

Fintray Community Council

Minutes of Virtual Committee Meeting (due to Covid-19 pandemic)

Tuesday 6 October 2020 at 7.30pm

(using Microsoft Teams)

Rod **Welcomed** everyone to the meeting. Some CC's are meeting virtually, some are not meeting at all. This should have been our AGM but there is no requirement at the moment for an AGM to take place.

Present: Rod MacInnes, Katherine Gerrard, Belinda Miller, Ian Thomson, Richard Taylor, Jeanette Smart, Martin Ford, Evelyn Morrice, Laura Johnston, Mel Roberts, Ilene Fyfe, Laura Simpson (Minutes Secretary)

Apologies: Gina Ford

Declaration of interest: None

Approval of the Minutes of the meetings on 4th February and 11th August 2020: Proposal is to go through the Minutes of the last 2 meetings before moving onto matters arising. Approved by Ian Thomson, Seconded by Richard Taylor

Matters arising from the Minutes:

Flooding - this is ongoing, Martin Ford updated that he suspects nothing much has happened due to the Pandemic. Laura Johnston reported the flooding to SEPA and Aberdeenshire Council and had a response that someone would come out and have a look at the burn after this Sunday's flooding. She did not want the pipes to be removed from the watercourse as they are the only thing protecting her garden from the full force of the burn in heavy rainfall.

Belinda said Malcolm Thomson ('Shire Council) has walked the route of the flooding with her before and he feels the 'pinch' points of the flood in the flood plan are accurate. Belinda relayed it was felt that the pipes should be removed.

Martin identified that this short discussion has highlighted how, even in a small place like Fintray, there are difficulties in agreeing upon plans. Martin does not believe the Council will get involved with the removal of a pipe from property without the landowner's consent, although they would help with removal if it were agreed.

This is the first time the property 'Newstead' has actually flooded.

Jeanette emailed Malcolm Thomson regarding the manhole covers and he said he would go out and have a look at them, but she has heard nothing back as yet.

Roddy suggested a meeting separate from the CC to ensure this important issue is addressed, possibly a few people from the Community Council together with some people who have been affected by the flooding.

Ian and Belinda walked the burn from the church to Newstead. The burn burst at the pub car park, the only defence for that would be to build a wall. The burn then overflows again on the road beside Newstead. 130 flood sacks are stored in various places throughout the Community. These were effective this weekend. They can still be purchased at a reduced

price from the Council. Ian suggested spending £200 (approx) Community Council money to replace them. This was seconded by Roddy.

Martin highlighted that it is not the Council's responsibility to protect property from flooding, although they do try to help.

Laura Johnston reiterated that her property has never been flooded before which is why she is reluctant to remove the pipes as she feels they have been protecting her property for all these years.

Change of use to Fintray Garage - a response was issued from the Council after a visit to the Garage on 24th January, they were going to give feedback to the relevant department and will be in touch when they have their response. This will be followed up. (Update – email received after meeting closed from Mairi Dick, Planning Enforcement Team stating that retrospective change of use should be sought and she confirmed that the business owner and the landowner had been advised of this on the 24 August. Both parties had made contact with the Enforcement Team and discussions are currently ongoing. Once an application is submitted it will be available to the general public on the Aberdeenshire Council Planning pages using the Simple Search facility)

Police Report - has been received

Information Board for Church - this is work in progress

Damage to wall at Church Yard - Martin received assurance it would be done and it is likely this has not been done because of the Global Pandemic.

Roddy to find out about **slabs at the church**, which have been dislodged - do they belong to the Church?

Japanese Knotweed - Rod contacted Edward Johnston and has been told that the Estate had confirmed that Complete Weed Control are due to visit the site tomorrow (Wednesday 7 October. The time to treat the Knotweed for this year has passed, so it will have to wait until next year for it to be treated. Mel questioned whether there was some obligation for the landowner to treat the weeds. This was discussed at the last meeting, hence the response from Fintray Estate. Ian Thomson suggested the CC write to them again in Spring to remind them. Rod wished to thank Ian and Belinda for their work on this.

