

# GRANTOWN ON SPEY and VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Draft Minutes of Virtual Meeting held by Zoom on 16th March 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**

Claire McGonigal Head Teacher Grantown Grammar School

Liz Henderson CNPA

Matthew Murphy

The 3A's project team Mark Elliott and Gary Stodart TGP Consultants

**Apologies:** Michelle Maclean

### **1. WELCOME:**

LC welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. LC welcomed Mark and Gary for coming along to give an update on the 3A's project.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Linda Coe, John Halliday and Bill Sadler noted declarations of Interest regarding the 3A project.

### **3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:**

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

**Proposed: DG Seconded: LM**

## **THE 3A's Project**

Mark & Gary thanked the Community Council for the invitation to give an update on the 3A's Project. The 3A's represents, Active, Accessible and Attractive.

Grantown as part of the initial consultation, a community engagement event was held during one of the Farmers Markets, the findings included, being able to circulate within the Town safely and being user friendly.

The consultation strategy, is to look at the existing route types, identify design issues, and build on the baseline observations, such as safer routes to schools, and remove any conflict with vehicles.

It is also important that the Schools are contacted and involved in making the routes to School safer.

Liz Henderson asked if the Traffic Survey could be revisited sometime in the Autumn which TGP confirmed.

The slides produced by TGP consultants were very informative and clearly showed how some simple changes can have a major impact on improvements to the Town

## **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 vandalism at the School and at various other points in the Town is also being investigated.

## **5. MATTERS ARISING:**

**TREES:** LC asked MC for an update on the Trees in the Square and when the tree stumps would be removed so that the replacement Trees could be planted. MC agreed to check this out and report back to LC

**OLD SPEY BRIDGE:** BS reported that the OSB may be eligible for a Historic Scotland Grant, and BS agreed to put in an expression of interest. LC asked about the application process and BS advised the more people and organisations that get involved the better. It was suggested that support was requested from Nethy Bridge CC regarding their half of the Bridge.

**SKATING POND:** Concerns about the condition of the fences around the pond as they are in desperate need of repair or replacement. A donation of £250 was made towards the work being undertaken. LC was already in contact with the GI and AWT.

**BURNFIELD TOILETS:** LC reported that having spoken to Liz Cowie regarding the asset transfer. There appeared to be additional legal hurdles concerning Common Good assets under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and the pre-emption rights of Seafield Estates. LC would be speaking to Sara Murdoch at Highland Council who is dealing with the Common Good Funds to establish the likely timetable for dealing with new Common Good Assets for Grantown and Burnfield toilets.

**PUBLIC WIFI:** JH reported that 300 people had registered their interest. The Scottish Government has changed the grant status, as a result the next step is to make an application to Digital Scotland. JH advised that a Zoom meeting is being setup with East Neuk and Cupar to gain feedback and it is hoped that there will be a Zoom meeting for the Stakeholders in Strathspey. Hopefully we could go live by the Summer.. A survey of the

Grant Arms has confirmed the suitability for the siting of the new hardware, ensuring Grantown On Spey remains as the Hub.

**SPEYSIDE CLOCK:** BS No update

## **6. TREASURER'S REPORT**

DG reported that £600 from Seafield Estates and the £1 annual donation had been received, and the Bank balance on 16 March is £3843.49. A cheque for £86.49 has been sent to Zurich Insurance: renewal was due by 31 March The Insurance renewal was approved this was Proposed by EM and seconded by BS

## **7 PLANNING REPORT**

BS reported no reason to object to the Shepherds Hut in Church Avenue.

**Strathspey Hotel** A great deal of work is being undertaken at the site

**The Filling Station** BS reported that there is still an ongoing issue which had been reported to Highland Council, regarding the illuminated sign which is flashing on and off

**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 main item was that the budget had been approved and the key is that there would be more money to assist schools and early support for young children.

There will also be more discretionary funding for the Wards, to help create stronger infrastructure within the area. Highland Council are employing Rangers for the Area which means we will be in a better place for this year's tourism.

LC asked about what Highland Council were intending to do about the poor state of repair of the pavements and roads. MC advised that a team is going round the villages to look at what work is required.

The Issue of the increase in Dog Fouling was raised, MC advised that Dog Bins were no longer being provided by the Council. She did not have an answer to the problem, I will speak to Sean to see if anything can be done locally.

There is no intention now to extend the opening times of the Recycling Centres.

## **9. BANK OF SCOTLAND CLOSURE:**

LC advised she had received a letter from Lloyds advising the Bank will close on the 22nd of March

## **11. GRANTOWN FORUM:**

LC 2 things to report; - 1 Gordon Strang is leading on an event to mark the Iain Charles Hospital ceasing to be a hospital. ICH will be used by the Health Centre whilst refurbishment work is undertaken in the Health Centre

2: The Distillery would like to incorporate a Time Capsule in the Wall of the Distillery which would include something from Grantown to reflect 2020/21. Karen Martin would be liaising with organisations in the Town and in particular the Schools.

## **12. GRANTOWN IN BLOOM**

JH The delivery of the bedding plants should be towards the end of May. The CC would apply for funding from the Ward Discretionary budget for plants for the for the hanging baskets, as well as Highland Council compliant brackets for the additional hanging baskets. MC agreed to investigate the supply of brackets as they need to be in accordance with the Highland Council specifications.

With reference to the improvements for the Square LC agreed to speak the GI with regards to the timings for Phase 1, which is the replacement trees, PA system and Street Furniture. All the cables for the PA system and Festive lights are being replaced, this will take place as soon as practicable.

LC is working with Karren Derrick regarding seeing volunteers for the areas the CC has highlighted in the Town that could benefit from a little TLC.

BS advised that Path funding from Nature Scotland maybe a possibility for the Old Spey Bridge.

## **13. CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence received

## **14. AOCB**

Liz Henderson advised that the CNPA Green Recovery Fund is being launched at the beginning of April, and some of our projects may qualify for funding.

## **15. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the CC will be on the 18th of May with the AGM at 18.30

**The meeting finished at 20.43**