

Lennox Community Council

Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday 31st August 2022 at 7pm

Attending: Paul MacPherson (Chair), Pringle George (Treasurer / Secretary.)

Alex Hume, Jenni Cameron, Donald Cameron, Roger Austin, Kay Griffin (Minute secretary)

Moray Councillors: Shona Morrison, Marc Macrae, Ben Williams

Apologies: Anna Mary Overing, Chris Overing

Intro: Paul welcomed everyone to the August meeting

Police Update: No report had been received.

Minutes: Paul explained that there had been significant problems and the recorded meeting of Wednesday 29th June 2022 were sadly not available.

Correspondence: from Ruth Liddicot of Vattenfall Wind Project Limited had led onto a meeting with Paul and Pringle who were able to update the meeting that that the wind turbines were to be increased from the original 15 to 17. With 13 and 15 to be on the Aultmore Keith side sited on the B9104 and in the Deskford area the remainder will be much larger. Other issues including transport are being looked with a possible meeting either late 2022 or early 2023 giving a fuller update before putting the project to Moray Planning Committee.

Finance: Pringle gave a detailed report on the current and projected financial situation (Copy of the report has already been circulated) She informed the meeting that Debra Duke had organised the first Treasurers' meeting yesterday evening with nearly all present advising problems with the various banks. It was agreed that the Moray Council required all transactions to be paid by cheque will continue, but online banking will require suitable security. Any purchases over £100.00 to be minuted at Community Council meetings as well as end of year agreement on auditor and their fee to be no more than £40. Our current signatories were confirmed as Pringle, Paul and Leana who recently had visited our bankers in Elgin who agreed to pay out of pocket travel expenses of £50.00, as there are still ongoing issues. It was agreed that Paul receive £50 for travel expenses in connection with recent banking business and that Mrs Sonia Lawrance be paid £25 for auditing the accounts which close on 30 September 2022. It was also noted at the treasurers' meeting that any signatories coming off at the end of the financial year be minuted in full with a copy of the minute to sent to our bankers. An AGM was also proposed, and Lennox Community Councillors have agreed to look at this proposal for November 2022.

Remembrance, Anzac, Canada Day: Members present at the meeting gave permission for the purchase of four wreaths (in addition to two wreaths previously purchased and being stored by Paul). RAF Lossiemouth are to invite Community Council representatives to a meeting at the base in October. The local schools will also be invited with the hope to inform the pupils about information of their work and of those who gave their lives relating to Remembrance Sunday. Shona Morrison offered to pass on details to Pringle on the new guide leader at Fochabers.

Planning: Roger reported that nothing for planning had been received.

Events: Nothing was reported.

Area Reports:

Portgordon:

Roadwork has started in Station Road which will be closed from 30/08/22 till 7/09/22.

Michelle reported that the village hall project is now complete. Internally, new flooring, insulation, toilets including disabled facilities have transformed the building. This has provided a positive reflection of earlier external upgrade. Now the focus is on the Richmond Hub. Phase 1 (from the Scottish Government) may start earlier than expected. The community garden continues to flourish and has received 2 tractor loads of topsoil and sand. The latter will benefit the community Petanque court planned in the adjacent area by the harbour. A 5-year plan is to be developed and will concentrate on Looking Back / Looking Forward.

Pringle reported that the site of the project Icehouse café is overgrown with weeds and general the whole area is in a very poor state. She asked Marc Macrae if he could see if Moray Council planning department can do something about this mess. Access to look at the seal colony is difficult and the pictorial plaque by John Tasker about seals and the area is no longer on view. Please can it be returned to be displayed elsewhere as it had been funded by Lennox Community Council.

A major pipe line from The Maltings is currently being constructed and will take processed output into the bay. Marc Macrae met with William Birant are in discussios over local concerns.

Fochabers:

Donald reported on the success of Speyfest and Gala week and paid tribute to all those involved.

Shona was congratulated on her new role with Cosla.

Roger reported on the success of open-air theatre at Gordon Castle and praised the upgraded Centenary stones area.

Alex reported on the "Tak Yer Litter Hame" posts currently being erected - but as yet not on verges. He also mentioned the visit of the Count and Countess of Forfar to Fochabers visiting the Duke of Edinburgh walk and plaque also the visit to the Fochabers Heritage Centre,

Alex received considerable interest when he raised prospect of Moray Council's Gaelic Plan.

Marc gave details of the successful, tree felling which had severely affected neighbouring properties in South Street / George Street area.

The paint machine had been out of commission but SLOW sign by the park in East Street had been done.

Clochan : No report / representative.

Speybay : No report / representative.

Ben had contacted Crown Estates who have responsibility for the roadway at Tugnet. So far, he has had no response. He will continue to pursue the matter. Marc agreed that it is indeed a private road and that, sadly the Crown Estates had previously filled potholes with inappropriate material.

It is hoped that youth groups will help with refreshments at Spey Bay Hall after the Remembrance service in November with Paul to check with the hall committee.

Moray Councillors, Reports:

Shona : There is currently no reports of ongoing problems at the Moray Council recycling facility at Dallachy.

It is possible that residents have appreciated that the smell may hopefully only be short lived.

New Council committee cycles are now progressing well.

There is currently no appetite for industrial action by refuse collection staff nor from Education personnel.

She suggested that with two captains in place at Milne's High perhaps they should be invited to attend LCC meetings.

Marc: George McIntyre who for many years has been Deputy Lord Lieutenant for this area is now retiring and will be replaced by Zara Gordon Lennox.

Ben: Thanks to the Community Council who so ably organised Canada Day.

AOCB :

Plans for Portgordon Fireworks display 2022 are in hand. However, Crown Estates need to give permission as there may be some vital H & S works scheduled for this time.

Next meeting - Wednesday 26th October 2022 at 7pm on Zoom invitation.