

# GRANTOWN ON SPEY and VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Draft Minutes of Virtual Meeting held by Zoom on.**

**18th May 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)

## **Also, present**

David MacLeod Dava Residents Association

Mike Causey Local Resident

James Welsh and Helen Skimmimg, Ourack Windfarm Development Strategy  
Stantec

**Apologies:** Michelle Maclean, Lucy Edmondson, Mathew Murphie

## **1. WELCOME:**

LC welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. LC welcomed James Welsh and Helen Skimming from Stantec

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** No notes of interest

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

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 16th March were approved.

**Proposed: DG Seconded: LM**

## **Ourack Windfarm Development Strategy Stantec**

James and Helen thanked the Community Council for the invitation to give an update on the Ourack Windfarm Development Strategy. James Welsh and Helen Skimming are both Planners with Stantec.

James made a PowerPoint presentation on the windfarm project which is planned to be North of Grantown-on-Spey adjacent to the Dava community.

The company Vattenfall will be the windfarm developers. James and Helen highlighted that the community would benefit from funds that would be available as a result of the development of the wind farm. The presentation set out the community development strategy identified to date which any Fund created would seek to support and James and Helen welcomed feedback on these strategic objectives.

Dave McLeod from the Dava Residents asked why Vattenfall appeared to be ignoring the people of the Dava and removing a piece of Land from the designated area of Natural value. Dave also pointed out there were a great deal of issues regarding water supplies for the Dava if the wind farm goes ahead. The residents have also arranged for a site visit from the Wildlife Survey protecting the natural site.

LC advised that the Community Council would balance support for the Dava residents with regards to planning issues relating to the proposed windfarm with continuing to pursue benefits from any community fund.

### **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 various points in the Town is also being investigated.

### **5. MATTERS ARISING:**

**3A's:** BS reported that since the last meeting, virtual drawings had been prepared and uploaded to the Virtual Exhibition Website. The next stage of funding is currently being applied for; the proposed route is from the Dullaig Park – Seafield Road – Primary School. The current aspirations for the project have been scaled down a bit. The object is to cater for the people of Grantown with young families.

LC reported that several routes have been identified and the best will be put forward for Sustrans funding.

JH advised that it would be impossible to cover all the routes however the one linking the school will probably attract the funding.

**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 advised it is all in hand, and she was meeting with Nick from Highland Council the following week to get an update and find out when the tree stumps were to be removed.

JH asked MC for the contact details of the person who has taken over from Sean Malone from Highland Council.

**OLD SPEY BRIDGE:** BS reported that an application to Historic Environment Scotland and Sustrans Grant, had been lodged. However, they had come back advising they would only

pay 40%, and no labour costs would be included, as this is the case this means that this application has reached a dead end. We can however reapply, but a sum of £750K is needed for the repairs, Highland Council have agreed to carry out the work if we raise the funds. MC agreed to speak to Mike Howell of Highland Council re the half of the bridge owned by Highland Council. BS highlighted that we need Highland Council to be more supportive on these necessary bridge repairs.

**SKATING POND:** LC has met with Seafeld Estates, and they have agreed to repair and replace the damaged fences. It was felt that the £250 donated to the AWT for the fence repairs should be given to the Estate as a contribution to the repairs as well as any further monies the community can raise. The fence contractor that is employed by the Estate is currently very busy, but they would get the repairs underway as quickly as possible.

**BURNFIELD TOILETS:** LC reported that Highland Council legal team were working on Common Good Register issues in Grantown which needed to be resolved prior to the transfer of the toilets.

**PUBLIC WIFI:** JH reported that Rapier Systems have surveyed the area and identified that by using the Laggan Hill Mast they could potentially extend the area coverage. The hardware should be installed in the Grant Arms very shortly. Once the paperwork is completed and the Scottish Government has approved the project, a letter will be sent to all residents in the Strath. It is hoped for a launch date of the 12<sup>th</sup> August.

**CONDITION OF PAVEMENTS AND ROADS:** MC advised that a survey is to be undertaken by Highland Council and extra funding has been made available to repair the roads in the area, and white lining is to be carried out. EM asked MC about the emptying of the Gullies especially out towards the Health Centre as they appear to be blocked.

**DOG WASTE BINS:** The Highland Council will empty the bin on the corner of Castle Road East and Cromdale Road when it is moved to the Heathfield track.

**CLOSURE OF IAN CHARLES HOSPITAL:** It was agreed that something should be done to mark the closure of the hospital in Aug/Sept 2021. BS agreed to speak with Gordon Davidson from NHS Highland.

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

DG reported that there is truly little change in the accounts, the balance at 18<sup>th</sup> May is £3750.00. DG also highlighted that as a result of events not taking place as a result of COVID we will have not received approximately £1000 in donations this year.

Regarding the CNPA Green Recovery fund, we will be eligible to receive 80% of £485.00, for litter picking equipment but the funding from Highland Council is still to come. MC advised that she had emailed Liz Cowie regarding the Ward discretionary fund.

## **7 PLANNING REPORT**

BS reported nothing to report. Regarding the 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 a few businesses in the area are struggling to get staff.

The New Hospital is progressing well, and School assessments are ongoing now.

EM asked if there is any intention now to extend the opening times of the Recycling Centres especially in Grantown, MC advised that there are no plans at present.

## **9. GRANTOWN FORUM:**

LC reported that- ICH will be used by the Health Centre whilst refurbishment work is undertaken in the Health Centre and the Cairn 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.

## **10. GRANTOWN IN BLOOM**

JH will be contacting Mick at the Highland Council to see when the bedding plants are going to be available and delivered. The hanging baskets will be delivered by Greens and the Total cost this year for the baskets including the additional baskets is £613.00. JH asked MC about the additional hanging baskets brackets that would be required as they would have to be Council compliant brackets. MC suggested JH speaks to Mick about the brackets.

It is proposed to have a voluntary day of planting.

Lyn Bowden advised JH that Gary who arranges for the water bowsers to be filled at the fire station has sold his property and is moving away. A new watering team will be needed with Lyn stepping back and JH will be urgently seeking volunteers. All nominations to JH.

JH advised that storage for the bowsers were an issue, in this regard BS asked if the old burgh yard had been sold or disposed of by Highland Council as it would make ideal community storage.

## **11. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Scottish Opera would like to come to the Town on the 31<sup>st</sup> July, and asked if we would be interested. LC and EM agreed to investigate the possibility of staging this.

Audit Scotland report on Highland Council – feedback requested.

GI had requested a letter of support for its Green Recovery Fund Application which had been provided.

COOP local community Fund is seeking project ideas for funding.

## **12. AOCB**

DG had been asked about who owns the sign at the Cemetery and can it be replaced with a better-looking sign.

## **13. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the CC will be on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 19.00 and will be a virtual meeting

**The meeting finished at 20.43.**