
Minute of Meeting of Dufftown & District Community Council

Date: Tuesday 2nd April 2019

Time: 7pm

Venue: Memorial Hall Dufftown

Chair: Jim Nicol

Attendees: Angus Anderson, Sarah Anderson, Joan Nicol, Anne Hodge, Cllr Louise Laing, Cllr Walter Wilson.

Apologies: Cllr Derek Ross.

- 1. Police Update** - Inspector Grant McCutcheon has now moved to a different department and has been succeeded by Inspector Keli McPhail.

The shelter in Tininver Park is still fenced in and it is not known if this will be demolished or revamped. The Community Association has expressed a wish to have it removed due to vandalism and litter problems however the DDCC does feel that youngsters need somewhere to meet and that they would only move somewhere else if it were demolished. It was also felt that the opinion of the local residents be sought prior to any decision being made. The Speirins could perhaps do something to find out local opinion? It has been noticed that a small number of youths have already started to congregate in an old shelter near the park. On inspection they seem to have kept the area clean.

- 2. Minutes of last meeting-** The minutes were accepted as a true representation of the meeting. Proposed- Anne, Second -Joan.

3. Matters Arising

Parkmore Brae- Cllr Ross was finding out if there would be any merit in appealing the past decision on the barrier here, especially in light of the past two known incidents. There has been mention of another incident however nothing definite is known about this or in fact if it is a separate incident. If there is merit in an appeal, DDCC wonders whether an application for installation of crash barriers could be considered under next year's budget on the assumption that expenditure is already allocated and exhausted for this year. It was also discussed that if a barrier was not approved or its placement delayed then as an alternative, signage around the area could be improved. As not all accidents are reported, perhaps an appeal for data could be gathered to give weight to the cause?

Clock tower Flag- After contacting flag manufacturers regarding a more robust flag, it appears that a special coating can be used to help

with weathering. Forsyth's have very kindly offered to help with a cherry picker to have it put up and Dufftown 2000 has offered to fund the new flag. It was thought it would be good to get this sorted as soon as possible so it could be in place for the forthcoming season. Hopefully this could be achieved before the Whisky Festival and the Plaque unveiling Ceremony in May. Sarah will get in touch with Dufftown 2000 and inform the DDCA, Joan will liaise with Forsyth's.

Dufftown Toilets- Dates were discussed for a meeting with speakers and the DDCC, DDCA, Memorial Hall Trustees plus Dufftown residents. It was then thought that as a meeting had already been arranged for Rothes that perhaps it be easier to combine the two to save the speakers making themselves available again. Rothes will be contacted to check this is ok and that the venue is suitable. Interested parties can then be informed of the details.

The toilets are currently open and closed by volunteers who now wish to step down. New volunteers will have to be sought.

School Crossing Patrols- Sarah emailed haulage companies regarding the absence of crossing patrols asking them to take extra care driving through Dufftown. Carntyne replied stating they had informed their drivers. It was discussed that the DDCA were hoping to arrange a speed activated sign. The JCC have been running a poll as to whether parents are willing to pay a small yearly charge towards a crossing patrol. Perhaps extra signage or flashing lower speed signs may be helpful although it is not known if Moray Council would be able to do this.

Clock tower Plaque- Jim was able to attend the recent meeting on the unveiling ceremony. The plan is to have the ceremony on 27th May from 7 to 10 pm .Jim will do the welcome and the evening will involve poetry readings from children of both Mortlach and Speyside High Schools, a pipe band and the unveiling by either a parliamentarian or Lady Claire Russell. There will hopefully be a piece of music arranged for the occasion and a portrait of Mary Symons commissioned. Road closures will need to be sorted and curtains made for the unveiling. Afterwards there will be refreshments in the Legion with entertainment from the usual Monday evening Stramash. Sarah will make sure the DDCA, Dufftown 2000 and the Clock tower group are made aware of all current plans. Adverts for the event can be displayed on the DDCC noticeboard, and Facebook page and local shops.

4. Correspondence-

We have received a thankyou from the tourists who contacted us about incorrect footpath signage. Cllr Laing said that Moray council are in the process of sorting this out.

There is a request for Community Councils to showcase the work they do both past and present. Sarah will reply.

Moray Council wish for a speaker to come along to a meeting to talk about allotments. We will invite them to our May meeting.

Training is being offered on planning if wished.

Posters on fire safety from Scottish Fire & Rescue have been sent through. These will be put on the noticeboard and the Facebook site.

There are to be pedestrian improvements in the Square. Works should be starting in June and involve narrowing the road. There will also be a bike repair station.

- 5. Treasurers Report-** The current account balance is £581.58. A donation for the meeting room was due and a cheque was issued for this.

6. Community Feedback-

Jim has been approached by a resident worried about the safety of the salmon ladder near the Giants Chair. It is very open and they are concerned that children may end up playing on it and it being a potential for injury or worse. Sarah will email Diageo with the concern and see what can be done.

Concern was raised regarding Masters Widd and the area outside the Church where trees have been removed. As this is on a bank it was felt that planting new trees an advantage. Cllr Laing will look into this.

7. Reports-

Cllr Laing was pleased to report that the enforcement order has now been granted in regard of the Corsemaul Drive rubbish. The landowner has been given time to remove this and if they do not comply then Moray Council will remove it and charge them.

Apparently the abandoned car in Tininver Street has still not been removed so Cllr Laing will chase this up.

Recent reports into schools has seen Mortlach as both viable and sustainable. Budget cuts will see grass cutting reduced in frequency and some small patches of unowned land will not be cleared.

8. Planning Issues- None

- 9. The Joint Community Councils of Moray-** The next JCC meeting is on April 29th at Elgin Academy. It was noticed that our apologies were not received last meeting so Sarah will check if we are sending them to the correct person. There is now an extra working group of the JCC who have been looking into problem solving with regard to cuts. The last meeting concentrated on public toilets, crossing patrols and the cut to community council grants. We have been asked to lobby our councillors regarding the latter. Cllr Laing said at

present this cut was planned to be for one year only. There is no date at present for the next working group meeting.

10.AOCB- None

11. Date, time and venue of next meeting- Tuesday 14th May 7pm in The Royal British Legion, Dufftown.