

GRANTOWN ON SPEY and VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Virtual Zoom Meeting held on 15th July 2020 at 19.00 hrs

Present: Linda Coe Chair (LC)
Ewan MacGregor Secretary (EM)
John Halliday (JH)
Laurie MacLeod (LM)
Bill Sadler (BS)
Muriel Cockburn HC Councillor (MC)

Apologies: Declan Gallagher (DG)

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 thanked EM for stepping into the role of secretary until a replacement can be found.

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

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Subject to the following amendments

The Sustrans figure was 28K and not 29K

The £720 was for flowers for the hanging baskets and not for flower boxes

Under AOCB BS reported that funding for the Town Plaques Trail is in place, when all permissions are in they will be made and installed.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21st July were approved.

Proposed: BS Seconded LM

5. MATTERS ARISING:

COVID 19 update LC had been in contact with the emergency liaison group and reported that there had been no new cases in the community this week, 39 cases and 35 were connected to Millers of Speyside.

The emergency liaison group have not met since last week, and LC agreed to keep in touch with the group.

MC reported that the cluster had been contained and there was no need for a local lockdown, unfortunately something was reported on Channel 4 news, however there were a few facts missing which caused unnecessary anxiety.

LC asked that the community council was kept in the loop and be part of the chain of communications.

LM reported that she had been tested last week and things were straight forward.

LC reported that there had been a mobile testing unit setup at the local Fire Station as a result of the recent virus cluster in the town.

TREES: LC reported that we are still awaiting a date for the felling and trimming of the trees in the square. MC reported that it was due to the confusion of who owns the lights in the trees, as some belong to HC and some belong to Grantown Festive Lights. Sean Malone was contacted by JH to ask about the felling, LC asked JH to liaise with the Grantown Festive Lights committee and ask them to remove their lights from any of the trees to be felled. BS asked if we had an exact plan of what Highland Council are going to fell and prune. MC reported that the dead trees are the ones that are going to be felled. JH agreed to liaise with Sean at Highland Council, and he would contact the GI and Jim Beveridge re the lights. BS agreed to send the original document referring to the trees in the Square to JH.

OLD SPEY BRIDGE: BS had an informal meeting with a local builder who has agreed to have a look at the Bridge and report back. BS also agreed to contact HES and see if there was any other funding available to repair the bridge.

SKATING POND: GI taking this forward as a project, and Gavin Miles, Jane Hope, Linda Coe and David Greer from Seafield Estates are having a zoom meeting on 18 September to discuss the way forward.

BURNFIELD TOILETS: LC reported that a full asset transfer application has been made. LC has concerns about the statement made by Highland Council, that they will look to close the toilets in the High Street car Park. MC reported that the current financial situation would indicate they would not look to close them unless they were not making a profit, Bill Lobban had said to MC that only one toilet facility is required so no need for the other one to remain open.

PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS: they are now working in the Town however parking is still an issue. BS advised that this would be looked at as part of the Sustrans initiative.

BUS SHELTER: MC confirmed that Ian was going to have the Bus Shelter repaired in the Square. LC pointed out that there was still no up to date timetable displayed in both the bus shelters, MC advised that she had not had any reply from Stagecoach regarding the timetable, MC also raised her concerns about the possible reduction in bus services.

PUBLIC WIFI: JH reported the recent court case was settled in favour of BT Openreach, and they are being successful with the projects to date. It is planned that a fast cable will run through Grantown, and enquiries are being made with owners of buildings that would give them access.

GULLY CLEANING: LC had raised this issue with MC prior to the meeting, MC reported that one area had been done and the other had been done twice, LC had pointed out that there was still an issue with Forest Road, MC agreed to look into this and report back.

SPEYSIDE CLOCK: BS had spoken to one of the residents and they had agreed to raise the matter with the Highland Council. As this did not make sense BS would speak to the resident again.

