

GRANTOWN ON SPEY and VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Grant Arms Hotel on Tuesday 17th May 2022 at 19.00 Hrs

Present: Ewan MacGregor Chair (EM)
Declan Gallacher Treasurer (DG)
Pam Sayer Secretary (PS)
John Halliday (JH)
Bill Sadler (BS)
Alan Jamieson (AJ)
Muriel Cockburn (MC)

Members of the Community Present

Ron Mathieson, Michael Shand, Margaret Ross, Jeannie Munro, Roy Hewett, Allen Calder, JA Grant, C. Blakeney, Lord Reidhaven

1. Welcome:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending

2. Declarations of Interest:

JH declared he is also a member of Grantown Society

3. Update on Health Centre refurbishment.

Dr Miles gave out copies of the plans for the refurbishment and spoke through them. Hopefully starting in September the Health Centre staff will move into the Ian Charles Hospital building while the Health Centre is being refurbished. The offices will be moved upstairs which will have an extension to allow for a telephone triage room. The move to the hospital may cause some issues for staff but consultations with patients and the minor injuries unit will continue as normal.

The Staff will then move back into the Health Centre (HC) and the connecting corridor between the HC and Hospital will be demolished to allow for an extension to the HC to be built. This will give 4 extra consulting rooms. These are needed as under the new GP contract the Health Board will be employing new staff to work with the surgery and these staff will include a pharmacist, Physiotherapist, Mental Health Workers among others.

Consulting room 6 has a door directly outside which will allow direct access which will allow staff to deal with future pandemics. The whole project is expected to take 18 – 24months.

There was then a discussion about the Ian Charles building which will be completely separate from the Health Centre. The Community Council has expressed an interest in taking it over to convert it into small appartments for somewhere for students/visiting staff to stay, such as GP Trainees, Trainee Teachers who currently have difficulty in finding local accommodation while in the area.

Dental facilities will stay in the current Port-a-cabin.

4. Minutes of last meeting

Proposed Declan Gallacher, Seconded John Halliday

5. Police Report:

EM liaises directly with the Police Inspector. Members of the community can bring issues to him to pass to the Police and this system has been working well. There has been a successful operation in the town dealing with speeding cars, but the problem is very limited Police resourses and operations needing to be cancelled if a person goes missing. During a recent incident in the town Police cars came from Aviemore, Nairn and Inverness.

The cameras in the town have been useful to the Police but they are also looking to install CCTV.

6. Grantown in Bloom

The spring bulbs are coming to an end and bedding plants have been ordered from Highland Council. Hanging baskets have been ordered and should be available by the end of May.

To mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee a Silver Birch Tree has been planted in Grant Park with a plaque supplied by the British Legion.

7. Platinum Jubilee.

Celebrations will start on Thursday 2nd June with the lighting of a beacon in the square at 9.45pm by the President of the British Legion and Linda Coe (previous Community Council Chair), the Choir will sing the song written for the Jubilee and a Piper will Play.

On Saturday evening there will be a dance in the British Legion and on Sunday it is hoped to have a street party.

If this street party is to be organised by the Community Council then a License is required which will not be available in time, so the British Legion to be asked to take on this event.

8. Strathspey Now

JH has been working with this project to bring faster broadband to the area. Everything is now in place and is waiting for the transmitter equipment to be installed to the Laggan mast and The Grant Arms Hotel will also house a transmitter. It is hoped the Craighlynn Hotel can also be used for a transmitter and this would increase the coverage in the area. Hopefully the transmitters will be installed by August. 400 household have expressed an interest in taking up this broadband and some rural households may be eligible for a grant up to £5000 towards the cost of installation of a receiver. Interest can be expressed on line at Strathspey Now.

9. Grantown Initiative

Money has been secured to refurbish and re-open Burnfield Toilets.

Dulich Park will have new equipment by this summer

It is hoped to install underground cables in The Square to help when running events

Gordon and MacPhail match any funding for events up to £8,000

There are new lights for the Festive lights

New volunteers are needed to organise Thunder in The Glen as the current organisers are looking to step down. More volunteers are needed to keep all events running.

Looking to set up a Park Run in the area.

10. Grantown Society

Various activities including Heritage Walks.

Looking to make buildings more accessible

Conservation issues and have project Sustainable Strathspey

Active travel – looking at safe walking and cycling routes and with funding from Sustrans

looking at ways to make the town centre more accessible. Consultants were employed to look at the issue but there has been difficulty in getting public feedback so a further Drop In display to be arranged.

There was a discussion around parking within Grantown Town Centre as it is felt the 2 parking places in front of the Co-Op on the square are a danger as they block visibility. The previous Community Council had highlighted this but Highland Council put in the current system.

A 20 mile per hour limit is proposed for the town and waiting for Highland Council to agree and put up signs. A cycle path from Dulnain Bridge to Grantown will stop at the current 30 mph sign so there was discussion around safe access within town.

11. Correspondence

A letter has been received from the CNPA re anti-social behaviour in the bathing pond area. Rangers will monitor this and campervans are being asked to move on as no overnight camping allowed.

Next Meeting 19th July at Grant Arms Hotel at 7pm.