

HELDON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held 28 June 2021 via Zoom

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| Chairman | Mr J Montford – Dallas | |
| Treasurer | Lyndsay Smailes – Pluscarden | |
| Secretary | | |
| | Mrs A Masson – Alves | Mr W Duncan – Fogwatt |
| | Mrs M Evans – Duffus | Mrs D Kelly – Alves |
| | Mr K Milne – Miltonduff | Mrs S Hodder – Pluscarden |
| | Mr P Austin – Roseisle | Mr C Souter - Miltonduff |
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| Attendee | Councillor Ryan Edwards | |
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| Apologies | Ms Jo Kirby - Miltonduff | |
| | Mr N Sutherland – Dallas | |
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The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. Sadness was expressed at the news of the death of our former Chairman, Ogilvie Smith. Ogilvie had been Chairman of Heldon Community Council for over twenty years. He had always taken a great interest in the affairs of Heldon and had always supported the area. The members of the Community Council wished to record their appreciation for his years of service.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Mr N Sutherland and Ms Jo Kirby.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 18 May 2021 were approved.

Proposed: Mrs A Masson Seconded: Mr P Austin

3. MATTERS ARISING

a) Rural Broadband: it seems that quite a lot is now happening in the Pluscarden area. It is hoped that the households which are currently without superfast broadband will be able to benefit from this before the end of the year.

b) Rural signposting planning situation: there has been considerable discussion about this at recent JCC meetings and notes from the most recent meeting, at which Chief Inspector Norman Stevenson was in attendance, have been circulated. While the Community Council would have to pay for the signage, it was felt that more imposing road signs, together, perhaps, with 'smiley faces', would help to reduce speeding but a number of questions were raised:

- What help would we get in terms of location?
- What about planning permission?
- How much do smiley faces cost?
- Could we replace an old sign with a larger sign with different wording?
- Would there be restrictions on size and wording?

- Will the Council pay for upkeep or does the Community Council have to pay for this?

It was pointed out that we cannot make changes on the A96. This is not only outwith our remit but also outwith that of the Council. Approaches have to be made to Bear Scotland.

Councillor Edwards will follow up all of the above issues.

c) Roseisle gorse bushes: the gorse bushes concerned are actually those along the road between Brumley Brae and the Duffus road. An email had been sent to the Council but so far there has been no change. Councillor Edwards will check up on this.

d) Next round of funding: this was to be discussed under Item 5 - Finance.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence had been circulated to all members.

a) Roseisle traffic concerns: information re speeds at the location had been given and concern as to the number of lorries and tankers using the road had been expressed. Developer funding from Diageo is now being used for specific road issues and if there is sufficient funding still available when the ongoing issues have been completed, Roseisle will be brought forward. The speed limit signage is not correct so the 30 mph sign will be moved the end of the lighting to include the new housing. The recent correspondence from the JCC included a list of specific problems in Moray and it was agreed that the information from Roseisle should be forwarded so that it could be included on this list. Wind Farm funding is available for improved signage.

b) Community Council Elections: only four responses had been received by the Chairman regarding payment for the circulation of leaflets and posters which it was hoped would help the recruitment of Community Councillors for the forthcoming election. While we have sufficient funding to fulfil the Council's request for payment, and it was agreed that we should make the payment, concern was expressed as to how effective such leaflets would be. So far we have not seen examples of the leaflets and posters so cannot judge whether they are likely to be taken notice of. It was agreed that we also need to target more locally ourselves with information on our Facebook page and also on local community Facebook pages.

5. FINANCE REPORT

The Treasurer submitted her report.

Balance of funds:

Roths 1 £ 37,475.46

Roths 2 £ 14,012.18

HCC £ 1,520.45

Total: **£ 53,008.09**

From Roth's one, funding still remains for the Miltonduff Hall lights, Miltonduff pre-school equipment, Project Tractus, the Dallas SPP shed and the Alves school footpath. Funding for this last project has only just been approved and received.

Roth's 2 has money still outstanding for the Fisheries Trust project, Alves school biodiversity, Duffus Hall car park and the Dallas mower/trimmer shed.

We received our Council grant at the end of May.

Applications due at the end of August for Wind Farm funding would usually be for Rothes 1 but the order of funding applications has been disrupted by Covid-19 restrictions. There was discussion as to whether to apply to Rothes 1 as usual at this point or whether to keep the order of applications by applying next to Rothes 2. It was decided that we should apply for Rothes 1 funding, as is usual at this point in the funding cycle. Applications are required by the end of August with the next round, which will be for Rothes 2, required by the end of January 2022. So far no applications have been received for the August deadline.

6. PLANNING ISSUES

All planning details had been circulated and there were no issues other than one to be discussed with the Fogwatt representative.

7. AOCB – to include area reports

- Concern was raised that most building materials are now increasing considerably in price. Will this have an effect on the final cost of any of our ongoing projects? It was stressed that work needs to be completed as quickly as possible. It was pointed out that if necessary an application for a second but smaller project could be used to compensate for any shortfall.
- The Cloddach Bridge was due to have a 3-ton and 2-metre height restriction placed on it yesterday but there had been no public consultation on this. It affects the school bus and farmers moving heavy equipment and also any emergency vehicles. The overall cost of this will be £48,000, of which £45,000 is still to be spent at this point. It was felt very strongly that this money would be better put towards the cost of the required repairs to the bridge which have now been delayed until around Christmas 2022.
- Funding is still available for cleaning war memorials. Councillor Edwards will follow this up.
- An engineer has been seen inspecting the Foths Bridge and the road but no date has been given for when the work will be done. Councillor Edwards will try to find out if a date is available. A motor cyclist was killed on the road recently but this was a pure accident and not to do with the condition of the road.
- There was some discussion as to whether there was any update on the re-opening of village halls. Once halls re-open, we can return to face-to-face meetings for HCC. It was pointed out that it is necessary to follow the Scottish Government guidelines.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Date and time of next meeting:

Tuesday 10 August 2021 at 7.30 pm, probably still via Zoom.