

# GRANTOWN ON SPEY and VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023

### Royal British Legion at 19.00 Hrs

**Present:** Ewan MacGregor (EM) Chair  
John Halliday (JH) Vice Chair  
Declan Gallacher (DG) Treasurer  
Bill Sadler  
Jenny Steven (JS)  
Pam Sayer (PS) Minute Secretary  
Alan Jamieson (AJ)  
Muriel Cockburn(MC) Councillor

#### **Members of the Community Present**

Sandra Willox, Michael Shand, Lucy Davies, Claire Filer, David Steven, Call Stewart, Ken Kelly, Mark Strachan

**Apologies:** Laurie MacLeod, Jeanie Munro

#### **Declaration of Members Interest**

DG has interest with the Chip Shop discussed later

#### **Matters Arising**

There is a major issue with the roads and pavements around Grantown and drains have become a trip hazard along the High Street with drains crumbling or sinking and the road sinking around drains.

EM asked MC about the possibility of someone from the council doing a walk around to assess the extent of the problem.

Growth of vegetation from the woods is encroaching on the footpaths to the new cemetery and the new bridge. MC will check if HC own the footpaths for this to be dealt with. She will also determine if HC own the drains that are causing issue along the High Street.

MC advised that any issues that are found be reported to the Service Point as footfall at the Service Point is being monitored.

There are a lot of street lights out around the town but HC are aware of this but are waiting for specialist bulbs to arrive before repairing them. The head of the Lighting department has been asked to the next Ward Meeting for this to be discussed.

The gritting around town has not been as frequent as previous years. MC advised Priority routes, Secondary Priority routes and Hanover housing has been cleared but the team are working with a 25% reduction in staff due to sickness.

EM asked if it is possible to get new grit bins for some areas and to ensure others are full of grit.

Parking continues to be an issue. EM asked MC if there is the possibility of making new parking spaces by removing half the grass area in front of the CO-OP. MC replied the grass may come under the Common Good so be unable to be removed and HC has no money for infrastructure. She advised sending an e-mail to Shane Manning requesting a review of parking.

Grantown East has closed permanently. Lucy Davies and Claire Filer on behalf of the Shinty Club would be keen for the area to become a Sports Hub as there is already good parking, toilet facilities and running water. The area is owned by Revack Estate and is in the border between Grantown Nethy Bridge Community Councils so they were advised to speak to Karen Blessington and Nethy CC but Grantown CC will support the idea. Money may be available through Wellbeing Funds to develop the area which may be big enough for a full size pitch and a smaller training pitch.

Old Spey Bridge has some stones missing from the parapet, CPNA to be approached about repair.

The sandstone on the New Spey Bridge is crumbling, HC requested to inspect it.

The bottle bank at Burnfield is overflowing and there has been an increase in fly tipping. This is made worse as the tip continues to be closed on a Sunday. MC advised it has been a fight to keep the tip open on a Saturday but HC is having a review of opening times of all the tips. The 20mph enforcement is currently going through a Traffic Order and should be in place by April. The signage will be provided by Traffic Scotland and not HC.

A second cash machine is needed for the town. The British Legion is happy to host a machine and this will be taken forward.

### **Grantown Society**

The CNPA is now involved with the Active Travel scheme through their own Active Travel policy and there is to be a meeting later in the month with them.

### **Treasurers Report**

£5,471.07 currently in the bank which includes £600 from Reidhaven Estate. Still waiting for the HC discretionary Fund money which has not been received yet. There are a couple of expenses to out.

### **Planning**

Planning permission for the glamping pods has been refused.

The Conservation Area draft plan has now been completed and will go to the Ward meeting later in the month. If this is then incorporated then there will be a public 'Drop In' on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

A Local Community Plan still needs to be written and the Community Council will discuss how best to proceed with this at the next meeting. The plan would involve the community and look at things like parking, parks and any other topic affecting the local community. Grantown is not part of the HC local community plan as we are part of the CNPA plan which runs until 2025.

The Speyside Chip Shop in the high Street has been sold but does not have change of use license or planning permission, so the new owners need to be aware of this before they take over on 27<sup>th</sup> January. John Bruce from HC is to contact them about the issues.

### **Highland Council Update**

The council is currently looking at its budget but as there is no flexibility they have no big plans.

There is a shortage of Care at Home workers within the area but the first apprentice is to be trained.

### **Police**

No Police present at the meeting due to adverse weather conditions.

### **Grantown in Bloom**

This is a quiet time of year with all equipment in storage although some of the spring bulbs are starting to come through.

The water bowser had been placed at the cemetery next to the shed but HC didn't want it there so it has been removed and is now in storage. MC to make enquiries about water butts being installed to catch rain water from the shed but the gutters would need to be repaired first.

### **Grantown Initiative**

The cost for renovating Burnfield toilets will be around £100,000. A lot of the money has already been raised but is £37,000 short. There are applications to various funds to try to raise the money. The main cost is in changing the layout of the toilet block to have one entrance where there are currently 3, then have a 50p entrance fee so the toilets pay for themselves.

Grantown does Christmas was well received.

The festive lights are gradually being renewed with some new lights bought each year.

The torch light procession went well with new volunteers running it this year.

Hogmanay in the Square was a success. The square was well gritted to make it safe prior to the event and there was money raised on the day towards the cost of next years event.

All of the Christmas events are always looking for volunteers to organise them and also on the day for traffic management etc.

Spey Shed is being hosted by the YMCA and the GI is helping refurbish a room to be used.

This is like the Men's Shed but is for everyone.

There has been a local donation to replace a tree that has broken through vandalism. Work in the square is being undertaken to move cables underground for the sound system and lighting. The cables are currently banded to trees but this needs to be reviewed as the trees are growing.

### **Strathspey Now**

This has been live since the end of October and engineers are currently connecting the households that expressed an interest. There are homes in Cromdale, Dulnain Bridge and Nethy Bridge to be connected but currently none in Grantown. If anyone is interested then the engineers will survey the house to ensure it is suitable for connection before proceeding. Some households are eligible for the £5,000 voucher.

Strathspey Now will not interfere with the signal from any other broadband provider.

### **Correspondence**

None

### **AOCB**

There has been an issue with the NHS vaccination site. Grantown is not listed for appointments but they are listed under Inverallen.

AJ asked for white lines to be painted in car parks. He is a driving instructor and is required to teach students to park in parking bays. The only car park he has been able to use is at the Health Centre but they have now been stopped doing this and the car park at the Craig MacLean centre is always too full to use. If there are no parking bays to use then Grantown is in danger of losing the test centre. The only HC car park in Grantown is the one opposite the petrol station and the suggestion was made this be made one way with bays painted in. MC to ask HC if this is possible.

The old Police Station is now being used as a Space Centre.

The next meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March at Grant Arms Hotel.