

## **Dores & Essich Community Council**

**(held virtually)**

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 at 1930 hrs

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

Plus: Iain Cameron and Siobhan Foster

Apologies – Councillor Margaret Davidson and Councillor David Fraser. Nothing to declare.

**2. Minutes from last virtual CC meeting on 4/10/21** – they were proposed by CM and seconded by NP.

**3. Matters Arising –**

**3.1 Scottish Water** – EM commented there is a lot of activity in the village and Cllr. Fraser will find out what is happening.

**3.2 Affordable Housing** – EM commented on a small update - waiting for a final valuation before money will be paid over.

**3.3 Cemetery Extension** – EM commented there will be an amended planning application submitted regarding the road access.

**3.4 Village Improvement/Traffic Calming** – EM commented no updates

**3.5 Inner Moray Firth Development Plan** – emails received from Iain Cameron asking for the support of the Community Council. All are in agreement to support him. Gary Johnston wants a discussion at the next meeting and he will be invited to attend the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022. He will do a short presentation and Q&A afterwards.

**3.6 Scaniport Road Safety** – CM and AM had a virtual meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> October with Cllrs. Davidson and Fraser, John Taylor and Colin Ross who agreed work needed to be done. Different options were discussed and form of traffic calming in the future. It was felt rather get work done now and more ambitious work later. Go for the cheaper option and lure traffic order early next year hopefully. Timescale will be asked for.

**3.7 ILI Pump Storage Scheme** – EM commented no updates but possibly get one in December. There is a new scheme proposal at Whitebridge the same as Foyers. EM will attend a meeting at Wildside, Whitebridge on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

**3.8 Broadband at Scaniport** – CM commented there are 12 – 14 properties included in the voucher scheme. The Scottish Government have now said speak to Openreach's Community Fibre Partnership as some properties are now not being included. CM to keep working on this.

**3.9 Ward Boundary Changes** – Nothing to report.

**3.10 Dores Beach** –EM has spoken to Tim Francis who said most of the wardens are now away but he is being kept on. EM spoke about the cutting of the gorse and he suggested selective brush cutting to the gorse bushes. EM will speak to Lavinia, Aldourie Castle, and Magnus about this. Everyone in agreement.

**3.11 Fish Farm** – an email received from Iain King regarding this. CM thereafter compiled an email and commented on this which will be edited and sent to Iain. EM confirmed when all the fish cages are moved a meeting with MOWI will be made.

**4. Police Report** – there is nothing to report on this. However, SP to write again to the Police regarding why the telephone calls made to them by residents were not being answered which was discussed and minuted at 9<sup>th</sup> August meeting.

**5. Planning** – there has been one planning application – renewal of consent on chalet at Ness Lodges. There are no issues with this. JM commented on his plot at Torbreck. Subject to conditions, he thought about advertising this locally before being put on the open market. This is to be put on the community website.

**6. Treasurer's Report** – NP reported £7,762.33 in the Bank account and £6,686.86 unrestricted funds. £1,000 was received from the Etape which went ahead, £104 paid out on prescription pick up and £30 for plants which is still uncashed.

#### **7. Correspondence** –

On 6<sup>th</sup> October an email was received from Helen Ross, Senior Ward Manager, about Community Council Complaints Procedure. Procedures to be put in place for our own community council. Something will be put together before our next meeting.

MFR Cash for Kids charity have sent an email asking if the CC are interested in managing general day to day running of a project enabling children and adults needing support to allow them to access the beach in an all-terrain wheelchair. The charity would fund this. EM commented on taking up this opportunity and mentioned a container to be placed beside the Gift Shop at Dores suggested by Fiona Cairns. EM asked if the Development Trust could pay for this as being a capital item. A quote for the container will be sought once we get the size of the wheelchair.

On 28<sup>th</sup> October correspondence received from the British Heart Foundation regarding defibrillator network and to help promote this in the community and raise awareness. SP has put this on the community website.

EM asked if CM and DM are still ok to represent the Community Council on the Dores Community Development Trust. Both are in agreement to this and SP will write to the Development Trust confirming this.

JM brought up the subject on Torbreck Road C1040. He met up with Murray McCheyne, Chair at Holm Community Council to discuss. The Highland Council's plan includes provision that a second access road connecting with the B862 Dores Road shall be formed by the developer when the housing units at Ness Castle reach 600. It is feared that there will be a significant increase of traffic and present a huge safety risk. Both Holm and Dores & Essich Community Councils are keen to know householders views. A survey has been drawn up and will be sent to the residents on Torbreck Road for their views.

On 18<sup>th</sup> November an email was sent to ward community councillors from Cllr David Fraser regarding the ward discretionary budget of £100,000. This is to be allocated between investment in playparks, trails and paths, cycle networks and community ideas. There is a meeting to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> December and CM going and maybe NP. SP will let the Highland Council know who is planning to attend.

On 18<sup>th</sup> November correspondence from SSE Development Fund who has recently opened the Highland Sustainable Development Fund for applications. The closing date is 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022. JM suggested using community money to employ someone who can actually get more funds.

#### **8. AOCB –**

On 27<sup>th</sup> October CM had a meeting with Local Energy Scotland with regards to the ILI Pump Storage Scheme. The only funding available is the balance due. He recommends putting the wheels in motion for a Consultant to be appointed for the CAP process. CM looking for support from the CC to put this to the Development Trust and he is willing to take this on and prepare a report. All in agreement to supporting CM on this.

EM commented there is one community council member short. At the beginning of the year a notice will be sent out to see if anyone is interested in joining.

There will be a business meeting to be held for community councillors at Dores Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 1930 hrs

EM closed the meeting at 2055 hrs

Date of next meeting – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 1930 hrs