Traffic speed checks have taken place -

Martin confirmed there are mobile speed signs, they may well make their way to Fintray. He also identified that CC's are not entitled to put up their own signs. The Council distributes signs based on need for each area and will not approve signs communities buy themselves and he would not recommend that Fintray CC buy their own to use.

Police Report



GARIOCH COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM VISIBLE, ACCESSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE

Community Council: Hatton of Fintray

Reporting Period: 28 July – 28 September 2020

Previous Reporting Period: 28 May – 28 July 2020

Current Policing Priorities:

Our current priorities have changed in response to emerging crime patterns and are as follows:

1. VIOLENT CRIME – Robust policing and enquiry into all crimes of violence.
2. LICENSING – In line with the above and to ensure all Licensed Premises are operating safely.
3. DRUGS – Renewed focus on gathering drug intelligence and stop-searches.

Crime Overview and Explanation:

CRIME TYPE	PREVIOUS PERIOD	CURRENT PERIOD
Assault	0	0
Housebreaking	0	1
Public Nuisance	6 (of which 4 were Covid related).	1 (of which 1 was Covid related).
Road Traffic	2 accidents 10 other	4 accidents 6 other
Drugs	0	0

Assault – Includes all recorded instances of violence

Housebreaking – includes all break in's to domestic and commercial premises, including attempted break in's.

Public Nuisance – All youth annoyance and calls in relation to anti-social behaviour.

Road Traffic – all calls in relation to Road Traffic Accidents and Offences (speeding, illegal parking, obstruction etc).

Drugs – all reports incidents in relation to drugs dealing and use.

Assault:

There have been no Assaults across either reporting period.

Housebreaking:

There has been 1 reported incident during this period. This related to a commercial property and the suspect was known to the owner. They were apprehended at the time by Police thanks to a member of the public calling the Police as it happened.

Public Nuisance:

All Covid related calls have been recorded as Public Nuisance by our Control Room to ensure all such calls are recorded under the one call type and easily researched.

The previous reporting period saw 6 incidents, with a significant decrease to 1 this time. This call related to a group of youths congregating in Blackburn. The youths were dispersed by our Specials - Task and Resolve (STAR) Team, and they and their parents were given suitable advice.

There has been an increase of groups of youths congregating in all parts of Garioch. Some of these will be in breach of the Covid rules in relation to groups of 6 people. We are out on regular patrol and educate/disperse such groups as we come across them.

Road Traffic:

The previous reporting period saw 2 recorded accidents, with the current figure 4. Given the increase in traffic on the road with 'lockdown' restrictions easing, this small increase is of no significant concern.

We are aware that speeding continues to be an issue in Fintray for local residents. Speed checks having been carried out in the area and no persons have been detected speeding during these directed checks.

A disqualified driver has been charged with driving without a valid licence twice during the reported period. Reports have been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Drugs:

During both reporting periods there were 0 'drug related' calls.

The Garioch CPT has executed several Drug Search Warrants during this reporting period, none of which were in the Fintray area. As always, we rely on information from the local community to develop the intelligence needed to proactively execute Drug Search Warrants.

Significant crime/issues within your community:

There have been no significant crimes or incidents of concern that have any impact on the community.

Planned Community Policing Activity/Advice:

Our priorities remain the same, as they run for a 3 month period.

Conclusion:

Crime levels remain low and compare favourably against other areas in Grampian.

The Garioch STAR (Specials – Task and Resolve) Team have continued to work hard with them engaging in multiple Public Nuisance calls relating to youth gatherings including the aforementioned call in Blackburn

You may have seen a positive post on Face Book about the work of the Garioch Specials, which has resulted in interest from local residents, wishing to become 'Specials.'

In October we are running a Crime Prevention Campaign based around darker nights and locking property. Once dates are confirmed I will link in with the Secretary and provide you with a copy of the poster we are using, which you can use on your social media platforms.

