

Lennox Community Council Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 25 November 2020

Time: 7:00 pm

Venue: Zoom

Chair: Jane Martin (CCLO)

Secretary: Johanna Summers

In Attendance

Donald Cameron, Pringle George, Kay Griffin, Alexander Hume
Paul Macperson, Anna-Mary Overing, Chris Overning, Mike Reid, John Wright. Cllr. Marc Macrae

1. Welcome & apologies

JM welcomed a new potential LCC member Sandy Bond. He is already a member of the Scottish Youth Parliament for Moray and Moray Youth Matters Group.

2. Police Update – There was no police update, but the CSP report was previously circulated to all members. DC raised the issue of speeding traffic in Fochabers. **ACTION POINT** - JM to ask the local inspector to contact DC.

3. Guest Presentation – None

4. Minutes of Last Meeting (Sept 2020)

DC took issue with Item 9. He said that the LCC had never made an official request to split the area. JM stated now is a good time to raise this issue again as the 2nd round of the scheme review will start in mid-Dec. **ACTION POINT** - JM will arrange a specific meeting about this issue in Jan 2021. The September minutes were then agreed as accurate and were proposed by PM and seconded by KF. The October minutes were proposed PG and seconded by DC.

5. Matters Arising - There were none.

6. Correspondence Received

- Annual accounts received from Pringle George
- Official resignation of Christine Lester received.
- Police Scotland reassurance message of 29 Oct received in connection with terrorism incident in France.
- SpeyFest sent a letter of thanks for the microgrant.
- School review strategy is now out.
- Scottish Civic Trust entries now open.
- Letter received about more funds available for families in need. Contact JM for more details.
- The Winter Flexible Food Fund and Asda Fund is open.
- Clash Gour Wind Farm correspondence - there was a lengthy discussion. JM explained that this is about a wider vision of the community of Moray having shared ownership in renewable energy and gaining financial benefits. Energising Moray, a steering group comprising community councils, development trusts and other third sector organisations has been formed to explore the community shared ownership offer presented by the Clash Gour Wind Farm as well investigating and developing other ways of making Moray as a whole more environmentally friendly . JM emphasised that LCC would not be investing money. Clash Gour has not passed the planning phase yet and this is not assured. Signing the MoU means LCC would be expressing interest in the scheme and be in a position to be involved in the various opportunities in the future. JM called for a vote - 7 voted for the MoU. **ACTION POINT** - JS to arrange with PM for the MoU to be signed and sent back to JM.

7. Treasurer's Report

JM stated that information on microgrants should be included at this point of the monthly meeting. PG reported on the financial situation of LCC as of her report issued on Nov 25th 2020. PG made a statement outlining the amounts in the budget that are ring-fenced. £2500 from the Beatrice Micro Grant funds will be spent next week on food vouchers for the Fochabers Community Larder and The Anchor Fund will pay for its building rental expenses to the end of Dec 2020. PG thanked AM for accompanying her to a recent Beatrice Micro Fund meeting. It was reported the Beatrice Micro Fund agrees to LCC applying for another grant of £5500. This is additional monies for community support until the end of March 2021, not as micro-grant funds. **ACTION POINT** - PG making this application now.

There have been on-going problems sorting out the LCC Bank of Scotland mandate. It will need to be altered again to reflect JS becoming secretary. JS/PG & PM auctioning this shortly.

ACTION POINT - JS will circulate this financial report to all members.

8. Planning

JM wanted to clarify which members deal with planning issues. AM said he did with AMO. It was agreed that JS will send out the weekly wards lists to all members and there are any issues they should notify JS who will in turn notify AM/AMO who will take up any issues requiring further consultation. JS reminded the meeting that there is only a seven day window for raising issues after the planning list is issued.

9. War Memorials

JM reminded the meeting that the secretary will handle all correspondence issued by LCC. JS has now received the list of suggested contractors to approach about Dallachy Memorial repairs. PM has drawn up an action log to enable checks on a regular basis. **ACTION POINT** - PG will pass contact details for Willie Beattie of EB Scotland - Scottish Landfill Communities Fund to approach for maintenance funding once quotes are received. PM reported that the Remembrance Service went well and he thanked MR, CO, and AMO for all their work. PG reported a note of thanks had been received from Padre Richard Clements and Squadron Leader Rickards. **ACTION POINT** - JM will send JS the British Legion in Keith contact to arrange to buy sufficient wreaths at cost for Nov 2021.

10. Events

Nothing planned at present.

11. Area Updates:

➤ Portgordon – Paul MacPherson, Pringle George, Johanna Summers

PM - reported village hall maintenance ongoing. The village shop (Spar) has reopened in Station Road. PG - Busy with Beatrice Grant activity for Portgordon Community Harbour Group who have a grant for community project progression and PG Bowling Club for a new club house. SpeyFest has progressed to the 2nd stage of funding. JS - Funding in place to employ a consultant to develop a feasibility study / business plan connected with a community hub and other community assets. HIE award secured to develop three rural tourism projects: electric vehicle charging points at the village hall, improved signage and interpretation boards and a community garden including polytunnels on ground at the harbour estate. PCHG is evolving into a development trust plus newsletters and community consultations are about to be distributed. The Portgordon Post Xmas edition will take an item publicising LCC.

