

Dores & Essich Community Council

(held virtually)

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday 23rd November 2020 at 1930 hrs

1. Members Present: Ella MacRae (Chair), Angus MacLaren (Vice-Chair), Simon Pillatt (Secretary), Colin MacPherson and Anne MacLaren (Minutes Secretary)

Plus Nikki Perrin, Gavin and Mary Findlay and Adrienne and Eivor Dempster

Apologies – Duncan Manson, John Martin, Iain Cameron and Claire Cuthbertson

2. Minutes from last virtual CC meeting on 12/10/20 – they were proposed by CM and seconded by EM

3. Matters Arising – Election of Nikki Perrin as a co-opted member of the Community Council – proposed by EM and seconded by AM. Election of Nikki Perrin as Treasurer of the Community Council – proposed by EM and seconded by SP. Iain Cameron will resign as of tonight’s meeting. He has been Treasurer for a number of years and has also been Chair. We wish him well and thank him. Also JM has wished him well.

3.1 Scottish Water – SP and EM will be writing to SW for a meeting as water is to be upgraded with the houses being built. Cllr Davidson will be preparing the letter and we will be given the opportunity to add to it.

3.2 Affordable Housing – EM, IC, SP and Cllr. Davidson had a meeting with Frank Scott, Valuer and Gail Matheson from Highland House Alliance. The person who was going to be taking this forward was actually on holiday and we were disappointed. EM has talked to Cllr Davidson about monthly meetings to move this along. There was a meeting with the Highland Council and Church of Scotland and a report has just come in about this. It was noted we will not be losing much on the car park and the land is getting valued. The monthly meetings will hopefully sort this out and take this forward.

3.3 Cemetery Extension – as in point 3.2 above.

3.4 Village Improvement Traffic Calming – a meeting will be arranged with Scottish Water. A plan has been measured up and in place. Markers have been pegged in the village.

3.5 Inner Moray Firth Development Plan – IC passed an email to all about this. CM to extract the information as a link to distribute. Cllr Davidson has asked for a meeting on 3rd December. CM, SP and provisionally EM to attend.

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 has spoken to Lavinia about the footpath from Clune Farm to Millcroft and she mentioned that money would be spent on other paths rather than this one as so rough. The farmer in this area does not want to do this path up with problems that have arisen. This is to be left for now.

3.7 Scaniport Road Safety - a meeting has been arranged for Cllr Davidson to meet up in Scaniport with AM and CM on 10th December to discuss.

3.8 Ili Pump Storage Scheme – there are no updates as yet from reporter and Scottish Government.

3.9 Broadband at Scaniport – CM commented that out of 34 properties there are 26 positive households. We will have to wait a reply from BT to see about funding for R100 Broadband Scheme. Scaniport may be “out of scope”.

3.10 Ward Boundary Changes – An email was received regarding Local Government Boundary Commission to reorganise some of the electoral ward boundaries. Presently Ward 12 covers Aird and Loch Ness area. EM to discuss with Cllr Davidson and CC to write a letter about this before 26th January.

3.11 Community Website – as JM not present at meeting this will be left. SP to add Nikki’s details on the website. SP has made a couple of changes.

3.12 Fish Farm – Jane Manson has not been back in touch. She was to notify SEPA with information requested.

4. Police Report – report is from 7/9/20 – 23/11/20 – 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. One driver has been issued a fixed penalty for no MOT and another a fixed penalty for careless driving. Police also stopped and provided advice to numerous drivers in the area in relation to winter safety campaign. Police continue to monitor local compliance with the Covid 19 guidelines.

5. Planning – there is nothing to report on applications.

6. Treasurer’s Report – IC has sent in his report and reported no new transactions since the last meeting. IC will pass everything over to Nikki now that she has been co-opted as new Treasurer.

7. Correspondence –

An email was received from Operation Support, Roads Department, Highland Council as part of winter resilience scheme. The grit bins have already been filled. If we need anything else we will get in touch.

A reply has been received from Vestas regarding the van speeding issues and all Inverness technicians have been spoken to about this.

The Ness Castle Primary School stakeholder meeting to be held on 25th November has now been cancelled.

Correspondence was received from the Highland Council inviting the public and interested parties to participate in shaping the guidance on how the Council will promote and determine rural housing applications. Any comments should be submitted by 18th December. CM to send a notice round about this.

Correspondence was received from Highland Council regarding Inverness and Loch Ness tourism infrastructure plan for comments to be made. As Fiona Cairns is Chair of the Loch Ness Tourist Group this will be sent to her by SP to have a look at.

The fly tipping close to Kinchyle – Alan McKinnie will get in touch with AM to discuss.

Cllr Davidson has been in touch with EM about monthly housing meetings and an Aldourie Estate meeting. EM will speak to Candy Cameron about the Aldourie Estate meeting.

An email was received from Citizens Advice Bureau regarding Fair Delivery Charges Campaign Survey. This will be put on the Dores and Essich community website for the public to view.

AOCB

EM commented that the Covid Hardship Fund is still active. There is still some work to be done to complete.

Gavin Findlay has made a reminder that he has 3 snow pushers to aid clearing paths in case of heavy snow. Again, this will be out on the community website.

EM closed the meeting at 2030 hrs.

Date of next meeting 18th January 2021 at 1930 hrs to be held virtually.