HEDGES: The hedges on Castle Road had been pruned by someone, JH had provided photographs of the work carried out, and that the branches had been left which indicated that it was not a contractor that had carried out the work, LC agreed to take the matter up with David Greer at Seafield Estate, and draw his attention to the dead tree over hanging the road.

CASTLE ROAD HOUSES: MC reported it is still all in hand, the problem has been that some of the properties are privately owned, so not all Highland Council stock, the funding is still in place and the repairs will go ahead.

LAYBY: LM reported that still nothing had been done to tidy up the CNPA sign at the lay by on the approach to Grantown from the Dava, EM agreed to speak to the CNPA about this.

MEMBERSHIP: Ewan has spoken to the Grammar School about getting two senior pupils to join the community council, EM agreed to continue to Liaise with the school. LC pointed out that we are currently 3 members short, and we should be looking to fill these ASAP.

FACE to FACE MEETINGS RESTARTING: MC asked if we had received the information distributed by the Highland Council, regarding the restarting of meetings, it was very clear that they are not looking to allow meetings resume until the End of November possibly the start of next year.

IAN CHARLES HOSPITAL: LC had a meeting with Jane Hope, Karen Derrick and Kenny Rogers to discuss the asset transfer, as this has now been discussed with the NHS Local Manager things will be able to proceed.

RIVER CLEAN UP: BS asked if there was any further information on this, however no further details are available.

HERITAGE PLAQUES: BS reported that all the permissions have now been received and the plaques are now in production.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

As DG was absent from the meeting, a brief report was submitted, the finances of the CC are still healthy, and the accounts for last year will be sent for independent review soon.

7 PLANNING REPORT

BS reported that after a very full debate the decision to refuse planning permission for the Inverallan Houses was made. The main objection had been the removal of trees and the impact this would have.

Strathspey Hotel site, a meeting has taken place with the developer and the environmental dept, and everything is now looking very hopeful.

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 there is not a great deal to report now as all the Budgets are under review, and the Administration are trying to balance the books. MC reported that there has been a U turn on the provision of 1140 hours for nursery provision. Everything is being fully costed now.

EM asked about the reopening of the Grantown recycling centre as it is causing a lot of local grief. MC advised there was no plans for that to change at the moment, EM asked why the Aviemore recycling centre was not open at weekend, MC agreed to look into this.

JH asked about snow clearing services and the clearing and gritting of pavements this winter, MC indicated that there will be no change as this is provided by the roads department and it should be the same service as last year.

LC asked MC if she could get an agreement on what services are going to be provided by Highland Council and those that were possibly going to be cut, in order that the community could identify where volunteers were needed to provide these missing services

9.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

10. BANK OF SCOTLAND CLOSURE:

LC reported that a closure notice was displayed, indicating the branch will close on the 8th February 2021. It was agreed that we should write again to the Bank of Scotland asking them to reconsider retaining the bank in the Town as the current Pandemic has shown how vital it has been in the community.

11. GRANTOWN FORUM:

LC is setting up an inaugural zoom meeting as Chair of the Community Council.

12. COMMUNITY STORAGE

The GI has agreed a deal with Seaford Estate for 3 years, at a nominal rent, they are now looking to purchase a container for the site.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence received

14. AOCB

BS had hoped to have a community engagement this Sunday 20th September at the local farmers market, however considering the recent COVID situation it was agreed that it would be postponed until sometime in October.

JH advised that the two water bowsers had been purchased as a result of the money from the windfarm grant and a further 30 hanging baskets had also been purchased. JH had been speaking to Beatrice who advised JH that the orders for next year's plants should be submitted to the Highland Council now, however we will not know until October if Highland Council will be able to supply the plants and if we are going to get funding. BS suggested contact is made with the Botanic Gardens to see if plants would be available from them. LM suggested we contact the distillery to help with funding for next year.

15. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the CC will be on the 17th November at 19.00

The meeting finished at 20.43