

Minutes from Community Council Meeting held at Dores Parish Hall 21st November 2022

**1. Members Present:** Vice Chair Colin McPherson ,Cllr Chris Ballance, Ella Macrae, Adrienne Dempster, Claire Stirling ,Jennifer Fraser, John Mackenzie, Simon Pillatt.

Apologies: Cllr David Fraser, John Martin, Duncan Manson, Nikki Perrin, Holly Kingham, Anne MacLaren

Members of community present: Mary Findlay, Clare Cuthbertson, Iain Cameron

**2. Minutes of previous CC meeting on 8th August 2022:** proposed by EM and seconded by JMac.

### **3. Matters Arising:**

**3.1 Scottish Water:** It was noted that the contractor had started work on the mains replacement and work was ongoing. The agent has given numbers if anyone has any questions this was put round the doors and is also on the community website.

**3.2 Affordable Housing:** No further update. CM surmised that grant of planning for cemetery extension would be trigger for further proposals from HHA. EM mentioned that J McHardy was doing a report on housing and update was awaited but also a meeting has taken place but she was not informed until the day after. CM to discuss with JM on his return.

**3.3 Cemetery Extension:** CM noted that application for this and the access road was still going through planning but there appeared to be no major issues outstanding. IC asked about the parking at the new cemetery and by the look of the plan there would be less parking than there is currently. CM advised that the new layout provides for around 12 new spaces and CC mentioned that there should be about the same, albeit with a few bays retained to go with the sale of the church.

**3.4 Village Improvement/ Traffic Calming/ Parking:** There has been no progress with the traffic calming: Cllr Ballance has attended a HC meeting at which all budgets have been frozen. He also advised that HC has been selected by Scot Gov for a trial project to reduce 30mph limits to 20mph, with a capital budget of £20-30 million. CM asked whether some of this budget could be allocated to consequential speed reduction improvements (such as ours) and Cllr Ballance agreed to investigate. It was noted that the Community have sought these improvements over a number of years and that funding has been found for similar projects in other South Loch Ness settlements but not ours.

Re. parking, EM mentioned that Cllr David Fraser was trying to get a meeting arranged with John Taylor and the Community Council about the parking in the village. This was brought up 2 years ago and issues with parking arose again in the summer, as in every year. CM will ask JM about this to see if there is any update.

**3.5 Inner Moray Firth Local Plan:** CM outlined the HC reporting timetable which indicated a final Committee decision in February 2023. Thereafter the HC position and any objections will be referred to a Public Inquiry, the outcome of which may not be known until 2024. IC stated he had attended a meeting that day at which he was informed that HC officers were recommending rejection of the comments made by the CC and others relating to development of the site near the hall. Nature Scotland had made comment about the loss of native woodland and the officers had cited limited public transport, limited facilities, views across Loch Ness and limitations on active travel as justification for their recommendation. It was pointed out that there are already many homes visible across the Loch and the issues raised were all considered to be addressable. (Post meeting note: an email expressing dissatisfaction was sent to all ward councillors by the CC prior to the Inverness City Area Committee meeting on 24th November).

SP expressed frustration that officers appeared to be disregarding feedback from the community following consultation and that this seemed to call the process into question. Cllr Ballance replied that they were likely following guidance on process set out at a national level by Scot Gov.

CM said that we may have to argue our position through the Inquiry when we are fully informed of the Council's final decision, noting that careful consideration has been given by the CC and other interested parties to the Plan proposals, apparently no effect.

Cllr Ballance noted the frustration expressed and advised that Councillors now have little opportunity to influence the detail of the Plan (around 300 pages of report documents). If the Committee voted against the recommendations and the plan is rejected the whole process starts again and could result in many years delay.

**3.6 Scaniport Road Safety:** CM said that Colin Ross had ordered the new speed restriction signs and hoped to have them installed by the end of December subject to contractor availability. The Traffic Order process for the speed limit is in progress.

**3.7 ILI Pump Storage Scheme:** CM reported that the agreed heads of terms will be signed this week and then move onto a binding contract, subject to taking legal advice.

CM advised that the heads of terms provided for funding of a Community Action Plan and for a substantial community project yet to be nominated by the CC. Work will therefore need to start on these matters in order to be in a position to draw on this funding, currently estimated to be in the next 6-9 months.

**3.8 Scaniport Broadband:** The service was due for 4Q22 but is now scheduled for the first half of 2023. Most properties along the B862 corridor are now in scope of the project except for a small pocket around Cullaird, for which no explanation has been given: this makes no sense and CM is to raise a query with the Scot Gov representative for this project.

**3.9 Dores Beach:** Question asked if the gift voucher to be given to the local youth who had been voluntarily cleaning the beach had been handed over. CM to check with JM and Treasurer.

