

Dores & Essich Community Council

(held virtually)

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday 18th January 2021 at 1930 hrs

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

Plus Adrienne Dempster, Fiona Morrison and Jeanette Murray

Apologies – Nikki Perrin

2. Minutes from last virtual CC meeting on 23/11/20 – they were proposed by SP and seconded by CM

3. Matters Arising –

3.1 Scottish Water – Cllr Davidson and EM have a meeting organised with Gavin Steele from SW on Friday of next week.

3.2 Affordable Housing – EM commented there was a meeting with everybody that there should have been and this will now be moved on with all working together. Joint instructions with Graham & Sibbald for a valuation. This will move things forward for affordable housing and cemetery extension. 580 lairs will be given at cemetery which allows approximately 10 interments per year and maybe add 10 more to give 20 interments per year.

3.3 Cemetery Extension – as in point 3.2 above.

3.4 Village Improvement Traffic Calming – see above points

3.5 Inner Moray Firth Development Plan – correspondence from Tim Stott regarding publication of Main Issues Report and consultation starts on 29th January. Any comments to be made from then to Thursday 1st April.

3.6 Cycle Path Maintenance footpath – Donald Coghill has been in touch with CM. Work will be done on this and it is on list to be serviced.

3.7 Scaniport Road Safety – Cllr Davidson, AM and CM had a meeting at Scaniport on 10th December. Measuring lines have been requested but with current snow and ice conditions nothing has been done about this yet.

A letter was sent to Keith Gibson, Planning Department, regarding any provisions being made in the access road works for a bus stop at the proposed development of 5 house plots in the former camp site at Scaniport.

3.8 ILLI Pump Storage Scheme – no updates to report

3.9 Broadband at Scaniport – CM commented that an application has been made for funding with the R100 Broadband Scheme for the 26 positive households signed up for this.

3.10 Ward Boundary Changes – CM will be drafting a letter with comments on behalf of CC which is to be in by 26th January. Everyone in agreement to this.

3.11 Community Website – JM commented that training budget is not sufficient. He asked SP to get in touch with John Sawers if anything needs to be changed. SP doing well with the website.

3.12 Fish Farm – EM has not discussed with Jane Manson as yet. Wild swimmers are out nearly every day and no slick from the fish farm has been reported. Report to SEPA directly if any is reported and link to be put on community website.

3.13 Items from previous Minutes correspondence -

Correspondence regarding rural housing applications JM & CM have dealt with this.

Inverness and Loch Ness Tourism Infrastructure Plan – Fiona Cairns, Loch Ness Tourist Group, has responded to this. Campervan provisions to be mentioned.

Cllr Davidson arranged a meeting with Aldourie Estate, Candy Cameron, Stewart, Lavinia and Bob Reid about management plan. The access plan is moving.

EM to send letters to residents at Essich Meadows regarding money available for the Covid Hardship Fund.

4. Police Report – report is from 18/11/20 – 17/1/21 – there was a report of a vehicle being abandoned. The registered keeper was contacted and confirmed his vehicle had broken down and moved it a few days later. On 14th January there was a report of dangerous driving on the B862 near Scaniport around 1630 hours of a car taking an extremely unsafe overtake of a bus. If anyone has any information please contact Police.

5. Planning – An application for internal alterations planning at Aldourie Castle. Also, an application for house planning at Torbreck Farm.

6. Treasurer's Report – as Nikki unable to attend meeting she sent in her report:-

The accounts mandate has been successfully changed so that she is now the Treasurer and SP and EM are signatories. She is working with the Bank to get online access and online banking set up this week if possible. There have been no transactions since the last meeting.

7. Correspondence –

EM has asked Cllr Davidson to get in touch with Alan McKinnie as AM not been contacted yet regarding the fly tipping close to Kinchyle.

A letter has been sent to Alistair Davidson, Scaniport Estate, regarding properties being rented out for Air BnB. Alistair has replied mentioning the properties have all undergone fairly major refurbishment work. The properties have been leased to two separate existing tenants which already run tourist accommodation business on the estate. This provides these existing businesses an opportunity to expand and diversify.

Invitation received from Scottish Water to take part in annual consultation.

Correspondence from Heather Lafferty, Statkraft UK Ltd., regarding proposed Loch Liath Wind Farm near Drumnadrochit. EM commented this would not affect Dores & Essich and she acknowledged receipt of the letter anyway.

Inverness Rural Community Resilience Meeting – invitation to network meetings that the Highland Council are facilitating. They are envisaging fortnightly meetings but the CC feel the weekly email briefings are sufficient.

Correspondence from Community Resilience Group attaching a short document summarising latest restrictions and support in place. On feedback that has been provided they are planning to provide a weekly update of any key changes and guidance.

AOCB

A request was made for installation of a portaloo at the Church car park. This was discussed and decided it was not in favour.

CM is now CC representative on the Dores Community Development Trust, appointed by SP, taking over from AM.

CM is voluntarily involved with planning consultation with Corriegarth Wind Farm 2. He will get back to CC on this after reading the documentation.

Adrienne commented on the flooding on the road to Ness-side. Cllr Davidson discussed drainage issues and potholes and will speak to John Taylor, Highland Council. Also, AM commented that some of the problem may lie with blocked drains that were installed several years ago.

Jeanette commented that Aldourie School has applied for Wrigley Litter Less – Keep Scotland Beautiful scheme funding and has received £200. This scheme is to engage local communities in awareness raising activities. Please get in touch with Jeanette with any ideas how to spend this funding before end of January.

EM closed the meeting at 2050 hrs.

Date of next meeting 8th March 2021 at 1930 hrs to be held virtually.