

Dores & Essich Community Council

(held virtually)

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday 19th April 2021 at 1930 hrs

1. Members Present: Ella MacRae (Chair), Angus MacLaren (Vice-Chair), Simon Pillatt (Secretary), Nikki Perrin (Treasurer), Colin MacPherson, John Martin, Duncan Manson and Anne MacLaren (Minutes Secretary)

Plus Iain Cameron, Mark Evans and Ruth Bradsheet, Fiona King, Eivor and Adrienne Dempster and Councillor David Fraser

Apologies – Cllr Margaret Davidson

Anything to Declare – John Martin declares to owning 1/5 acre of land at West Torbreck.

2. Minutes from last virtual CC meeting on 8/3/21 – they were proposed by AM and seconded by NP

Minutes from Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan meeting on 15/3/21 – they were proposed by CM and seconded by EM

3. Matters Arising –

3.1 Scottish Water – Cllr Davidson has drafted a letter to Executive Board and will be sent tomorrow.

3.2 Affordable Housing – Gail Matheson, Highland Housing Alliance, joined in the meeting at 8pm and discussed at length the site at the Glebe regarding housing plots, affordable rent and mid market rent. The HHA asked to look at the Glebe along with Highland Council. There are no house designs yet. JM asked the question how many units were to be built and Gail commented about 15 units with different types of tenure eg. social housing rent, low cost home ownership but primarily mid market rent. She mentioned to look at their website as they have sites already built on at Munloch, Drumadrochit and Carrbridge. She commented that if you know anyone interested put name on their register and fill in an application form. EM asked for this information to be put on the Dores Community website.

3.3 Cemetery Extension – Human remains have been found at the testing sites and seem to very old. The planning application has been submitted for the extension. This is not all satisfactory as it shows a new entrance across the car park. Cllr Davidson has gone back to the Bereavement Manager about this. EM commented the response to the planning is that the CC are against the road not the application. Everyone in agreement to this.

3.4 Village Improvement Traffic Calming – a letter has been sent to the Roads Department, Highland Council about funding. Cllr Davidson and Cllr Fraser have a meeting with John Taylor tomorrow and will discuss this with him along with surfacing and repairs to road and also remind about the potholes.

3.5 Inner Moray Firth Development Plan – our response with comments was sent in and Cllr Davidson commented in her email a good contribution was made. JM brought up site no IN61 which is an unused field at West Torbreck – the Planning Department replied to his email saying this site was shown as non-preferred for housing because of its location being remote from services. CM is now replying to this email and SP will be sent a copy.

3.6 Scaniport Road Safety – Cllr Davidson’s email said she is disappointed the traffic counters have still not been put down on the road. Cllr Fraser commented as they both have a meeting with John Taylor, Highland Council tomorrow they will discuss with him then.

Cllr Davidson discussed with Keith Gibson, Planning Department, the bus stop at the proposed development of 5 house plots in the former camp site at Scaniport. It is too late to amend the current planning application. She has reverted with a request to public transport and roads for the bus stop at the site of the concrete pad.

3.7 ILLI Pump Storage Scheme – the reporter has announced the report has now been completed and is now on the Minister’s desk. This will not be dealt with until after the election due to canvassing.

3.8 Broadband at Scaniport – CM has discussed this with Stuart Robertson and noted that households with postcode IV2 6DL are included in the R100 Broadband Scheme but those with IV2 6DN are not included. There will be a further review in the Summer. CM will keep looking at this for updates.

3.9 Ward Boundary Changes – no updates to report.

3.10 Dores Beach – Jane Manson and Nikki are dealing with the dog poo posters at the beach

Beach cleaning – a discussion on whether the CC should get someone appointed to do this. A suggestion of purchasing some litter pickers and Development Trust could help finance this.

The litter pick organised by Fiona Cairns proved to be very successful.

DM commented on fast boats at the shoreline and should buoys be placed from the treatment works to middle of the beach. IC suggested if funding was available from the fish farm. DM will discuss with fish farm.

Iain Cameron has dealt with the sign at the Church and got a good price for this. The sign is now back in position at car park.

4. Police Report – this is from 8/2/21 – 14/4/21 – there was a report of a theft of tools held in the portacabins on the grounds of Aldourie Castle. Investigation has been carried out and no culprits identified.

5. Planning – planning application for outline planning for 3 plots at the Old Mill, Dores. CM commented that the application is in principle at this stage. EM commented to the applicants that it would be better to have only one extra entrance making two in total for the site. The boundary along the pavement shows a discrepancy and it has been acknowledged a mistake was made who prepared this. CM comments are objective and this needs careful control and design. The CC are replying to the plan and supporting in principle per CM. Everyone is in agreement to this.

6. Treasurer’s Report – NP, Treasurer, commented that just 2 payments have been made since the last meeting and there is currently £7,133.01 in the bank account. Anne MacLaren will audit the accounts and Claire Cuthbertson will sign them off.

7. Correspondence – email from David Mason regarding Green Recovery Fund. Discussion on looking at employing a warden and EM to speak to Adam, Dores Inn and Lavinia, Aldourie Castle. EM to arrange a meeting along with CM and DM.

Correspondence from Home Start East Highland regarding mental health and this will be put up on the Dores Community website.

AOCB

EM commented at the last meeting about prescription pickup from Foyers Surgery to Dores and Andy MacDonald has now started this on a Tuesday and Adam from Dores Inn, delivers them to their homes. Andy gets mileage allowance for doing this and it was suggested to ask the Development Trust for financial assistance with this.

JM wrote to John Taylor, Roads Department about the 30mph signs at Essich Meadows and confirmed these will be removed.

JM brought up the subject of charging stations for electric cars. He has discussed this with Adam, Dores Inn, and he would be delighted to take the charging stations on but would be losing car park space. CM already did an email to the Highland Council about this. There is funding available. CM to forward this email to all councillors.

DM mentioned that the Christmas tree in Dores has now been taken down.

Adrienne Dempster commented on the potholes on the Scaniport to Darris road and Cllr Fraser will look into this. He commented this could be reported on the Highland Council website.

IC brought up the subject of his felling licence and will notify the Hall Committee of the activity on this. The Committee already have a map but there is time for discussion at a later date.

EM closed the meeting at 2135 hrs.

Date of next meeting – AGM 14th June 2021 at 1930 hrs

Community Council Meeting 14th June 2021 at 1945 hrs