

HELDON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held 23 February 2021 via Zoom

Chairman	Mr J Montford - Dallas	
Treasurer	Lyndsay Smailes - Pluscarden	
Secretary		
	Mrs A Masson - Alves	Mrs S Hodder - Pluscarden
	Mrs M Evans – Duffus	Mrs D Kelly - Alves
	Mr K Milne – Miltonduff	Mr C Souter - Miltonduff
	Mr P Austin – Roseisle	Ms J Kirby - Miltonduff
	Mr W Duncan – Fogwatt	Mr N Sutherland - Dallas
Attendee	Councillor Ryan Edwards	
Apologies		

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. Enquiries were made as to the condition of our previous Chairman, Ogilvy Smith. He is still in hospital as a result of his injuries and members wished him well for his recovery.

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies had been received – full attendance.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 12 January 2021 were approved.

Proposed: Mr W Duncan Seconded: Mr P Austin

3. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Edwards had followed up all the points raised at our last meeting and gave an update on the various situations:

- a) Birnie Roads: the repairs to the bridge were to be carried out in 2025 and in the recent budget this had been delayed further to 2026/2027. However, after considerable negotiation, it looks 95% likely that it will be included in this year's budget. The Council is keen to see the bridge restored and the work is likely to be confirmed. Work on the alternative route will go ahead as planned.
- b) Water on roads: A digger was seen in the vicinity recently and water is now being drained from the field. Some new ditches have been dug near the B9010 and gullies have been emptied.
- c) Pluscarden Bridge: the Council is aware of this problem and will create a functional layby.
- d) Roadside gorse: some cutting has been done but not the sections that we had asked for.

Thanks were expressed to Councillor Edwards for his efforts on our behalf with the above.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence had been circulated to all members.

a) Berry Burn 2: this has been completed.

b) Rural Broadband: this is a serious problem for those inhabitants of Pluscarden who do not live near the road. It appears that there is little hope of improvement to the current setup for those in isolated places. MPs and MSPs have already been made aware of the situation which is not just a problem in our areas. There was some discussion as to whether Wind Farm money could be accessed for improvements if a few inhabitants could get together but because the residents affected are scattered, group funding will not be possible. One inhabitant has been quoted £6,000 to have the problem rectified. A solution does need to be found.

c) Volunteers for vaccination centres: It important that all the centres are fully manned. However, it appears that for the next four weeks only the Elgin Centre will be in use and this is fully manned.

d) Scottish Rural Parliament: no comments were made on this item.

e) JCC minutes: these had been circulated. An enquiry was made as to where the funding comes from for Money for Moray and it was explained that this is from the Participatory Budget.

f) Insurance: this has been paid by the Council.

g) Jim will send a copy of the emails received from Jane Martin for inclusion on our Facebook page.

5. PLANNING

All planning applications had been circulated. There were no issues.

6. FINANCE REPORT

The Treasurer submitted her report. We have now received confirmation of the Wind Farm money for our applications. All have been approved apart from the Alves footpath which was submitted later. It was pointed out that a statement that a Public Liability Insurance is a requirement must be added to this application.

7. AOCB – to include area reports

- a) It was pointed out that many of us have some personal details online, perhaps through Village Hall information, and that this information can be harvested by fraudsters. Members should be aware of this and refrain from giving any information or bank details in response to a phone call supposedly coming from a bank. If a call is received the bank can be contacted separately for information. A warning about this has been added to our Facebook page.
- b) It was reported that there are two trees lodged below the Cloddach Bridge and despite a report being submitted, nothing has so far been done.
- c) The fence at the end of the Millbuies Estate near Cruickshanks Farm has been taken down and horses are being ridden through the gap. This area is for walkers only. An email has been sent.
- d) Elgin Library has surplus books which are available for communities.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Date and time of next meeting:

Tuesday 06 April 2021 at 7.30 pm via Zoom