and it was agreed that the CC would do all it could to support and assist this group; there was discussion concerning the extent to which the community might be able to repair/maintain/improve the facilities in the Mossie Road playground but concerns were expressed about the necessary involvement of HC as it was their site and potential insurance ramifications.

Jen Tiller was asked about the most immediate issue her group had with regard to the Dulaig site and she replied that their most pressing issue at present was dog fouling and what that really wanted immediately was a dog bin on site.

MC advised that there were a number of funding streams available for such improvement works and recommended that they be explored

10. Grantown in Bloom:

BO reported that there was an urgent need for volunteers on Wednesday 2nd October to lift the flowers and blooms from the planters in The Square and again on 9th October in order to plant the daffodils for next Spring. She urged everyone attending the meeting to do all they could to get as many volunteers as possible to help.

11. NMU Routes:

BS confirmed that the route to Grantown was now more or less agreed and it was planned up to the entrance to Grantown. However, it will be up to the community to agree on plans for the route through to Hospital, Schools etc. This route could, for example, be along by Kylintra over the Dulaig park and down passed Inverallan church to the War Memorial, but there will have to be public consultation and agreement on the precise details.

12. Correspondence:

None was reported

13. 2019 Community Council Elections Process:

MB advised the Meeting of the timetable produced by HC, that Notice of the Election will be posted on 23/09 that all Nomination papers must be lodged by 08/09 and that if by 11/10 nomination papers for less than the permitted number of Councillors have been received those candidates will be elected as of that date without a formal election but if there are more candidates than the permitted number of councillors there will be a formal election which will take place on 20th November and Notice of the first meeting of the new Council issued on 13th december

14. AOCB:

MB reported that a member of the community had reported to him that posters of a political character had been placed on the Hydro shop community Noticeboards by an organization from Berwickshire and which had completely obscured local notices and that she had removed them. After discussion it was agreed to take no further action.

15. Date of the next Meeting:

The next Meeting of the CC will be in the Grant Arms Hotel on Tuesday 19th November 2019 at 7.00-pm

The Meeting closed at 21.25