

GRANTOWN ON SPEY and VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 21st January 2020

at

The Grant Arms Hotel Grantown -on - Spey

at 19.00 Hrs

Present:

Linda Coe Chair	(LC)
Ewan MacGregor Vice-Chair	(EM)
Declan Gallagher Treasurer	(DG)
Martin Bradshaw Secretary	(MB)
John Halliday	(JH)
Bill Sadler	(BS)

Also present:

Muriel Cockburn	Highland Council	(MC)
Neil MacIver	Police Scotland	(NM)
Clare MacLennan	Police Scotland	
Jeannie Munro	Resident	
Margaret Ross	Resident	

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Laurie McLeod.

2. Welcome:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Police Report

NM reported that it had not been a particularly busy period 'call wise' in the Grantown area. He added that from a police point of view Hogmanay had passed without incident or any issues at all. He further reported that whilst the matter continued to be highlighted by Police Scotland it had been noted that fewer calls had been received concerning anti-social behaviour by young people and misconduct in vehicles.

EM pointed out that the major concern was not just about cars but about the use of The Square and conduct generally. NM confirmed that there had been a call logged about young people throwing stones at the Post Office. EM repeated that there had been complaints about young people gathering in The Square and the High Street outside the Bank of Scotland, he reported that there had been an incident of young people intimidating an elderly resident outside the Legion and following him home, as well as trouble in gardens in Grant Road. EM acknowledged that there were difficulties in dealing with these incidents as they happened but felt that it would be helpful if the police could speak to the individuals concerned and warn them that their behaviour was unacceptable. NM stressed that if there were any incidents involving intimidation then the police should be called at once and repeated the advice given previously that residents should call Crimestoppers whenever they are concerned and repeated that Police Scotland will continue to do all they can to monitor and deal with residents' complaints.

4. Declarations of Member' Interests

MB reported that he had now received formal details of each member's interests from all Members of the Community Council.

All or any interests of Members in any of the matters under discussion were declared.

5. Minutes of Meeting held on 17th December 2019:

MC pointed out that the correct name and title of the new manager for Badenoch & Strathspey was Kate Lackie and she is the Executive Chief Officer. MB thanked MC for these corrections

The Minutes of the Meeting of the CC held on 17th December 2019, as amended, were approved.

Proposed : BS

Seconded : DG

6. Matters arising:

6.1 Buses: LC reported that discussions were continuing with Stagecoach and HITRANS about a Timetable at the Craiglynn stop and keeping the digital display in The Square updated and correct but that the question of the correct routes through the town had been agreed and that the majority of buses now leave the town via the stop outside the Craiglynn. She confirmed that she is still trying to get the area around the main stop in The Square tidied up and kept clean as well as rationalizing the information kept in the bus shelter;

6.2 Trees: MC reported that there was no further information about when they would be taken down. EM enquired whether it would be possible for the fallen timber to be made available to elderly residents for fuel; MC said she would check the position and report back;

6.3 Housing Castle Road East: MC reported that a specialist company had been brought in from Aberdeen to investigate the problems but to date no further information was available;

6.4 Gully cleaning: MC advised that the next area meeting is in February and the matter will be raised then;

6.5 NMUs: BS confirmed that he was in regular contact with Sustrans in connection with the route into Grantown;

6.6 Grantown in Bloom; JH reported that he had received some responses from the 20 groups he had contacted regarding sponsorship of planters in The Square but that, to date, these responses were merely expressions of interest and no formal commitments had been received but he will chase these up. He advised that the hanging baskets had been removed when the Christmas lights had been taken down. He has contacted John McLean at HC but he was presently on holiday; he had contacted Karen Derrick at VABS re whisky cask planters for Burnfield but had not yet received a response and likewise he had contacted Jane Hope at the GI about the replacement PA sound system for The Square but also had not received a response. He advised that the bedding plants had been ordered, the Spring bulbs planted and that these will be lifted in May. EM confirmed that he would assist JH in connection with Grantown in Bloom;

6.7 Storage: MC confirmed that an offer had been submitted in respect of the Old Burgh Yard opposite the PO building but had no details so there was no change in the situation. LC reported that she was to have a meeting with David Greer of the Seafield Estate in the near future to discuss a number of issues relating to Grantown and she will raise the storage issue with him. MC enquired about the buildings at the rear of the CNPA building in Church Avenue but she was informed that these were part of James Grant's business premises.

DG advised that there was a possibility that the GI might be able to obtain storage in Heathfield, where the Highland Games organisers have in the past stored their equipment, at a cost of £50 per month. This was being considered and he will keep the CC informed. BS enquired whether or not a formal expression of interest should be made in connection with the Old Burgh Yard so that if the apparent present offer collapsed there would be a clear statement of interest shown but that this would have to come from the GI as no development trust exists. DG also added that there seemed to be a vacant site at the rear of Beale & Pyper which looks like it would be big enough to hold a shipping container for storage and this might be worth keeping in mind;

6.8 Dulaig Park: it was reported to the Meeting that the Christmas event organised by the residents' committee had been a great success. The Dulaig Park Committee have their next meeting on 31st January at which Cllr Lobban will be present. EM agreed to attend this meeting on behalf of the CC.

