

GRANTOWN ON SPEY and VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 19 December 2017 at the Court House, Grantown at 1900hrs.

Present: Barry Main (BM) Chair
Bill Sadler (BS) Vice Chair
Linda Coe (LC) Secretary
Catriona Brown (CB)
Fay Hampton (FH)
Kenny Kinnaird (KK)
Ewan MacGregor (EM)

In attendance Muriel Cockburn (MC) Councillor
Jeannie Munro (JM) Resident

Apologies: Beatrice Oliphant (BO) Treasurer
Martin Ross (MR)

1. Welcome

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

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 November 2017 were approved.

Proposed: EM; Seconded: BS

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Clash Gour BS reported that he had been in touch with Steven Park regarding Presentation materials and that these were available on the website for which a link had been provided. It was agreed that it would be useful for the CC to be kept on the loop as the Project progressed and that BS should write to Steven Park requesting the same.

Action: BS

3.2 Old Spey Bridge BS reported that difficulties identifying the owner of the bridge continued and this was preventing progress. MC confirmed that the bridge was not

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an HC asset but acknowledged that HC had made repairs in the past. If BS could provide an email or letter in support of the most recent HC offer of funding for repairs, she would follow it up. BS would make enquiries at Registers of Scotland.

Action: BS and MC

3.3 Yellow Lines BM advised that he was still waiting for the updated yellow lines plan following his meeting with Bill Lobban on 27 October. MC advised there was a technical issue at HC which she hoped would be rectified soon and the Plan made available to BM for the January Meeting.

Action: BM

3.4 Duck Pond EM advised that both sluices at the Pond were operational and that the Pond could be drained as required. He also confirmed that Anagach Woods Trust had arranged at the Trust's expense for the Pond to be cleared and that this work was now likely to take place in the Spring. The Trust had secured permission from CNPA for the work to be undertaken with all parties agreeing that it was necessary to improve the environment for species to be reintroduced. It was understood that the Pond would most likely need to be cleared every 3 to 4 years and that ongoing funding for this would need to be investigated.

Following discussion about the fencing along the path to and beside the Pond, MC agreed to investigate further with HC.

Action: MC

3.5 Burnfield Toilets BM advised that he had received complaints that the Toilets had been closed at odd times during the day and FH agreed to continue to monitor. It was also agreed that she would write to John McLean at HC to ensure the toilets were open at Hogmanay and to invite him to a CC meeting in the New Year.

Action: FH

4. Treasurer's Report BM advised that the CC had received a £500 donation from Seafeld Estate which BM had acknowledged with thanks. He reported that there was £1534.70 in the Bank. He advised that the HC grant remained in progress.

5. Planning Report

BS reported that he had attended the CNPA Planning Committee Meeting at which the Beachen Court development had been discussed. On behalf of the CC he had made the agreed points of objection including the principle objection to the bland and inappropriate design. Despite the objections and the fact that the houses were two storeys and not 1 1/2 storeys as originally proposed when permission applied for, the development was approved 13 votes to 3.

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The CC discussed the conditions of grant included with the original planning permission – the requirement for a barrier and the erection of a bus shelter outside Ritchies. The CC agreed that a bus shelter was not required outside Ritchies believing it to be a particularly unwise place to site a bus shelter and further hoped the unsightly barrier would be removed when the development was completed. BS would draft a letter dealing with these 2 points to be sent to HC and CNPA.

Action: BS

6. Grantown Initiative Update

BS advised that due to an access issue he had not attended the GI meeting on 12 December and advised further that there were no matters to raise with the CC from his review of the Minutes. He reported that the Meeting with Drew Hendry on 7 December had dealt with support for the steam railway and improvements to Wi-Fi in Grantown, which was important for local businesses and tourism generally.

7. Ian Charles Hospital

BM advised that he had received a response from David Alsten to his most recent letter regarding ownership and future use of the hospital building. The letter assumed the NHS owned the building and advised that the community could make an application under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

Ownership remained unclear, even Seafield Estate could not provide written evidence of the grant to the community or the basis for use by the NHS. BS agreed to ask George Dixon to look into this and in particular to look at the planning applications for both the Health Centre and the Dental Centre to see whether ownership of the hospital was evidenced.

BM had asked the Health Centre for copies of the plans for redevelopment and would follow up for the January Meeting.

