

GRANTOWN ON SPEY and VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held on Tuesday 21st July 2020 via Zoom

Present: Linda Coe Chair (LC)
Ewan MacGregor Vice Chair (EM)
Declan Gallacher Treasurer (DG)
Martin Bradshaw Secretary (MB)
Bill Sadler (BS)
John Halliday (JH)
Lawrie MacLeod (LM)
Muriel Cockburn Highland Council (MC)

1. Welcome:

LC advised that no requests had been received from the Community to join the Meeting which she said was a little disappointing but welcomed everyone to the Meeting and thanked all for attending.

2. Declarations of Interests:

No Declarations of Interests were declared.

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 17th March 2020:

LC pointed out an error in the item relating to Toilets in Item 7 in that it should state "...if they **do not** remain financially viable..."
Subject to this amendment the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th March 2020 were approved
Proposed EM Seconded DG

4. Covid-19 Update:

BS said he was discussing the question of a Covid Memorial of some kind perhaps some form of sculpture commemorating the pandemic and it was agreed that the CC would be supportive of whatever action it was decided was appropriate

EM reported that discussions were also taking place regarding what the Legion would be doing on Armistice Day in view of the likely restrictions in place but no formal decision had been taken at this stage.

JH said that he has made poppies from plastic bottles and as there were 314 names on the War Memorial, he was proposing to make a poppy for each of these names. The Council was warmly supportive of this initiative .

5. **Matters Arising:**

Trees: MC advised that the correct time for doing this would now be early Autumn and s(e had been advised that this was all now in hand

Old Spey Bridge: LC reported she had updated CNPA regarding the necessary repairs to the bridge and had requested their help and advice as to how these could be carried out because of their involvement with The Speyside Way. The outcome of this was that it was agreed that the repairs were not critically urgent but should be carried out before the next survey which is due to take place in 2025. The only alternative is for the Community to raise the £600,000 estimated to be necessary for the repairs but it was accepted that this would be an uphill struggle. LC confirmed that she is trying to get the CNPA more involved because they may have the necessary expertise.

BS asked whether CNPA had any responsibility for the bridge because of the route of the Speyside Way. He was advised that they have denied any such responsibility and have said that if it becomes dangerous they will merely re-route The Speyside Way over the new bridge.

It was agreed that the Council should wait for a detailed response from CNPA and take it from there.

BS said that the repairs had been urgent in 2004 and if HC say now that they are not urgent there must be an explanation MC pointed out the the financial climate is now very different.

Community Asset Transfer: LC reported that work was being done on the next phase of getting the CAT through which is the Business Plan and it is hoped that someone on HC is available to deal with this but it is all moving very slowly. LC thanked MC for her help in getting the door locked again after it had been found open. MC said that it had been a toilet maintenance team that had come out to deal with the toilets. LC asked whether she was saying that HC had come out to clean an unused toilet. MC said that all she knew was that there was no sig; of any forced entry

Parking Enforcement: BS confirmed that Sustrans had put in £29k for Grantown and this was primarily for pathways and cycle paths but parking would inevitably be involved. LC asked what was happening with regard to Parking Enforcement and MC advised that at present everything was on hold and that nothing would be done this year

Bus Selters: LC reported that her efforts to get a current timetable exhibited were continuing

Public WiFi: JH advised that there were no new developments but MC said that the case is coming up so the result should be known soon

Gully Cleaning: it was confirmed that the problem in Forest Road had been reported

Town Clock: BS said that he had spoken to one of the occupiers of Speyside House who said that he would 'look into it' but to date nothing had been done

Planning Training: MC said she had spoken to Liz Cowie and it was hoped that this could be offered before the end of the year

Hedges: nothing will be done before September but it was reported that the Anagach Woods Trust had received the sum of £250 to fix the fences at Kylintra Burn

Castle Road Housing: MC advised that approximately 48% of HC Amenity Staff were unable to work at present with the result that all such works were now on hold indefinitely.

EM asked whether it was known when the recycling centre would be reopening as this was causing increasing concerns. MC said that it would hopefully be opening again next week but with limited opening hours but she would advise as to the new operating hours as soon as they were available. It was noted that the situation at the Dava Way Lay-by now seemed to be acceptable.

6. Treasurer's Report:

DG reported that the balance at the last Meeting had been £4,784 and as at the present date the balance is £3,762. The major outgoings have been £720 for flower boxes, £426 to the Spey Centre for compost etc and £370 for repairs to the bowser.

