

Innes Community Council

Minutes of virtual meeting of 2nd February, 2021

Present,

Alexander Anderson, Chair of ICC, James A Mackie, Secretary of ICC, Anne Speak, ICC

Attending as members of the public

Roddy Robertson, Chair of Garmouth and Kingston Amenities Association, Barbara Walker, Vice Chair of Garmouth and Kingston Amenities Association, Tom Cattanach, Angus Fettes. Nigel Sanderson

Apologies

David Mackay, Anita Milne, Crinan Dunbar

As no Councillors were present there was no Council Report

No Police report had been received prior to meeting. Police Scotland cannot use Zoom platform so no police report.

Minutes of meeting of 1st December, 2020.

Proposed by AA and seconded by AF.

Matters arising

RR questioned Item 3 re Garmouth Hotel Minute stated that the owners of the Garmouth Hotel had taken hotel off the market and was not for sale. RR said property was still listed as for sale with an estate agent. Secretary informed meeting that he had spoken to the owner and his son both before December meeting and owner in previous week. Both were adamant that the hotel was no longer for sale.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer recovering from COVID-19 and was not present. No treasurers report.

Planning Matters

Secretary gave report on current planning applications and enquiries.

Application submitted for 35 social houses at Urquhart Place, Lhanbryde. Observation forwarded to Planning Department was apparent lack of parking spaces. Also concerns about egress from site on to Garmouth Road, Lhanbryde. Junction was at bottom of a steep incline with poor visibility for south bound traffic. Suggested speed limit be extended northwards.

Application for 10 houses I Meft Road, Urquhart. This was updated application from 2020. Showed alterations to junction of Meft Road and Main Street, Urquhart. Held that original observation still held re alterations to junction at Station Road. Also recent concerns from residents of Urquhart that construction vehicles may damage old sewage system in main Street and may damage kerb stones while trying to navigate parked cars in Main Street. Suggestion forwarded to Council that construction traffic be routed from west end of Meft Road i.e. not to travel along Main Street.

Marchfield Quarry. Response to previous correspondence over possible breaches of planning application from Moray Council. Secretary reported the response was not satisfactory and did not appear to acknowledge various breaches. Failed to answer some other questions.

Roads

Secretary reported that despite new traffic warning signs that had been installed at Lochs Farm by Moray Council following requests from ICC, somebody had driven through the fence and some of the signs.

Muiryhall Farm road end. Secretary reported that he had been in correspondence with Moray Council re the permanent flood water that lay in a hollow near to the farm road end on the Garmouth/Lhanbryde Road. Response from Council was that they had been in negotiations with the owner since March, 2020. Admitted field drains had been damaged during operations in fields and matter in hand. Various pieces of legislation involved but agreements made to have problem fixed but no date given.

River Spey

Secretary gave a review of the meeting held on 19th January, 2021 at which over 30 people attended. Attendees included Councillors, MSP and MP, Dr Hamish Moir, researchers from Aberdeen University, District Salmon Fishery Board, SNH, Scottish Flood forum, Savills as agents for Crown Estates, property owners and members of the public. Reported that reason for current situation at Queenshaugh and subsequently Lower Garmouth was not so much as flood prevention but years of failure to address river bank management. Reported that there was disquiet at the meeting in that no representative of Moray Council or SEPA was present. Remedies and responsibilities had been discussed. Agreement from meeting was that Councillors would liaise with the Secretary and Council employees and arrange a further meeting involving same. Secretary advised still waiting information back re a meeting with officials etc. AF said that it was disappointing that no feed back re another meeting as the situation was serious and if nothing done quickly the river would burst through the railway embankment sooner than 3 years as mentioned at the meeting of the 19th January. NS reported that he had been told that Moray Council had completed the LIDAR survey of the river. He also reported that a Moray Council official had been in contact re producing a resilience plan for Lower Garmouth.

Secretary asked to contact Councillors and the MP for updates on proposed meeting. NS advised that he had been informed that Moray Council had completed its LIDAR survey but no further information as to next process.

Blue Book Consultation

Secretary advised that as part of normal proceedings pre-elections for Community Councils (next due September/October, 2021) the Moray Council Community Council Scheme manual was being reviewed and upgraded. Advised first draft was available to read on Moray Council Web site.

Community Larders

Secretary advised that the Community larder at Mosstodloch at closed the previous week. Advised that the few “hygiene starter packs” left at Mosstodloch had been given out. In total 31 “hygiene starter bags” at been purchased and given out. Noted that ICC had raised £3300.00 in grants to help the area during COVID-19. The money had been primarily spent evenly between Mosstodloch and Lhanbryde Community Centres with some aid to Urquhart Hall. Lhanbryde Community Centre will continue under the control of Moray Food Plus.

Correspondence and consultations

Any coming in had been circulated to Community Councillors. There were no comments or questions.

AOCB

At the October, 2020, meeting ICC had offered to support Garmouth and Kingston Amenities Association to carryout a plebiscite of there area to see if there was any interest from the public in GKAA

for steps to be taken to see if the Garmouth Hotel could be purchased for the community. The Secretary read out an email received from the Chair of GKAA which showed that 94 individuals responded to the plebiscite. The vote was 77 for and 17 against taking such steps. It was noted that approximately 15% of the community took part in the vote. RR said small sub committee formed to do a feasibility study.

There being no other business, the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday, 2nd March, 2021.

The Meeting was closed at 19.40.