It was pointed out that the Dulaig Park Committee had hoped to have been able to sell alcohol at the Christmas event but this had not been possible. After a detailed general discussion as to how this would be possible in future it was pointed out that anyone with a Personal Licence, such as MB or Heather Fraser at the YMCA, could apply for up to 10 Occasional Licences per year, each one of which lasts up to a week. This discussion widened to include the question of a possible revision or relaxation of the restrictions on drinking in The Square and the rest of the town. It was decided that it would be appropriate to include the question of relaxing the drinking restrictions at the next Community Engagement event organized by the CC. BS advised that the STP were coming to Grantown in the near future, he would get the exact date from them since it would seem appropriate to have such Engagement event at the same time;

6.9 Town Centre Fund: LC advised that she had received an e-mail from the GI giving details of the proposed new signage and display cabinets to be paced in Burnfield and SW High Street car parks. Jeannie Munro referred to the 'Information' sign on the proposed Burnfield sign and enquired whether this was to relate solely to Grantown or whether it would include information about Dava/Lochindorb as there appeared to be little or no information about them in the town. LC confirmed that this was an issue which should be taken on board and needs to be addressed when the time comes;

6.10 Town Centre Clock: MB reported that the letters to the residents of Strathspey House had been prepared and signed but that both he and EM had been unable to deliver the letters as the post box could not be located. EM agreed to continue efforts to deliver the letters;

6.11 The Post Office: it was reported that with effect from 4th February the Post Office will be located in Grantown News on the High Street and that this decision will be published locally in the very near future.

7. Treasurer's Report:

DG reported that the change of signatories to the bank account, which was necessary following the recent CC election, has now been completed and that Internet online banking was being set up.

The balance as at 21.01.20 is **£4,166.69** - the increase was accounted for by the recent donation of £500 - and projected expenditure currently stands at **£1,967.32**.

8. Planning Report:

BS advised that there were no new applications which needed to be considered. MC said that she would contact Liz Cowie in connection with setting up Planning training for Community Councillors and would advise accordingly.

BS said that he had been in touch with conservation personnel at HC, specifically Andrew Puls, in connection with the Conservation Management Plan. He confirmed that CNPA was happy to contribute to such plan as well. BS had been made aware of an old plan which had been produced for Inverness, he acknowledged that this was an old plan but that it might be possible to use this as a model for a plan for Grantown. He has requested information from Andrew Palp as to whether there is any current pro forma model for setting up such a Management Plan but he had not to date received any details. BS aged to send a 'chasing' email to Andrew Puls and copy this to MC so that she could follow it up.

9. Ourack Wind Farm Consultation:

LC pointed out that the proposed location of the wind farm is not within the GoSVCC area, it fell within Cromdale & Advie CC but suggested that if the Dava Residents Assoc. were to put something together in response to this Consultation then this could be sent as a formal GoSVCC response. LC advised that the deadline for response is 29th January 2020.

10. Highland Council Report;

10.1 MC reported that the Parking Plan for Grantown was being put in place shortly. LC enquired why this was happening, MC replied that it was the HC proposal to charge for parking in both Burnfield and SW High Street car parks and to share the income 50:50;

10.2 As far as a meeting with Kate Lackie – the new Chief Executive Officer for Badenoch & Strathspey – was concerned, then Ms Lackie had indicated that she wished to attend the next meeting of the B & S Community Forum before having any meetings with individual CCs;

10.3 EM reported that during the recent bad weather the ice and snow had not been completely cleared, especially in the area around Coppice Court which had been a major hazard and worry for elderly residents. MC said she was not sure whether Coppice Court was a HC responsibility she thought it may be a Housing Association one. EM responded that it was the whole area of Coppice Court/Shanklin Court/ SW High Street that was of concern. MC said she would make enquiries and revert in due course.

11. Discretionary Grant:

It was noted that the proposed application for this grant to carry out preliminary work in connection with a proposed Local Place Plan was not a ‘legacy project’ and it was confirmed that the Discretionary Grant is not available, for example, in connection with feasibility studies.

It was agreed therefore that an application should be made for the grant in connection with bedding plants and floral displays.

LC agreed to make the application.

12. Correspondence:

LC advised that she had received notice of a Scottish Land Commission meeting in Inverness on 29th January, information on a research project being undertaken by the UHI (circulated) and a call from SSE Network for feedback on its draft Business Plan.

13. AOCB:

- LC confirmed her forthcoming meeting with Seafeld Estate and, after a general discussion, it was agreed that the matters she would raise with the David Greer would include:-

Hedge Cutting,

Possible land available for parking,

Community Storage, including possible site on Heathfield,

Skating pond

The Old Spey Bridge

- Train timetables: it was confirmed that local service timetables are available in the Aviemore Station but they have to be asked for over the counter, they will no longer be on display in the Waiting Room,

- BS suggested that there should be a standard item in CC Agendas in future for a formal report from the GI - this was agreed and MB instructed accordingly
- BS also suggested that there should be some form of formal congratulation to the Hogmanay In the Square Committee for the excellent organization of the Hogmanay celebrations, this suggestion was unanimously agreed
- There was a discussion relating to the co-opting of additional Members as at present there is a distinct, if remote, possibility of a meeting not being quorate. All members were encouraged to consider possible candidates and DG agreed to liaise with the Grammar School to explore the possibility of engaging students with the CC
- After a brief discussion it was agreed that, if possible, a series of informal meetings with Highland Council Officers and Employees would be a helpful development in order to discuss common issues and problems
- Jeannie Munro stated that the layby/parking bay on the edge of the Dava was a mess and an absolute disgrace. It was agreed that this would be taken up, informally with CNPA by EM
- WiFi : JH reported that as expected and hoped Openreach had been granted the contract for North East Scotland but that an objection had been raised by one of the other companies who bid for the contract and this was still in the process of being resolved. It was however clear that Openreach was still very interested in a project in Grantown and Strathspey but this was being delayed because of the objection that had been raised.

14. Next Meeting:

The next Meeting of the Council will be on Tuesday 17th March 2020 at 19.00 in The Grant Arms Hotel

The meeting terminated at 21.09