PCs Liam Mercer and Eilidh McCabe of the Garioch Community Policing Team were the first attending officers at the recent train derailment in Stonehaven and I am proud to report that they have both been formally recognised for their bravery by both the UK Transport Secretary and the Chief Constable.

John Hampton T/PS A1240

Ian disagreed with the statement that there was no speeding through the village. Roddy is going to follow up with his request for a device to record speeding.

Treasurer's Report

Action since last meeting £100 to Aberdeenshire Council. £3330.68 current balance.

Accounts had been audited in the last couple of months.

Roddy reminded everyone that the money in the Community Council is there for use in the community and can be used to help groups etc in the community

It has been agreed that the CC will cover the cost of a Christmas Tree for the village.

Community Impact Assessments

CC's will be invited to be part of a meeting to shape how community planning will move forward after the Pandemic.

Martin has no further information but stated the difficulty of being in recovery while the Pandemic is ongoing.

The plans will most likely change as we journey further into the unknown. This will be discussed as a community on an ongoing basis.

Safer Routes

Speed Limits in the village - there was a consultation recently done in Aberdeenshire relating to speed limits, pedestrian crossings etc – Roddy responded in regard to the speed limit. Many CC's noted how walking and cycling was so much easier and safer than it was. The CC can write to Aberdeenshire Council, with regards to making the roads more pedestrian/cyclist friendly. Roddy proposed that the CC write to Aberdeenshire Council to make the routes safer, so when planning ahead the Council take safe routes into account. Ian is in full support of this. Looking back over the years, there were previously much more walkways to connect villages/communities. Martin suggested that the outcomes of the consultation will go to the Infrastructure Services Committee which will likely suggest the new policy. The more effective way to make points known would be to ask to address a Council meeting - make a public representation at the Infrastructure Services Meeting – make a public representation at the Infrastructure Services meeting. A petition could also be taken to the meeting to a public domain to make concerns known. Think about what you want to

ask for - the Council does not always own the land at the side of the road to make footpaths. Traffic calming is often the best way to make roads safer.

Covid-19 update

This is a standing item as there may be issues required to be addressed by the Community Council. We are still awaiting an announcement from the FM regarding guidance for the Tattie Holidays

Community Association update

The AGM had been postponed.

Developer Obligation Fund - stage curtains and rails have been ordered for the hall. The fund is £1,900 and the cost will be just over £2,000 so has largely been paid for.

The CA is looking at changing the Bank they use, the RBS local branch is closing.

Gardening Club - the Council is looking for pieces of grass to promote pollinators - the grass at the side of the tennis court and the war memorial have been identified as areas for wild flowers and will increase the pollinators. The Gardening Club would like to involve the children. Mel highlighted that it is difficult to access the War Memorial from the roadside.

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

Consultation from BT wanting to remove the phone box from the hall. Last year the CC put forward a good argument to keep it, the same responses have been put back to BT. No calls were made from the phone box last year.

Jeanette informed everyone that she is no longer the guardian of the Defibrillator - it is now Simon Glazier.

Ian asked Laura Johnston if she would be willing to complete the form relating to Community Asset Transfer (the school house). Katherine will forward the form to Laura Johnston

Aberdeenshire Councillor's update

Martin stated that the Council services have been maintained well, as has the democratic process. Very little has changed with committee meetings etc.

Financially there has been a huge impact as a result of the Pandemic, the spending figures for this year is predicted to be £30 million, enhanced financial reporting and revisiting priorities are underway, a new set of frameworks was agreed in July, these will be used to address how to deal with the budget problem. In November a budget will be set to cover the following 16 months. A £60 million budget gap will have to be filled in this next budget. Martin personally thinks the £30 million COVID costs should be dealt with by depleting balances - they can be replenished over the years to come, rather than cut services. The other £30 million will have to come from cuts to services and other ways to find savings. Please note these are Martin's personal views, not necessarily the views of the Council.

Date of next meeting - Tuesday 1st December - 2020