➤ Clochan – Angus McNair, Robert Gray.

AM expressed regret that the community hall is unable to offer social events? JM suggested trying a coffee “take-away” to help with social isolation.

➤ **Fochabers – Donald Cameron, Kay Griffin, Alex Hume.**

DC asked about the dangerous corner on East Street. He has raised this issue in the past. Cllr. Marc Macrae will raise this with the head of the MC Transportation Section. He agreed to share any progress on this through the LCC Gmail address. MR asked if Cllr MM would also consult about the overgrown hedge on South Street and corner of Charlotte St. He agreed to see what can be done. KF informed the meeting that a Covid-19 compliant Xmas event involving a fire engine was planned. KF apologised that next edition of The Fochaberian is unable to provide room for LCC news. Feb 2021 will take LCC news. AH told the group there is a plan for a drive-in choir at Christies in December - date tbc. SpeyFest 2021 acts are already being rebooked including the Red Hot Chilli Pipers and Phil Cuningham and Aly Bain.

➤ **Spey Bay – John Wright, Mike Reid.**

JW reported that the road leading towards the Dolphin Centre car park is in a very bad and dangerous condition. That section is the responsibility of CES. He said that in March 2020, Savills (agents of CES) had been instructed to get quotes from contractors. Covid-19 has halted proposed work. PG said CL was pursuing this in Aug 2020. **ACTION POINT** - JS to prompt Savills for a response. PG to pass extra info to JS. Cllr MM suggested a local press release to raise the profile of this issue.

Recycling. Cllr. Marc Macrae reported that Spey Bay Recycling Centre is still closed due to staff shortages plus a new cell is being constructed. It will reopen as soon as it can.

River Spey. MR informed the group that Innes CC want to work with LCC to make a stronger coordinated approach to CES to address River Spey flooding issues. Cllr MM stated that Moray Council have met with CES and Innes CC at the location. He stated that a cost-benefit analysis showed only 10 or so properties are affected. But he assured the meeting that the MC Flood Team does take this very seriously. He hoped MC with CES could come up with some measures to reduce riverbank erosion.

12. Elected Members

Cllr MM assured the meeting that many of the council services are running well despite many staff working from home. Budgets being set in Feb 2021.

13. Community Feedback

CO reiterated thanks to PG for her work on the Dallachy Strike Wing Memorial Remembrance Day event.

Karen Delaney joined the meeting. She said Fochabers Community Larder has now fed 550 mouths with two or three new families visiting for assistance every week now. Moray Emergency Relief Fund is very helpful in supplying white goods and cash support. It is also giving £5k to Moray School Bank to help families with winter clothing, etc. KD expressed thanks to LCC and the Beatrice Fund for all the support received so far.

Sandy Bond echoed KD’s point about the need for warm winter clothing. He informed the meeting that due to Covid-19 regulations, schools are required to ventilate classrooms with open windows, so warm clothing is extremely necessary this winter. SB spoke about the issue of splitting up the Lennox CC area and stated he thought it unnecessary. He observed that the population and geographical areas of the LCC and Speyside were also similar. DC totally disagreed with SB. He said the problem in his opinion was four different areas/villages trying to work together as one.

SB observed that Moray Council is due to implement a new climate change strategy and this may have some bearing on the River Spey flooding issues.

14. The Joint Community Councils of Moray

JM discussed resilience plans. It is the function of community councils to devise and hold resilience plans for their areas. LCC would be required to draw up a plan with appendices for each of the four villages. Moray Council has a resilience team with reps also from SSE and the JCC. Four CCs have been initially identified for resilience plans due to flooding issues (Lennox, Innes, Findhorn & Kinloss and Speyside CC for Rothes). SSE have funding available for equipment if required. The first meeting is in Jan 2021. JM hopes LCC (Portgordon) will be represented. Joint working with Innes CC should happen through this process too. Resilience plans are growing out of the community response to Covid-19. The meeting unanimously agreed to sign up to this initiative.

The next JCC meeting is Feb 2021. Date tbc.

15. AOCB.

JS raised the fly tipping at the Lower Auchenreath woods. She thanked MC for clearing it away. She asked if any sort of deterrent notice could be installed. Cllr MM said he was indeed very aware of this issue but tipping is now moving to Forestry Commission land at this location and MC are not allowed to clear FC land. It was acknowledged that this is a persistent and ongoing issue that is difficult to tackle. **ACTION POINT.** Cllr MM will speak to a colleague to see what other measures might be useful.

PG said LCC minutes need to be posted up in all the village notice boards as well as updated member details. JM said there was a suitable template for a noticeboard style minute poster. DC is posting minutes and agendas with JS's contact telephone number for enquiries in Fochabers. **ACTION POINT** - JS to draw up brief update notices for each of the four communities to display. JS will distribute a draft initially. Names but not addresses will be added to the LCC Facebook page. It was agreed that a quarterly newsletter would be good for future PR and awareness raising, reinforcing the community spirit being harnessed by Covid-19 resilience.

Cllr. MM warmly welcomed Sandy Bond to the group. Sandy agreed to be co-opted. **ACTION POINT.** JM will send SB the papers to sign and he will be officially co-opted at the Jan 2021 meeting.

Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting: Wed 27 January 2021 at 7pm. Zoom details to be confirmed.