

Lennox Community Council

Minute of meeting No209 at Milnes High School on 27 August 2014 @ 7pm

Present - Chairman L Duncan

Vice Chair M Burrows
Secretary M Horne
Treasurer R Gray
Donald Cameron
Alison Hook
Peter Horton
Liz Knight
Mike Reid
Cllr M Howe

Visitors - Rowan Burrell (Junior Representative MHS)
Heather Pirie

Apologies - Mike Thomas
Cllr D Ross

Absent - Cllr S Morton

1. Agenda & attachments distributed.
2. Police Report had not been received however Constable Paul Thompson was present and read out the latest report. He was keen to inform the public that the Fochabers Police Office is still open, however they no longer have a clerical officer. Several items were brought up by LCC:
 - a. A complaint had been received by MB regarding drivers going up a one-way street in Portgordon, PT suggested the resident should phone 101 when this occurs
 - b. Several comments were made regarding the roundabouts on the by-pass.
3. Previous Minute Approval: minute 208 of 25/06/2014 was approved. proposed DC, seconded MR.

4. Correspondence - The Chairman read out a letter received from a Portgordon resident regarding a Community Council members comments in the press about a planning application & read out her reply to him, a reply was also sent from the Chairman - all agreed that as no-one had come forward to LCC to present an opposing view and no reply had been received from the correspondence then this matter would be closed. Another letter was received from another resident; this was also read out and had a similar theme to the first however this gentleman has now moved out of the area. Cllr MH went on to say she had received an email and had to replied to it from another Portgordon resident regarding a planning issue.

Another letter had been received from Arthur Fearnley about the issue of safety at the junction of Bogmoor. AF suggested mirrors but Moray Council said no. It is the hedges & large shrubs which causes the problem making it very dangerous to turn onto the main road.

Cllr MH & Cllr DR suggested a one way system but the residents didn't like that idea. AF has now spoken with the occupants of the houses with the hedges and they are happy to trim/cut the hedge to a reasonable size and one said they would be willing to give up the hedge if the council removed it for them.

Cllr MH said that although mirrors are a good idea and do work successfully The Moray Council will not approve them.

The Chairman received an email of resignation from Louise Morton. An email will be sent to Louise confirming acceptance of her resignation.

5. **Matters arising from minutes:**

276 Woman's Land Army Memorial Clochan - no-one has got back to the Chairman regarding seating, there doesn't appear to be any money available for this.

284 Spey Viaduct Repairs to Floor - Railway sleepers had disappeared, These have now been replaced at a cost of £1,800 each. Moray Council are looking at a rolling programme of repair, Cllr MH stated this had been mentioned at Policy & Resources meeting, however due to costs there is a possibility of the work being stopped. Cllr MH will report back when this goes to council.

295 Chairman keen to have a council representative from Buckie High School, there is a possibility of a young person being interested.

308 Moray Schools Sustainable Education Review - a meeting regarding the closure of Milnes High School was taking place tonight. Cllr Ross had made a pledge at a Moray Council meeting today asking them not to close MHS - this was refused. A discussion continued into why several articles had appeared in the press which seemed unfounded, Cllr MH explained that they shouldn't have been, the release of the news that Lossiemouth High School was to be upgraded was bad timing. The Chairman said it didn't sound good for the future Milnes as Lossiemouth & Buckie were to be upgraded, Elgin High is being replaced, Elgin Academy is new and Speyside has been spared. Cllr MH said all of the arguments had been put forward but it too early to tell - the report is due to go to council on the 19th September.

317 Litter Bins - the Chairman & Cllr MH went round the village to look at bins, they concluded that there are adequate bins if the children would use them, they need educating. RB said that they are told in assembly about litter but the kids don't see it as cool to use the bins. A letter is to be sent to The Parent Council regarding this matter and will continue to be monitored.

318 Portgordon Harbour - The Crown have requested boat owners to remove their property from the harbour by the end of this month as they want to start repairing the harbour starting at the beginning of October - weather permitting. If this doesn't happen then more damage could occur. The boat owners don't have a problem but they are concerned that if they move their property they might not be allowed back in. MB asked if it was an option for the community to buy the harbour as seen in the press, Cllr MH said not at the moment although it has been offered to the community several times in the past and that maybe the Crown could keep possession but be run by the community. There is a public meeting in the Lampie Hoose on the 23 September to hear the case for the Crown, community & the 22 boat owners.

322 Play Park, Portgordon - When MB & LK were putting information in the village notice board a few local children came over and asked if they could put a poster up - it was one asking for goal posts. Cllr MH said she would see what she could do to get some.

AOB:

1 Bowling Green Bank, Portgordon - MB said this area was pretty overgrown and untidy. Cllr MH said that due to the agreed cut backs this area would only be cut three times a year.

2 LCC discussed whether full names should be entered in the minute of their meetings, it was decided to use initials - full names are used during minute taking and original paperwork kept.

3 PH asked if LCC could write a letter to ask The Crown Estates to deal with the growth of Hogweed on the foot paths around the village & Tynet burn - it was agreed this could be done.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and hoped that Rowan and Heather would return. The next meeting was arranged for ***Wednesday 24th September at 7pm in Spey Bay Hall.***