

Fintray Community Council

Minutes of virtual Committee meeting (due to Covid-19 pandemic)

Tuesday 1 June 2021 at 7.30pm

(using Microsoft Teams)

Present - Roddy MacInnes (Chair), Katherine Gerrard (Secretary), Richard Taylor (Treasurer), Belinda Miller, Ian Thomson, Mel Roberts, Cllr Martin Ford, Gina Ford, Ilene Fyfe, Jeanette Smart, Laura Simpson (Minutes)

Apologies - none received

Declaration of interest - None

Approval of the Minutes of last meeting - Deletion - there will be no notes made of the care of the flowerpots in the village. With that amendment, Mel Roberts proposed and Katherine Gerrard seconded.

Matters arising from the Minutes - Roddy has spoken to Mrs Smith (HT at Fintray School) regarding the Fintray Church 200-year celebration and there will be a competition for the school children next year - watch this space for more news. Mel will continue with her research.

Martin has confirmed that the School House has been sold. Ilene has spoken to the new owner and his intention is to renovate and sell the property.

Police Report - John Hampton has sent a report. No reported incidents of assault, house breaking COVID calls have all been recorded as Public Nuisance - 2 reports, 1 was found not to be in breach of COVID compliance. 1 report of a drunk driver, who was charged. No drug offences. PC Chris Williamson will join the Garioch Community Policing Team. Roddy has made it clear to the Police that they would be welcome to join any meetings.

Treasurer's Report – Balance stands at £2972.74. Since AGM accounts £50 has been donated to the school for the Easter Egg Hunt and £213.34 for flood sacks. Roddy has submitted a funding bid to the Area Office Small Grant Fund for the sum of £500 to part fund adult and children litter pickers and high visibility vests, reusable gloves and the rings to hold the sacks open. He should hear the result of this application next week. The thought is this equipment could be used as part of organised litter picks or by individuals/families to use.

Fintray Community Council election - there were no applications for the vacancies. There is the option for co-opted members. We need to encourage some people to come on board, explain the purpose of the Community Council and to be proactive in encouraging new members to join. Ilene recalls that Simon Glazier had a list of all the addresses in the Community Council area and there was previously a letter/leaflet sent out to all the addresses to raise awareness of the purpose of the Community Council. Jeanette suggested a leaflet to go home with each family at school.

Old cemetery - Following an individual contacting the Community Council and Local Authority, some discussion took place regarding the Old Cemetery, where there are old headstones, trees etc which have not been well kept. Mel thought that family graves remained the responsibility of the family. Martin confirmed that legally the headstone does remain the property of the family, but the Council does have a fund to help when headstones need to be made secure. Ian stated it should not fall to the CC to take care of the Cemetery. There are 4 dead Elms well overdue for removal. The Church wall has elder growth starting on it again, Martin will put the enquiry into the relevant department of the Council to find out about having this removed. Richard highlighted that the gates are in need of paint. Mel suggested that the Cemetery could be used to plant the 'Bee Bombs' next year as it is not being tended at the moment. Martin reported that there are now areas actively being sought to encourage wildlife and suggested that Landscape Services are approached to ensure they do not cut the grass if wildflowers are planted.

A Reporter's Guide to Planning Appeals & Development Plans – this refers to planning applications and is a clear guide to how the planning and appeals process works in Scotland at the moment. As a CC we have the document that can be made available to anyone. Strategic Development Plans have been removed from Councils and are now National Planning Framework - currently on NPF 4 - this would be in place for spring 2022 and will see through to 2032. The new plan has reduced housing in Aberdeenshire to 6,500, which is a 4-year new plan which is less than previously estimated. This is due to the downturn in oil and gas as well as the slowing growth of Scotland. The field adjacent to Hatton Court is the only area where planning may be granted. This was challenged by the CC and supported by Aberdeenshire Council but this may be going through an appeal process and it will go to the Scottish Government Reporter and there will be no right of appeal once a decision has been made. Local Place Plan - giving communities a chance to have their say in what they would like to see included in the local development plan. The Community Council were keen to underline that whilst a relationship at national level may be useful it cannot replace the essential linkages with the local authority.

Ward 12 Forum meeting – Roddy and Ian attended a Community Council Impact Meeting - How are things going and revisiting the effects of COVID. Some areas are still feeling anxiety regardless of the progress that is being made.

Covid-19 update - Aberdeenshire and City are moving to Level 1 at the weekend. Vaccinations continue to be given. 0 Covid deaths reported today in the UK. It is felt that this should remain on the agenda.

Community Association update - The Hall was opened and cleaned for the Election in May and will be used again this month. Other than these 2 uses the hall still remains closed. No final decision about reopening the hall has yet been made.

Bedding plants are expected to be delivered next week. The grass beside the hard court has been used to plant wildflowers and this will only need to be cut back once per year. The Council are aware of some bushes and plants that will require to be removed.

Aberdeenshire Councillors' updates - Martin Ford advised the CC that the new Chair of the Area Committee is now Cllr Lonchay, replacing Fergus Hood. There has been some lobbying regarding some planning applications in Kintore but Fintray CC has no involvement in this. There is an application for an Energy for Waste Plant at Thainstone,. This will be discussed at the full Council meeting in June. Ian asked if this would be considered strategic and would our views be considered. Martin informed the meeting that if the planning permission is granted then a SEPA licence would have to be sought and this could be a lengthy process.

Correspondence received since last meeting - All emails etc have been forwarded by Katherine.

Michael Todd from Kinellar Hall expressed an interest in setting up a Kinellar Community Council and Roddy is going to speak with him and Katherine will direct his enquiry to Alison Cumming from the Area Office at Gordon House.

SSEN have been emailing regarding a large project at the Kintore Sub Station (at Leylodge, Kintore) and although it does not affect us directly, they have invited representatives from Community Councils to be on their Committee. Martin suggested taking advice about what would be involved before becoming involved in the group and how little impact it may have to residents in the Fintray Community Council Area. It has been agreed that we will not take up the invitation.

Katherine also highlighted the change of Fintray Community Website to <https://fintray.chessck.co.uk/>

Date of next meeting - Tuesday 3rd August 2021 at 7.30pm by Microsoft Teams.