

Dores & Essich Community Council

(held virtually)

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday 7th September 2020 at 1930 hrs

1.Members Present: Ella MacRae (Chair), Angus MacLaren (Vice-Chair), Simon Pillatt (Secretary), Iain Cameron (Treasurer), John Martin, Colin MacPherson, Anne MacLaren (Minutes Secretary) and Cllr Margaret Davidson

Plus Candy Cameron and Jeanette Murray

Apologies – Claire Cuthbertson, Fiona Cairns, Shona Hay and Nikki Perrin

2. Minutes from last CC meeting on 9/3/20 –they were proposed by SP and seconded by CM

There was a virtual CC meeting on 6th July, which was not Minuted at the time, and there were several emails and phone calls made during lockdown. Items discussed were ILI Pump Storage Scheme, Covid 19 funding applications which were dealt with by CM, EM and Louise Robertson. Also discussed were Aldourie Castle, Gatehouse and Boathouse planning. Police were contacted about speeding in the village and cones were put in place thanks to Cllr Davidson. This made a big difference. At Torr Gardens some of the cones will now be taken away. The Community database was updated. CC agreed on Option 5 for road safety in the village. The Community website was updated and discussion on how this will be managed.

3. Matters Arising -

3.1 Scottish Water – no updates to report but EM commented not at planning yet and funding has to be agreed by SW board.

3.2 Affordable Housing – no updates but Cllr Margaret Davidson will look into it.

3.3 Cemetery Extension – as in point 3.2 above

3.4 Village Improvement Traffic Calming – EM reported that Option 5 has been agreed and hoping Scottish Water will be paying for work on this.

3.5 Inner Moray Firth Development Plan – this is ongoing and CM and JM dealing with this.

3.6 Cycle Path Maintenance footpath/Clune Farm – Millcroft – work has been done to maintain the cycle path over the last couple of weeks. Lavinia will be contacted to discuss Clune Farm – Millcroft.

3.7 Scaniport Road Safety/Path at Scaniport – Cllr Davidson still to arrange a meeting with both the Police and Roads Department. A letter has been received from Alistair Davidson, Bowlts regarding the path at Scaniport. IC commented maybe best not to pursue this further unless very keen to do so. CM felt the path would be an issue as would give rise to parking problems at Scaniport and also road safety. If funding was to become available may look at this again in the future. SP to pass Alistair Davidson's letter on to Cllr Davidson.

3.8 ILI Pump Storage Scheme – a report was prepared by JM – please see attached. We will hear about update on 21/9/20.

4. Police Report – report is from 11/8/20 – 5/9/20 - officers have been carrying out static speed checks in the area and educated several drivers regarding their speed and driving manner. A fixed penalty notice was issued for speeding on Dores Road on 2nd September. On 21st August a man was arrested for failing a drugs wipe roadside test at Aldourie. There have been reports in the Foyers and Errogie area of a suspect vehicle offering roofing services and may be bogus workmen. The Police report will be put on website if permission is given.

5. Planning – there is a renewal of existing application from 2010 at Laggan House. EM was contacted by a local resident with a question about it and she informed them that environmental health has raised a query and the applicant has been asked to provide further information.

6. Treasurer's Report – IC commented it has been a quiet year and has written 8 cheques since the last CC meeting amounting to approximately £700. There is £6,146 unrestricted CC funds with £1,000 in playing field fund. The accounts have been audited and will be forwarded to the Ward Manager. EM commented that Derek will finish his beach cleaning work but will occasionally go out with a picker to clean up. Some extra people were helping out which was very good of them. Derek will be thanked for all the work he has done.

7. Correspondence –

IC is putting in his resignation as Treasurer but will carry on until someone else is appointed. A notice will be put out to everyone on the database. There are 2 vacancies to be filled on the committee.

EM commented she has received numerous emails from the website about various things but nothing specific to deal with.

AOCB

CM commented on the Broadband issue in Scaniport which is a problem as not on either Inverness or Dores exchange. New grants are available from the Scottish Government and CM is keen to put this back on the Agenda. Cllr Davidson suggested this to be put back on as this Broadband issue requires a solution. Broadways is a recommendation. JM to send link to register for Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme R100 and commented there is a fibre optic cable at Scaniport.

CC ward boundary changes was brought up by EM and Cllr Davidson spoke about the splitting up of wards. There will be a consultation with the CC at the end of September.

Database to be fine tuned and a further check on residents at Essich Meadows.

Website is working quite well and JM suggested amending the navigation on this.

Covid 19 fund is getting tidied up and will reapply for funding. EM to speak to David about Recovery Fund.

Christmas Tree – no fee was received from the HC for the lights. It was agreed by everyone to do the same as last year.

Grass Cutting – EM received a good price for this. However, this will be advertised to get a better quote. The HC grass cutting was good in the village.

IC commented on bolthole house buying for people relocating to the area. Cllr Davidson reported that estate agents were busy. JM suggested that if people were buying houses for holiday homes they should require to apply for planning for change of use. Cllr Davidson suggested she would bring this up with Ben Thomson, Chair of Housing and Property Committee.

Candy Cameron spoke about coronavirus lockdown problems and suggested a survey or questionnaire to be sent round for questions on this. To be sent to SP or maybe have a virtual meeting to discuss what people thought.

EM commented on all the work that Adam had been doing throughout lockdown and to thank him for all that he has done.

JM commented on the speeding by Vestas vans down Essich brae whilst primary school children are walking on this road. EM has also noted the speed of the vans and has had a number of complaints about the speed they drive through the village. It was agreed that JM write a letter and pass it to SP.

EM closed the meeting at 2105 hrs.

Date of next meeting 12th October 2020 at 1930 hrs to be held virtually