**3.10 Dores Fish Farm:** There has been some productive dialogue regarding speed control of delivery lorries and it was proposed to invite them to a CC meeting in the new year.

**3.11 Paths to School :** CM had written to John Taylor asking if the path could be added to the list of maintenance tasks (had been asked before but lack of resources was cited). The path is overgrown but not difficult to clear as CM and JM had done a couple of test patches. EM noted it's not a constant width and in some areas the tar path is quite narrow even if cleared. Given that this is a route to school and with the onset now of dark mornings/ nights and winter conditions, the meeting requested Cllr. Ballance to escalate this matter.

**3.12 Pupils' Behaviour on School Pupils:** HK had contacted the headmaster of the Inverness Royal Academy and since then behaviour has improved. CC noted that two buses turn up around the same time (14 Service (to IRA) and 16 Service from Foyers to Inverness). If the Foyers bus arrives first it fills up and is overcrowded for the rest of the journey. It would be more helpful for the No.14 bus to turn up first (better for passengers and pupils from Dores). HC and Stagecoach to be approached to see if this can be arranged.

**4. Police Report:** None received (Post meeting note: On enquiry, we were requested to ask for this with adequate notice to allow them to process. Notice of meeting was sent a week previous) . It was commented that we rarely see the Police patrol and they don't interact with local residents apart from brief traffic area cars stopping in the village. We no longer have Police officers attend meetings. Proposed to invite an officer to a meeting in the new year to see if we can restart local Police relationship in the area.

**5. Planning:** CM reported on a few historical applications:

- Planning in principle for house at Torbreck (next to JM house): no issues of concern.
- Approval of conditions (mainly siting and external materials) for house at Torbreck: no issues of concern
- Banner signs on lamp posts in Dores by Visit LochNess: these are similar to signs in Bank St, Inverness and are not a matter for concern.
- The planning application at Scaniport (next to Lethendy) had been withdrawn.

The CC had received three letters relating to the coffee van and portaloo next to the gift shop (the former petrol station site). These appeared to have been prompted by a funding application to the Development Trust. It did, however, prompt discussion of public toilet facilities in the village, with one respondent confirming that there are already toilets available at the Inn that have been in service for the 25

years that he had lived here. CM stated that the business of the Development Trust is not for the CC to discuss and, in relation to the coffee caravan, declined to make further comment other than to suggest to JF (who was present and had raised an interest) to advise her relations to contact the planning officer to clarify the status of the portaloo and coffee van

**6. Treasurer's Report:** CM to contact NP who is currently on maternity leave to ask about reports and whether they can be done remotely for a while.

EM asked if flowers and compost could be purchased for the flower pots: all agreed

£3000 received from Iain Cameron: EM asked for approval for £1000 be donated to the Hall Committee as they are doing a lot of work on it just now: all agreed. Decision to be taken on the remaining funds.

## **7. Correspondence:**

7.1 Information received from Aldourie Estate showing a network of paths across the Estate, as renovation works are nearing completion. Confirmed that the walkers' car park half way down the main access road would remain. The road from the school to the Castle to be adopted by the Estate, thus making them responsible for its upkeep (verge clearing etc) which all agreed would be an improvement. Agreed we would ask if passing place on this road and a link from the old driveway to Darris Road could be provided and that S. Eastaugh (Access Officer) has been consulted. CM to respond to Estate.

7.2 A Scot Gov survey re. Community Planning was circulated to CC members. CM has already responded in his own name and suggested members may wish to do likewise.

7.3 A consultation request had been circulated about nominating Scotland's next National Park. It was suggested that VisitLochNess might make representations about this? They had been due to attend the last (cancelled) CC meeting on 19/09/22 and it was suggested they be invited to reschedule for early in the new year.

## **8. AOCB:**

8.1 A consultation request had been circulated re. Boundary Commission revised proposals for parliamentary constituency boundaries. CM had circulated a note and suggested members submit their own views if so minded. We had made comments to the previous consultation and it was noted they were no longer splitting our constituency down the middle of Loch Ness.

8.2. Notice of Public Meeting for Proposed Pump Storage scheme at Loch Kemp has been advertised. This is still at early days yet and is outside our CC area. We should monitor this as issues such as traffic implications as resulting from other schemes over the years in the area may affect us.

8.3. CM noted Inverness Car Show have advertised a Car Show at the Rock Ness field for the 14th of May 2023. Expecting 1000 cars! We have had no formal notification and it was agreed we would ask Magnus if he can put us in touch with organisers so we can be better informed

**9. Next Meeting:** 16th January, 2023 at 7:30pm in Dores Parish Hall.

Timetable of further meetings for 2023 to be set.