

FINTRAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Committee meeting Tuesday 4 April 2023 at 7.30pm Hatton of Fintray Village Hall

Present

Roddy MacInnes (Chair) Katherine Gerrard (Secretary), Richard Taylor (Treasurer), Alison Cumming, Area Committee Officer Garioch Area, Evelyn Morrice, Ian Thomson, Laura Simpson (Minutes), Sandra Watson, Laura Johnston, Maureen Ross, Belinda Miller, Pam, Sheila Stratton

Apologies

Cllr Lonchay, Cllr Mason, Cllr Reid, Cllr Gifford, Gina Ford

Declaration of Interest - none

Approval of Minutes

Proposed by Richard Taylor seconded by Evelyn Morrice

Matters arising

Fibre Broadband - Roddy followed this up by contacting Emma Stanford, Digital Engagement Officer at the Council who has provided generic material but will forward more in-depth information imminently which can be shared with the Community. Emma is happy for her email address to be shared with the Community for specific questions to be answered.

Generator - Roddy last spoke to Hosies in January and followed up recently to find out a date for the additional generator wiring. This is to be done on 19th April and in due course a trial run will take place.

CC elections - open 25th April to 16th May, Roddy still undertaking some Community videos etc to raise interest. Alison Cumming will send on CC advertising literature when at hand.

Police Report (up to 28th March)

Current priorities - increase patrol presence to reduce crime

Report of cows on the road but no police attendance

In addition Roddy has reported the car on the football pitch this last weekend and this has also been passed on to the local policing team. There was a similar incident in February and Belinda and Ian contacted the Council. Additional bollards will be fitted at some point in the future.

Planning applications

None

Treasures Report

Balance is £2941.50

Expenditure:- £60 Community Association for hall hire : £35 to Information Commissioner

Alison Cumming shared that in order to keep the banking robust with only 1 signatory there is new guidance. She will forward this to Roddy. Ideas such as taking screenshots of online banking is one way to keep it in order, with regards checks and balances.

Gardening Club update

Belinda and Maureen informed us that the Village Litter Pick is planned for 22nd April at 10am - this is the first organised one since lockdown.

Ian Mitchell from the Council met with Ian, Belinda and Maureen last week. He was asked if hardcore could be made available to fill the holes in the car park at Lairds Park, he was also made aware of some dead and dying trees in the Cemetery.

Hatton Court - Maureen and her daughter have made a design for the entrance to Hatton Court to make it attractive and more manageable. The Council are willing to help financially but have asked for some Community contribution towards this. The area is currently too big to be managed by the gardening club so the idea is to plant some shrubs and have some hard landscaping etc that will be fairly self-sufficient.

On principal it has been agreed that the Community Council will make a financial contribution, potentially up to £500 with an exact amount to be decided at a later date. If a figure becomes available before the next CC meeting, this will be circulated amongst members.

Car Park

Evelyn had asked for this to be an agenda item, but this has been addressed by the Gardening Club who had already reported the situation to the Council. Landscape Services Principal Officer has asked that a letter be sent to him from Fintray CC which would help him get funding to carry out the repair. Roddy to progress.

Meetings Update

CC Forum - Roddy attended. Items around mental health, Roddy shared the Community's disappointment with the cessation of the Ready 2 Go bus, the Full Fibre Broadband and the mess of the verges.

People's Postcode Lottery Seminar

Roddy attended. The CC is not eligible for funding from this due to their (PPL) interpretation of the CC being similar to Parish Councils in England. The Community Association could apply for funding and Roddy has shared information with Ian in this regard. Ian advised that the upgrading of heating in the hall will be in the range of £20k, so all avenues will be explored

Engagement and Consultation meeting

Roddy attended. Primarily around the draft Council Engagement and Participation Guide – in essence why, who, when and how do the Council engage alongside the principles of engagement and participation. At the meeting it was stressed that Community Councils should have a clear role in this as offering a broad and balanced Community view, alongside constructive comment of terminology used within the draft document.

External use of recreation area

Belinda invited a discussion given a variety of views on this. Over the last few years Newmachar Football Club have used it for training 4 nights per week and that there have been competitive matches taking place over the last few weekends.

Belinda feels that people from the village are being prevented from using the pitch if needed and there can also be additional traffic and parking challenges in the vicinity of the Recreation Area.

There has also been comment in respect of Newmachar FC marking a mini football pitch for any matches they have, which are obviously pre-arranged which infers a sense of claiming 'ownership', when none of the recreation areas can be pre-booked. Alongside this it was underlined that the attitude and demeanour of Newmachar FC's players and Coaches was exemplary.

Roddy invited comment and there was broad discussion on the subject. It was agreed that Roddy would approach the Chair of Newmachar FC, discuss the concerns raised with a view to ensuring a positive relationship.

Laura Johnston will also speak to Mike Skilling about the potential of using the pub car park being utilised to reduce congestion.

Community Association Update

The coffee morning raised £500

A permanent storage facility is needed for the generator. Alison suggested going to Kintore to see their set up as they have one. This is being investigated.

Picnic in the park will go ahead in the summer

The end of the Sheltie Stakes is a huge loss for the hall as the large income from this fundraiser will be a big miss and this shortfall will somehow have to be made up.

Councillor Update - no Councillors present

Update from Alison Cumming

Succession Planning and sustainability of Community Councils. It is challenging to get people involved in the CC and the barriers to this need to be addressed to encourage involvement. Getting people to take on roles is also tricky and Alison wondered if a networking day between the CC's would be worthwhile and useful. It would likely be November / December until this took place

Community engagement and connectivity - funding has allowed for technology and training for Community Councils and the feedback from this has been really positive. Smaller locations have managed to reach many additional people through the use of social media. The Scottish Rural Parliament provided the funding for this and Alison hopes to build on this. Alison will be dealing with the forthcoming elections. It would be great to have some additional members of the Community Council and Roddy will be putting information out regarding this.

Correspondence

Correspondence has been forwarded by Katherine.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 6th June

AGM followed by Ordinary Meeting.