

Fintray Community Council
Virtual Committee Meeting (due to Covid-19 pandemic)

Tuesday 3 August 2021 at 7.30pm

Minutes

Present - Roddy MacInnes (Chair), Katherine Gerrard (Secretary), Cllr David Keating, Cllr Martin Ford, Gina Ford, Ian Thompson, Richard Taylor (Treasurer), Mel Roberts, Ilene Fyfe, Sandy Fyfe, Laura Simpson (Minutes)

Apologies - Jeanette Smart

Declaration of interest - None

Approval of the Minutes of the meeting on 1 June 2021 - With amendment of a sentence in the A Reporter's Guide to Planning Appeals and Development Plans section the Minutes were approved. Proposed by Katherine Gerrard, seconded by Mel Roberts

Matters arising from the Minutes - Mel asked if there was feedback re Kinellar setting up a Community Council. There has been some interest and they have been directed to Alison Cumming who can advise them appropriately.

Police Report - The Police report had been forwarded to all CC members. Roddy pointed out that the Report still included Kinellar and he will contact John Hampton to get this rectified. Nothing significant to report, thankfully!

Treasurer's Report – Richard reported that the balance was £2163.06. £182.30 had been given to Fintray Community Association for hand sanitising equipment and £626.98 for litter picking equipment of which a grant from Aberdeenshire Council of £500 had been approved.

Litter picking equipment - A bid for funding for equipment was successful (see above), and 10 adult and 10 child sized litter pickers, jackets, hoops for attaching black bags to have been purchased. A small financial contribution was needed from the Community Council. The equipment is available for all of the community to use. Ian suggested that there should still be a dedicated date for annual litter picking, beginning of October may be a goodtime this year but people should be encouraged to use the equipment between times. Ilene shared Kintore's example of having equipment stored at different 'stations' throughout the village. Roddy to source containers for storage and easy access of the equipment.

The Queen's Green Canopy Project - This is a project to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, with the hope that trees will be planted the length and breadth of the land. Community Groups have been asked if they wish to partake and can apply for tree saplings that will fit in with the environment in which they will be planted. Ian would be keen to be involved but his concern is where the land would be to plant any trees. He suggested approaching Fintray Estate (Edward Johnston) to find out if they would be willing to make any land available for this. Gina suggested replacing some of the older trees - but this would require consent of the landowners. Martin said the CC could put some thought in as to areas in Aberdeenshire Council locations on the road network which may be appropriate for this

purpose. Mel said there are a number of trees in the old graveyard dying - would this make a good place for planting and also the St Giles Graveyard could be considered. Martin, Mel and Rod will begin the process of identifying appropriate areas, although all members have been invited to forward their suggestions to Katherine via email.

Covid-19 update - The First Minister gave her briefing today. Roddy is hopeful that our next meeting will be face to face, but a decision will be made about this nearer the time. Martin highlighted the need to find ways to live with COVID, as it is not going to be eliminated.

Community Association update - There was a meeting to discuss the re-opening of the Village Hall. This is an ongoing process and the intention will be to meet again in light of today's announcement to make plans for the full reopening of the Hall.

Correspondence received since last meeting – has been forwarded to CC members

Edward Johnston has been contacted regarding the Japanese Knotweed and there will be more spraying taking place, by the same company later in the year when it is the right time to spray.

Planning - there is an application to build a garage at the schoolhouse.

Aberdeenshire Councillors' update - The Council is not doing the same amount of spraying and cleaning now, due to cuts in finance. Ian highlighted that there may be a future need for communities, including our own, to take more responsibility for general upkeep. Roddy will contact the Council to seek some clarity in respect of what level of service we can expect and share accordingly. Martin reiterated that there has been much less grass cutting and many other impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ground maintenance has taken a significant 'hit' to deal with this and the Council is also talking about stopping the maintenance of many grass areas, for environmental reasons as well as budgetary. At the moment, Martin is unsure what the Council's stand will be with this going forward. An agreement with what is necessary for our village will have to be reached through a conversation, once it is clear what the Council's role will be.

Cllr Keating was invited to give his thoughts at this time. He had only attended 1 Council meeting since his election. He informed the meeting that the waste site at Thainstone has been approved by the full Council and that the Scotia Homes application for Kintore has been rejected. Regarding COVID, Cllr Keating believes our new normal will not be so incredibly different from the old normal.

Cllr Ford did not support the plant at Thainstone, and although full Council has approved it, there is still a long way to go before anything can go ahead.

Change to bus service around Inverurie - most of the in and around Inverurie Services will be replaced by a bookable service, beginning on Monday 16th Aug, with bookings opening from Monday 9th August. Ready2Go - is the name of the service and can be booked on an App or by phone, details available on the Council website. This is currently a pilot.

Budget - Scottish Government Budget was issued later than usual and there was £15.6 million more allocated than was expected. A meeting took place in June to decide how this money was used. Some of the allocation follows - £3 million to social care, £1 million to Mental Health, PPP schools (Kintore) required £2million, decision made to reverse cuts in

bus services and school music tuition and £100,000 to the carbon budget and money put in reserve which may or may not be required. Public Sector pay settlements are likely to be more than was budgeted therefore, some was allocated for that. This increase has helped undo some of the forced cuts from the March budget.

Ilene has asked if the Community Council could approach the Council to ask if the new bus service could be extended to cover the Hatton of Fintray area. Martin thinks it would be worth asking the question and could be visited once an assessment is made after the pilot concludes.

Other business - The issue of 'outside groups' utilising the football pitch for football training was raised. It was reiterated that the pitch was not bookable, could be used by anyone and it was a case of 'first come, first served.' There was general agreement that involvement of youngsters in sport from all areas should be seen in a positive light.

Date of next meeting - Tuesday 5 October 2021 - hopefully in the Village Hall

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