

## **Innes Community Council**

### **Minutes of 'Zoom' Meeting held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2121**

**Present:** (ICC) Sandy Anderson (Chair), James Mackie (Sec.) Crinan Dunbar (Treas.) Peter Fitch, David Mackay, Mrs. Anne Speake.

**In Attendance:** Mz. Lorna Dow (RSPB), Angus Fettes (Essil).

**(First Section of Minutes from CD, I was late!)**

**Apologies:** Anita Milne, the Police. The Police said because of security issues they are not able to use Zoom, but will attend when normal meetings restart.

**Councillors Report:** None – none present. Tim Eagle (opposition group leader) had visited Garmouth and said when the Moray council commissioned report on flooding in Garmouth is presented to members in June they are committed to making something happen.

**Police Report:** no report. A person has been charged with fire raising in connection with the severe gorse fire at Kingston.

**Minutes of the previous meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> April:** approved SA proposed, CD seconded.

**Matters arising from the minutes not already on the agenda:**

**Marchfield –** PF and JM to meet planning officials. PF about to go on holiday so will be later this month.

**Treasurer's report:** CD said two cheques had been paid in both donations towards a drone. One was from Lennox Community Council £400 and the other from donations collected by AS/JM in Garmouth £220. JM said he had made a successful application to a Scotmid fund for £500 – CD to look out for the cheque.

**Planning:** Garmouth Hotel: JM said that works had been undertaken without the Moray Council's consent. Moray Council officials had visited and a stop order put on the works. Not clear how the officials had found out about the works. Current planning application is on hold pending investigation.

**Roads:** Fogwatt Rail Bridge: JM said Moray Council arranging for a new pump to be put in place when budget allowed it. It had been too dry to report on A96 runoff which was the suspected cause. If it was it would be BEAR's responsibility. JM had asked for white boards to be put under bridge so that people could assess the depth of water when flooded.

**Essil Road:** No action seems to have been taken about the potholes JM reported on 5 weeks ago. Verge also sinking at entrance to the cemetery.

**Muiryhall Farm End:** Moray Council says the cause of the flooding is a burst field drain has burst and the fact that the area is in a hollow. Flood signs have been put up by Moray Council 18 months ago but issues leading to the problem have not been addressed. JM to raise with ward councillors.

**Presentation by Lorna Dow of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) about their work at Loch Spynie.**

**Lorna gave a detailed report on why Spynie loch is so suitable for the RSPB. Working with the landowners, the RSPB will develop natural habitats, and**

hopefully increase the number of volunteers available to maintain the site. The Hide will also re-open soon. (Restrictions permitting.)

2) Ross house: The house has again suffered damage as a result of the River's dynamics. The owner has re-inforced the river bank adjacent to the property with armoured rock in order , to try and prevent any further erosion. Dr. Hamish Moir has completed his report and assessment on behalf of the owner with positive and practical advice on prevention and sustainability. The owner will share the report with CES.

3) Funding towards the cost of a drone for River surveys is as follows: Co-op £500.00, GL Estates Ltd., £400.00, Milne's Area Forum, £200.00.

4) Lidar: Only £250.00 raised so far. An application is pending with the Landfill Fund.about the

5) Moray Growth Deal: (Capital Funding for Moray) It would appear that The Moray Council are intending to spend the majority of this funding in Elgin Viz: Town Centre, Cathedral area, Cooper Park.

6) Motorhomes: TMC has declared (tbc) five sites for motorhome waste disposal. The ICC agreed that the proposed sites are neither tourist friendly or convenient to genuine 'staycationers'.

AOCB:

1)A complaint was received from Mrs Bangura (Garmouth) about the organisational, or lack of, running of Fochabers Medical Centre. Allegedly it is almost impossible to get an appointment with a doctor, and the receptionists are running interference between patients and trained medical personelle.

Telephone call backs can be as long as five to six days after a request. It was observed that this is not the first complaint by any means. Possibility to make enquiry of Moray GP And Health Board.

2) CD reported that a dead cow found at the mouth of the River Lossie, had come from quite far up river, and had taken a few days to remove. (Lost in January- found in April). It is suspected that bank erosion caused the beast to fall in the River.

3) Mrs. Speake reported the appalling state of the road between Garmouth and Kingston due to potholes.

4.) Skunk Cabbage: CD reported an increase in this alien plant around Loch Na Bo and Loch Oiche. Discussion on Giant Hogweed and Himalayan knotweed followed.

The Chair closed the Meeting and declared the next Meeting for Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 at 7.00pm by "ZOOM".

David Mackay

(NB : Sorry these are very late, after 14 months of doing nothing everything seems to have bundled into the last fortnight. Hip procedure was a success, and have cast my walking stick amongst the hogweed!!)