Action: BM and BS

8. Closure of Grantown RBS Branch

LC advised that she was raising this on behalf of BO and acknowledged that considerable lobbying had taken place at both the Scottish and UK Governments. MC advised that HC had met with the RBS Regional Manager and had been advised that the decision would not be reversed. The CC discussed the particular issues facing a rural community with an older demographic and agreed that the provision of a mobile bank was not necessarily the solution nor was the PO, as far as business customers were concerned. It was agreed that the CC would raise these points in a letter to the RBS CEO and that EM would provide a draft for review by BM and LC.

Action: EM, BM and LC

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9. Siting of Additional Bus Shelter

FH suggested that a more appropriate place for a bus shelter was opposite the Craiglynn Hotel where she had observed many people waiting in all weathers for the bus to Inverness. The CC agreed that this alternative proposal would be added to the letter to HC and CNPA regarding planning conditions.

Action: BS

10. Information Noticeboards

FH advised that the new perspex for the Noticeboards in the Square was to be installed either on Thursday 21 December or early in 2018, depending on the weather.

FH advised that she had been liaising with the YMCA regarding a new noticeboard for use by the CC, to replace the dilapidated noticeboard at the Ben Mhor. She advised that the cost would be £120 to £150 and proposed that the CC fund this.

Proposed: FH; Seconded: BM

FH would liaise with BO regarding the process for ordering and payment and then liaise with the YMCA.

Action: FH

It was also agreed that the CC would hold the key for this Noticeboard and would decide which other Community Notices could be put on the Noticeboard. As this would replace the Ben Mhor Noticeboard it was assumed that the GI may wish to reserve some space.

Action: BS

11. Safe Route for Cyclists to Primary School

FH proposed that she kept this under review following various concerns that had been raised. It could be added to the Agenda of the Meeting attended by a Police representative for advice.

Action: FH and LC

12. Report on Conservation Area Consultation

BS advised that there had been a good level of engagement throughout the Consultation with some interesting suggestions. The Consultant's Report was due to

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be finalised by the end of January and the next step would be to brainstorm the recommendations in the Spring. FH suggested the CC make a donation towards the costs of the Consultation. The CC discussed whether this was an appropriate use of funds and agreed that the Consultation had been an excellent initiative for the Community. The CC agreed to make a donation of £200 to the Grantown Society to help cover the costs.

Proposed: BM; Seconded: KK

BM agreed to liaise with BO regarding the payment.

Action: BM

13. Bus Routes and Timetables

BS suggested that for safety reasons the route of the buses to Aviemore via Nethy should be changed so that they did not attempt to turn at the traffic lights at the Strathspey Hotel and exited the town South and then via the two roundabouts to cross the bridge. BS also raised the issue of the removal from the timetable of the mid-afternoon bus from Inverness and the inconvenience this caused. The CC agreed that the route should be changed and the Inverness – Aviemore bus should be reinstated. BS agreed to write to Stagecoach on behalf of the CC.

Action: BS

14. Antisocial Behaviour

EM reported that he had received several complaints about the behaviour of several youths on bikes outside the Bank of Scotland and in the Square; and the music and strobe lighting from the flat above the newsagent. MC suggested that EM report the incidents via Crimestoppers. It was agreed that these were matters to be discussed with the Police which hopefully they would pick up when they received the Minutes

Action: EM

15. Correspondence

15.1 Twinning Association BM advised that 2018 would be the 20th Anniversary of the Twinning Association. BM as Chair had been invited to join the visit to Notre Dame de Monts in July. The return visit would be 23 to 28 August and there would be a Reception on Friday 24 August. The Twinning Association is seeking support for the installation of a boules court, possibly in the area near the Garth. The site would need to be 19 metres by 3 metres. The CC agreed that in principle this was a good idea but was unsure where to site it. In the circumstances it would be a good idea to seek community views and BM agreed to discuss further with Lynda Beveridge. The CC agreed to discuss this further at the January Meeting.

Action: BM and LC

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15.2 CNPA Local Development Plan 2020 There would be a public Meeting to discuss the Plan in Grantown on 24 January at 1800 in the Grant Arms.

16. AOCB

16.1 Recognition for CC long service FH suggested that Ewan, Janet and Charlie should have their long service on the CC acknowledged. The CC agreed a small presentation should be made and BM agreed to look into this and make a proposal.

Action: BM

16.2 Co-op Community Benefit The CC acknowledged the excellent contribution to the community made by the Co-op and its customers.

17. Next Meeting

The next Meeting would be on **Tuesday 16 January 2018** at 1900 in the Court House.

Agenda items should be notified to BM and LC by **Saturday 6 January** for inclusion in the Agenda.

The Meeting closed at 2105.