

# GRANTOWN ON SPEY and VICINITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**at**

**The Grant Arms Hotel Granttown –on – Spey at 19.00 Hrs**

**Present:**

Linda Coe	Chair (LC)
Ewan MacGregor	Vice Chair (EM)
Beatrice Oliphant	Treasurer (BO)
Martin Bradshaw	Secretary (MB)
Tim Artus (TA)	
Catriona Brown (CB)	
Bill Sadler (BS)	
John Halliday (JH)	

**Also present:**

Muriel Cockburn –	Highland Councillor (MC) [Items 1 – 8]
Laurie McLeod (LM)	
Dr Paula Starritt - Doctor -	GoS Medical Practice [Item 4 only]
Kathy Cockman Exec Mangr	GoS Medical Practice (KC) [Item 4 only]

## **1. Welcome:**

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

## **6. Co-opting New Members:**

LC proposed LM be appointed as a co-opted member;

Seconded by CB

LM co-opted as a member of GoSVCC

## **2. Police Report:**

As there was no police presence at the meeting no Police Report was given

## **4. Health Centre redesign:**

KC said that as a result of a community meeting it was clear that members of the community wanted to discuss and be kept informed of what was happening with regard to health care in GoS. She confirmed that the plans for the Health Centre had not been finalised but there

were substantial issues outstanding as a consequence of some of the facilities presently in ICH being moved to the new hospital once it is opened. In addition changes in the working practices of GPs i.e. immunisations / flu vaccines etc being given by practice nurses meant that the initial design proposed by NHS Highland was unsatisfactory. The Health Centre have revised the plans because the original plans failed to provide adequate space for all the services required once ICH closes and they are looking for help from the community as a whole to try and persuade NHS Highland that further changes and alterations to their plans are needed.

KC produced a copy of the proposed changes and identified the detailed changes KC explained that additional space was required because, for instance:-

- additional practice nurses are being taken on;
- additional Consulting Rooms were needed;
- the Mon – Fri 09.00 – 17.00 opening hours will remain;
- a full-time pharmacist is starting in the New Year but at present there is no obvious space;
- there are major concerns that mental health services will suffer once ICH closes; the Health Centre has been offered a psychiatrist once a week but has had to decline this offer due to lack of available space

KC advised that NHS Highland insist that there will be no loss of services to the community once ICH closes but at present the Health Centre have difficulty delivering this.

As far as the physical space is concerned then KC believes that NHS Highland will remove the link corridor between ICH and the Health Centre thus breaking the physical connection between the buildings. The electricity and heating for the Health Centre is provided from ICH and it is suggested that a 'pod' be installed in the Car Park to continue the supply to the Health Centre

KC was asked whether or not it would be possible to have the ICH building 'returned' back to the Health Centre and used by them for additional space. KC advised that this was not a practical solution as the cost of the necessary refurbishment of ICH to make it fit for purpose make this impracticable. The current configuration and layout of ICH make it virtually impossible to refurbish the building to the necessary standard, as a consequence, it would be better to rebuild. The review which led to the decision to build the new hospital had estimated that it would cost £5.4m just to make the building watertight etc.

KC explained that NHS Highland own the Health Centre building and, in common with most practices in the north of Scotland, the Health Centre rented the building from them. There was a suggestion made that a purpose built facility could be built behind the existing façade of ICH. KC was uncertain whether this would be possible pointing out that the refurbishment/re-design of the Health Centre was an NHS Highland expense unlike the new hospital which is a Scottish Government expense.

KC concluded her presentation by stating that it was their firm view that unless the plans were changed to give them more space in the Health Centre then the community of Grantown-on-Spey would be short-changed, she confirmed that the Health Centre has

significant issues at this time but this can only get worse in the future and as a result of the closure of ICH.

**LC** confirmed that the CC could certainly raise the matter with NHS Highland particularly in light of the promises that GoS would continue to have access to all services following the closure of ICH. It was important to obtain information about what services would be lost or at risk if the plans did not provide sufficient space. KC would provide the current view

**MC** said that it was clear that there are major concerns about the provision of mental health services in the community

**JH** asked whether it would be possible to use the Dental practice building in the future if and when they vacated

KC confirmed that they were already taking some space in the Dental practice but they are worried that this could be taken away in, say, 5 years' time leaving significant challenges then.

**EM** suggested that it would be possible to connect the Health Centre to the Dental Clinic, move the Dentists into town which might provide the Health Centre with enough space.

KC said that this would not be an attractive proposition as they would like to keep everything together on one site

**JH** asked KC whether there was much use made of the bus stop outside ICH, she replied that it was not used that much, most people without their own transport used Dial-a-Bus or community transport

**BS** said that there was a plan to put in a bid for funding to have a cycle path connecting GoS and Dulnain Bridge. The CC is writing in support of the bid process and he felt that if the Health Centre could also write in support then this would help. KC confirmed that the Health Centre would be happy to support because it would contribute to healthy living – kids riding to school etc.

