

Dores & Essich Community Council

(held virtually)

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday 12th October 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, Fiona Morrison, Nikki Perrin and Mike Stone

Apologies – Duncan Manson

2. Minutes from last virtual CC meeting on 7/9/20 – they were proposed by SP and seconded by CM

There was a virtual CC meeting on 6/7/20 and Minutes have now been done and were sent out to councillors on 22/9/20. They were proposed by EM and seconded by CM.

3. Matters Arising -

3.1 Scottish Water – a letter was received today and the contents are disappointing. They are not now intending to do to go ahead with the extraction of water from Loch Ness in the near future. However, they will seek to honour the upgrade of the water supply from the school to the village.

3.2 Affordable Housing – Arrangements will be arranged soon to set up another meeting with Frank Scott, Valuer, John McHardy and Gail Matheson regarding buying the land for housing and cemetery so we have a firm proposal for the cemetery extension and housing site before we meet with Scottish Water.

3.3 Cemetery Extension – as in point 3.2 above.

3.4 Village Improvement Traffic Calming – it is hoped that Scottish Water will pay for this work.

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 –CM has written to Donald Coghill about the footpath but hasn't had a reply as yet. EM is still to contact Lavinia.

3.7 Scaniport Road Safety/Path at Scaniport – Cllr Davidson is keen to speak to landowner before the Police are involved. CM commented the Police have previously done surveys on this but nothing conclusive has been brought up in their work. Cllr Davidson suggested speed and traffic counts should be carried out by the Roads Department. Cllr Davidson will speak to them and try and make some progress on this.

3.8 ILI Pump Storage Scheme – waiting to hear about this. JM commented there were questions asked by the HC at the inquiry and ILI had not yet responded. They had until 2/10/20. Since our meeting it is now apparent that ILI's email dated 29th September covered this.

3.9 Broadband at Scaniport – CM commented this is limited to Scaniport loop and out of 30 properties 7 so far been in touch. Cllr Davidson has suggested to CM to get in touch with Stewart Robertson, HIE, for advice on bringing this forward.

3.10 Ward Boundary Changes – Cllr Davidson commented any updates will arrive in due course.

3.11 Community Database, Website, Covid 19 and CC vacancies – nothing to report on Database. JM has expressed disappointment with the website and not working properly. He feels there is more work to be done on it and we will have to pay for someone to be trained (cost approximately £200). After discussion JM suggested we go back to Covid fund for this. EM explained that this fund was now finished and the CC/Development Trust could maybe pay for training. JM then offered to manage the website and it was agreed as long as we have a filter. EM then commented that David Mason is applying for more funding for the Hardship Fund. CC vacancies - Nikki Perrin has put her name forward to join our CC. However, CC still looking for another one member.

4. Police Report – report is from 6/9/20 – 11/10/20 – there was a report of a man being arrested for drunk driving in the Dores area. A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

5. Planning – there is nothing to report on applications. Correspondence from HC was received regarding Consultee Access for Planning Consultations. CC have agreed to take this on and JM proposes CM to take on the responsibility with his planning experience. EM seconded this. CM to write to David Moodie, HC.

6. Treasurer's Report – IC commented there has not been much change since the last meeting. He asked about appointing a new Treasurer but this has not yet been met. Also a grant was received of £444. Invoices for 1&1 internet amounting to approximately £25 per quarter were being received and IC wondered this should still be the case with the website up and running. Donations to Lucky 2B Here and Highlife Highland were sent out but these have not yet been cashed. There is presently £6,500 in the Bank.

7. Correspondence –

IC has written an email regarding Darris House maybe being rented out for Air BnB. He feels a letter should be sent to Alistair Davidson, Scaniport Estate about this due to lack of local housing as the last four rented houses on Scaniport Estate that have been refurbished are now being used for Air BnB. This is a huge loss to our community. SP to do letter.

Letter received from Jane Manson about slick at fish farm and this was forwarded on to SEPA. SP had a phone call from them asking for rough dates when swimming in the loch took place. Jane can send this information to SEPA and copy CC in on this. It was noted SEPA were not doing site visits at this time.

Correspondence received for CC representatives to attend Aird & Loch Ness Ward virtual meeting on Thursday, 15th October. Cllr Davidson is keen for CC members to attend this.

A reply has been received from Keith Wallace, Director regarding the speeding by Vestas vans. He is investigating this and will take necessary actions.

Correspondence received regarding Local Government and Communities Committee survey regarding community empowerment legislation. CM has submitted his response.

Letter received from the Church about Glebe community buyout. If this is going forward Cllr Davidson commented about registering interest first before the land goes on the market. (This is not a CC project and no responsibility would fall on CC).

AOCB

AM commented on rubbish and fly tipping close to Kinchyle. Hugh Fraser asked to bring this up at CC meeting. Cllr Davidson will ask Alan McKinnie from the Highland Council to contact AM to discuss.

EM closed the meeting at 2110 hrs.

Date of next meeting 23rd November 2020 at 1930 hrs to be held virtually.