

DRAFT

HELDON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held 28 June 2022 in ALVES Hall

Chairman	Mr J Mountford – Dallas	
Treasurer	Mrs L Smailes	
Secretary		
	Mrs M Evans – Duffus	Mr N Sutherland - Dallas
	Mrs S Hodder - Pluscarden	Mr W Mustard – Fogwatt & Birnie
	Mr K Milne - Miltonduff	Mrs A Masson – Alves
	Mr W Duncan - Fogwatt	Mrs D Kelly - Alves
	Mr C Souter - Miltonduff	
Attendees	Councillor Bridget Mustard	
	Councillor Neil Cameron	
Apologies	Councillor John Cowe	
	Councillor James Allan	
	Ms Rhona McNicol	

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Alves Hall for hosting and welcoming us.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor John Cowe, Councillor James Allan and Ms Rhona McNicol

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 17 May 2022 were approved.

Proposed: Mrs A Masson Seconded: Mr N Sutherland

3. MATTERS ARISING

a) Cloddach Bridge: a petition had been launched and with this achieving over 400 signatures it had been decided by the Council to put the matter on hold and consult with the public before publishing the report. It was agreed that the bridge really does need to be open, even if only for light traffic, as its closure has created a long diversion. An email had been sent from HCC to the Council pointing out that it is a very important connectivity route for the Heldon Ward, providing access to and from Elgin for Miltonduff, Pluscarden and Kellas/Dallas. The Fairhurst report indicates that the inner girders were found to be sufficient for 3T loadings and the email stressed that, as a minimum until further consultations and review of options, this bridge should remain open for pedestrian access which the report notes as an option. While it was acknowledged that actions had been taken for safety reasons, at no point was the Community Council informed or consulted. The petition had been organised by the Cloddach Bridge Action Group and it was suggested that we could invite a member of this group to our next meeting.

b) Speeding at Clachmarras: this is an open field area with no posts for a 'Slow' notice. It was suggested that the word 'Slow' could be painted onto the road. A 'Smiley Face', which costs around £2,300, needs electricity at night but is solar-powered by day. Signs have to be bought through the Council and the Lighting Department has to connect them. The question was raised as to who would maintain these once erected. Each community has to apply for signs in its own right. It is very important to prevent accidents. Longmorn will investigate the possibility of erecting a sign.

c) Pluscarden Bridge passing place: no action as yet. A 'Passing Place' sign is required.

d) Protection of Vulnerable People: this is being reviewed by the JCC.

e) Mosstowie School equipment: this has to satisfy the Council for safety and insurance purposes so the school will have to use Council procurement. This is now being dealt with by the school's Parent Council.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Most correspondence had been circulated to all members but some might need further action.

a) Speeding in Communities group: this is being set up by the JCC and volunteers are required to serve on this group.

b) Community Council Websites: We have a Facebook page but not a website. It was agreed that we were happy to retain the status quo.

c) Abuse of Passing Places in the Lossiemouth area: this is a Police matter and has been responded to. The Passing Places are being used as places to view the aircraft but there is a dedicated place near the golf course. Councillor Cameron had approached Sarah Riley-Evans to see if anything could be done by the RAF.

d) Milton Duff Distillery: formal notification has been received, indicating that plans will be submitted. This is a major scheme and will be discussed with both the local population and the HCC. There will be an exhibition in Miltonduff Hall which will be advertised seven days in advance.

e) Pluscarden Forestry Plan: this has been forwarded to the Pluscarden members. There is nothing controversial in this plan.

f) Planning Democracy: we have not responded to a request for a donation. An aim is to provide accurate information to communities on planning as the National Planning Framework 4 goes ahead.

5. FINANCE REPORT

Since the last meeting we have received the second Wind Farm funding, most of which is for the Dallas Buy-out. This is having to go through the courts system as the father's will of 1986 has not been completed. The Miltonduff climbing frame and footpath are ongoing, as is the Roseisle Hall playpark. The Fisheries project has been delayed by Covid and will now begin next year.

The next deadline is 31 August 2022. The Council carried out an audit of the Alves school playpark and this needs to be replaced. 'A Heart's Harvest' is progressing with several extra steps taking place. Outdoor gym equipment should be covered by a community's insurance but an annual check will be required.

Roths 1	£37,765.71
Roths 2	73, 737.48
HCC balance	1,508.05
Total	£113,011.24

6. PLANNING ISSUES

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

7. AOCB – to include area reports

- There was a question as to how the road on the other side of the Cloddach Bridge would be maintained if the bridge remains closed. It was also pointed out that the bridge helped against flooding and there could be problems if the bridge was removed.
- The verges on the B9010 have still not been cut. This is Forestry Commission land but no-one is taking responsibility.
- An email has been received about the rhododendrons in Millbuie Country Park. They were cut down but are growing again. There is no plan as yet for the area. We should be consulted on this matter.
- More people are using the Allarburn Bridge as a result of the Cloddach Bridge closure. The vegetation is getting too high and the view is now obstructed.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Date of the next meeting:

Tuesday 09 August 2022 at 7.30 pm in Alves Hall.