The HC Discretionary Grant of £603 has been received and as at the date of the Meeting there were uncleared effects of £192 to The Cooperage and £72 to HC for compost

In addition the sum of £143 was due to be received.

7. Planning Report:

Strathspey Hotel: BS confirmed that the CC had objected on the grounds that although the revised development was an improvement the design was still not acceptable and this view had been supported by 5 other bodies – significantly there has been no comment from CNPA

Industrial Estate: Rails to Grantown have objected because the current proposals will require a level crossing to be installed and it was also noted that the CNPA plans are wrong since they show the railway in the wrong place. LC confirmed that Rails to Grantown are dealing with both HC and CNPA on these issues

CNPA/LDP: it was agreed that responsibilities should be allocated as follows:-

Landscape: JH
Cultural and Heritage : BS
Natural Heritage: LM
Renewable Energy: LC

All matters should be uploaded and dealt with by 7th August

BS commented that all the CC can do is to pick up on anything that CNPA has missed. LC responded that the CC can only check that the guidance is accurate and in accordance with policy

Elephants in the Pantry site: [DG did not take part in this discussion as he declared an interest] EM reported that the developer had installed an extractor unit on the exterior of the building without consulting or discussing the matter with the owners of the flat above. It was the view of the Meeting that at least a Change of Use Application should have been made as it was a can of use from a Coffee Shop to a full blown hot food takeaway but there was no sign that this has been done
MC advised that John Doherty at the Kingussie Office of HC was the officer who should be contacted on this issue

8. Highland Council Update:

MC wished to place on record appreciation for the extraordinary amount of work carried out by Karen Derrick and the VABS organisation and also the work co-ordinated out of the Community Centre by Heather Fraser during the current emergency. She also wished to acknowledge the efforts of teachers at the Grantown Grammar School who had been contacting pupils on an individual basis.

She advised that HC were beginning to start to run services normally again but they there will be no face-to-face meetings at the present time or for the foreseeable future.

9. Police Update:

In the absence of any presence by Police Scotland EM reported that he had spoken to Inspector Tough on a couple of matters of concern:-

- (i) Speeding vehicles in The Square- Ins. Tough had advised that as these were non-essential users they had been in breach of the lock-down regulations and 3 or 4 of such individuals had been dealt with accordingly. He had acknowledged that since the easing of the restrictions the situation had deteriorated but a number of Registration details of serial offenders had been provided to the Police. Ins. Tough had confirmed that marked and unmarked police cars will continue to be present in Grantown regularly
- (ii) Youths in The Square – this problem was not confined to The Square since it was prevalent in the woods and the had been reports of vandalism elsewhere in the town. Ins. Tough agreed to increase the police presence in the town but did make the point that until they are able to catch any perpetrators in the act The is little or nothing the police can do but he confirmed that a number of young individuals in The Square had been spoken to and cautioned about their behaviour

10. Bank of Scotland:

LC confirmed that she was aware that even though the bank had withdrawn the immediate closure of the branch this was only a temporary reprieve, the bank will close it only a matter of when but it had been confirmed that it will not close during the pandemic emergency

BS pointed out that the funding had been made available to consider a purchase of the site but that this has had to be returned.

11. Grantown Forum:

LC is conducting a joint approach to various interested groups so that the CC can set up a joint forum.

12. Community Storage:

LC reported that this issue is being pursued by Grantown Initiative and at present it would seem that the only option is the Seafield Estate option of a 3 year lease of a container at Heathfield House. This was far from ideal but it would be on the edge of town and it would provide a 'breathing space' to enable further options to be explored. LC also said that she has been in contact with Edward Mountain and he has written to HC

13. Correspondence:

LC advised that she had nothing to report on this item.

14. AOCB

- (i) BS reported that funding for the design process for the Town Tour Plaques had now been received and the he had permission to instal them on all of the proposed sites except for 2 (The Court House and one other). He added that funding was also in place for manufacture of the plaques and when all permissions are in they will be made
- (ii) LM has been informed that Wind Farm consultations are presently on hold
- (iii) JH reported that £3000 has been granted to The Grantown Society by Berryburn and it is proposed that this will be used to purchase more planters and a new bowser.

15. Next Meeting:

The next formal Meeting of the CC will be on 15th September 2020 at 19.00

The Meeting terminated at 20.15