**LC** thanked KC and Dr Starritt for the information they had given

### **3. Minutes of last Meeting:**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were approved

**Proposed: EM**

**Seconded: BS**

### **5. Matters Arising:**

Clock: **MC** said she understood that Highland Council will be contacting the owners about repair costs but she had not heard anything further.

Trees : **BS** is aware and will chase

Old Spey Bridge: **BS** advised that the survey is being carried out, supposedly by Christmas and when finalized there will be further meetings

Skating Pond A meeting with Gavin Miles, Chair Anagach Woods Trust is awaited suggested dates expected shortly

Salt Bin **LC** pointed out that despite assurances this was still not in place **MC** said she had been told that it was in place but she would chase

New Spey Bridge **BS** confirmed that it appeared that some lighting work has been done on the bridge but that the position was unclear.

## **7. Treasurer's Report:**

**BO** confirmed that the balance as at 20<sup>th</sup> November was £3,382.08. There was a cheque for £133.48 payable to **BS** for the signs banners etc for the Square events. She confirmed additionally that it had been agreed to reimburse **BS** for the cost of a Wreath for Armistice Day in the sum of £27.00 and requested agreement

It was agreed to repay **BS** the sum of £27.00

**Proposed: TA**

**Seconded: EM**

## **8. Planning:**

**Dulicht:** **BS** advised that there were a number of changes proposed to the development but he added that they were extremely complex and technical and could not specify them at this time;

**Garden Park:** the application has just been renewed

**Birchview:** the matter was still, under review but added that Dafydd Jones is the HC Area Planning Manager who should be contacted by affected parties

**Conservation Area Consultation:** No meeting is likely until Jan/Feb 2019

**MC** added that the plans for the new hospital did not include a Coffee Shop just merely vending machines, she will be in contact about this in the near future because access will be difficult for the visually impaired or those in wheelchairs. She is well aware that NHS Highland needs to make a profit from such facilities but they all do and a community hospital must be concerned for the welfare of patients, families and visitors. A kitchen is included in the design so it is important that this facility is used so that all needs can be met.

## **9. Parking:**

**LC** reported on the outcome of the meeting with the Traffic Officers from Highland Council and advised that a new plan is being drawn up by the officers and when this is produced it can be examined carefully;

**LC** further confirmed that Liz Cowie had given her a number of possible dates for the meeting with the Ward Councillors and will circulate these to all members of the CC.

## **10. Toilets:**

**LC** reported on the meeting with Highland Council

**LC** said that she and Stewart Dick on behalf of GI had been trying to talk with Colin Lawson about repairs to Burnfield. The initial responses from Colin Lawson is that it is not as bad as we had been led to believe the problems were mainly blockages caused by improper use, there was little to suggest any material damage to the pipework. **LC to continue discussions with Stewart Dick and Colin Lawson as appropriate**

It was agreed that it would be appropriate at this juncture for the CC to consider what exactly would be involved in running and maintaining daily the Burnfield toilets. **MB to contact possible contractors**

### **11. Community Asset Transfers:**

**BS** confirmed he had written to Pablo Mascarenhas regarding the rear of the Strathspey site and the possibility of a CPO on part of the Kelman site which could provide further parking and landscaping and release the currently land-locked YMCA courts site for e.g. possible development by YM and possibly housing.

He added that the Scottish Government will buy land for use as social housing. **EM** agreed to contact his Scottish Government contact to find out how such funding can be accessed.

### **12.AOCB:**

**BS** confirmed he will attend the Transport consultation meeting in Kingussie and deal with transport and access issues; he will also attend the Windfarm meeting and the Democracy in Scotland event.

It was noted that the Grantown lights would be 'switched on' on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November

Dog Fouling: **EM** suggested making PooBags available free in the PO/Vets/etc and providing more bins

**EM to pursue with Angela at Highland Council**

**EM** also raised the issue of dangerous bushes between the birch trees at SW High Street and also the fact that there are reports that the water quality is deteriorating with reports being received of stomach problems.

**JH** suggested that some thought be given to arranging a Celebration of Grantown business successes which had been highlighted recently

**JH to pursue**

**BO** reported on the Grantown in Bloom project, she was carrying out investigations into bulb planting, noting that there seemed to be an unnecessary complication with Highland Council involving a turf cutter which will be needed. She also reported a positive outcome from the Community Payback Scheme in that one local girl has suggested painting the bins and bollards in The Square as part of this scheme which was to be welcomed

### **13. Next Meeting:**

Date of the next meeting is Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 19.00

**The meeting closed at 22.15**