

GRANTOWN ON SPEY and VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Virtual Meeting held by Zoom on 19th January 2021 at 19.00 hrs

Present: Linda Coe Chair (LC)
Declan Gallagher (DG) Treasurer
Ewan MacGregor Secretary (EM)
John Halliday (JH)
Laurie MacLeod (LM)
Bill Sadler (BS)

Muriel Cockburn HC Councillor (MC)
Lucy Edmondson (LE)

Also, present Ewen Mackintosh CEO (EM) and Matthew Garstang Strategic Project Manager **(MG), of Gordon & MacPhail Distillers**

Apologies: Michelle Maclean

1. WELCOME:

LC welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending and advised that there were no requests from the community to join the meeting, which was very disappointing. LC welcomed Ewen and Matthew for coming along to give an update on The Cairn distillery.

LC also advised that Emily had decided to resign from the Community Council due to study commitments. It was agreed that EM would speak to the school about getting someone to replace her, a possible candidate could be Matthew Murphie.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: No Declarations of interest were made.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17th November were approved.

Proposed: DG Seconded: LM

THE NEW DISTILLERY:

Ewen Mackintosh thanked the Community Council for the invitation to give an update on the new Distillery. Due to the COVID Pandemic the project which was scheduled to start in March was put back to July 2020. The groundworks were completed, and the building has started to go up quite quickly. Forsyth's Fabricators from Rothes has produced 4.5 KM of stainless-steel pipework to date. From February 2021 things should start to move forward again, with a projected completion date of late 2021/early 2022 with the opening in Spring 2022. Gordon & MacPhail are projecting 50,000 visitors to the distillery per annum. LC thanked EM and MG for their time and wished them every success with this project which will undoubtedly benefit the area.

4.POLICE UPDATE

EM reported that the Police are continuing to patrol the area and the matter of speeding cars is still a high priority.

The Police has also had a high presence in the town during the recent COVID outbreak and have been concentrating on drug issues in the area.

BS should we publicise this to make the community aware of the vandalism situation.

MC would it not be possible to engage with the Grammar and Primary school, to see what the needs are for the community, we are living in strange times.

DG asked if we could not get something in the Strathy.

MC the majority are being penalised for others bad behaviour and with some police presence we can get some sort of settlement.

5. MATTERS ARISING:

TREES: The trees had been removed and the stumps have still to be removed, before the replacement trees are planted. The replacement trees had been ordered.

OLD SPEY BRIDGE: BS No change

SKATING POND: BS suggested the reeds could be pulled out by hand, the company that was approached about this has pulled out, EM agreed to take this on as a project.

BURNFIELD TOILETS: LC reported that the asset transfer should happen next month. MC advised that the delay was due to repurpose of staff and sickness levels being high. The Gi reported that VABS had identified the possibility of other funds being available to service and run the toilets.

PUBLIC WIFI: JH reported that 300 people had signed up and BT Openreach has issued a case number in order to complete the survey, we are very fortunate as Findhorn community Council were quoted £3m by Openreach. A survey of the Grant Arms is scheduled regarding the sighting of the new hardware, and build a network using Grantown On Spey as the Hub.

SPEYSIDE CLOCK: BS had spoken to one of the residents who has repaired the clock tower which had fallen into a dangerous state.

HEDGES: It was noted that the hedges had been trimmed from Mossie Road to the Health Centre. LC had advised David Greer at Seafeld of the dead tree in the hedgerow and the state of the hedge generally from the Health Centre passed the two Lodges.

WINTER RESILIENCE: LC had circulated an e-mail exchange with Highland Council re path clearing to identify the paths which needed to be cleared by volunteers. Despite the CC seeking interest generally from the Community in the Scheme, to date there had been no interest from potential volunteers. MC advised that any Salt Bin request should be made to Highland Council via the Scheme.

PLAYPARKS: There continued to be vandalism at the Mossie Park, MC advised that the ongoing costs of repairing the fence were in excess of £100 for each panel and as a result everything has been put on hold, if the damage continued then Highland Council would look to remove the play Fort. The Dulaig Park has been matched funded; however, things have been difficult there due to COVID and vandalism. The two Play Parks are separate Projects because the intention is to produce something different for each.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

DG reported that no major income or expenditure had occurred and the balance at today's date is £3242.49.

7 PLANNING REPORT

BS reported Concerns was expressed that the plans for the Beachan scheme were premised on the fact that Seafield Avenue was seen as a quiet and safe route for cyclists. No cumulative survey had been undertaken and this should be reviewed by planners considering increased traffic from all sources and in terms of "planning gain". The plans stipulated that there should be a proper safe cycling and walking route from the scheme to join the Seafield Avenue pavement and there is now in place a 3m wide shared track beside the access road. The plans also said that for communal properties there should be shared cycle storage provision of which so far on a cursory inspection there was no evidence.

Strathspey Hotel site, a meeting has taken place with the developer and conservation planners, and everything is now looking very hopeful with plans approved.

The Filling Station has got permission to extend the canopy however no work has started on this, however there is an issue with a flashing sign, this has now been drawn to the planning department's notice.

Elephants in the Pantry site EM reported that he was still waiting a report back from Highland Council and Councillor John Bruce.

8. HIGHLAND COUNCIL UPDATE

MC reported that the 20mph had been agreed by the area committee and rolled out in the Aviemore area due to Government funding, any further 20mph initiatives would be subject to budgets being worked out and new proposals would have to come from local communities, this has been held up due to the high level of Illness and Displacement within the Highland Council. MC reported that there had been a 192.3% increase in unemployment in the Badenoch and Strathspey area which highlights the importance and resilience required, of the hospitality sector. BS asked if there were any plans for further electric vehicle charging points at the High Street Toilets. MC advised that this was a National Park issue. There are currently 7 COVID Cases in Raigmore ICU

9. BANK OF SCOTLAND CLOSURE:

LC advised she had written to the Bank of Scotland on the 23rd of December but had not received a response to date. Grantown Business Association had not yet provided an update regarding the removal of night safe facilities.

11. GRANTOWN FORUM:

LC Nothing to report.

12. COMMUNITY STORAGE

EM advised that Highland Council had still not responded to Edward Mountain on this.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence received

14. AOCB

EM agreed to find out when the next Anagach Woods AGM is to be held.
BS talked about possible sculptures for the Millennium Plinth.

15. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the CC will be on the 16th March at 19.00

The meeting finished at 21.43