

Dores & Essich Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday 20th March 2023 at 1930 hrs

1. Members Present: John Martin (Chair), Simon Pillatt (Secretary), Ella MacRae, John MacKenzie, Claire Crosbie and Anne MacLaren (Minutes Secretary)

Plus: Clare Cuthbertson, Fiona King, Steve Feltham, Gavin Finlay, Mary Finlay, Iain Cameron and Chris Ballance

Apologies – Colin McPherson, Duncan Manson, Adrienne Dempster, Jennifer Fraser and Holly Kingham. Nothing to declare.

2. Minutes from last CC meeting held on 16/1/23:- proposed by EM and seconded by JMCK. JM commented the difference in initials in the Minutes which should read JMCK rather than JM in the Treasurer's Report regarding the projector.

3. Matters Arising –

3.1 Scottish Water – it was noted that the work is not yet finished and is ongoing.

3.2 Affordable Housing – a meeting had been organised with Cllr David Fraser, JM and John McHardy but this fell through.

3.3 Cemetery Extension – there has been no contact with John McHardy and, therefore, no communication. EM to contact him.

3.4 Village Parking – JM displayed 2 options for parking layout and went over option 1 and option 2. These include bays for cars, bikes, 4 buses, 6 camper vans and cycle shelters. Aldourie Estate and Magnus may or may not be happy with this and Aldourie would like a hedge and planting work to be done at the site. The layouts are to be put on display for a month at village and school notice boards and also at the Inn. Clare Cuthbertson brought up the subject of toilet facilities and this to be discussed later on in the meeting.

3.5 Scanport Road Safety – The last communication CM received from Colin Ross, Highland Council, he is ordering the signs and road markings and work to be started soon.

3.6 ILI Pump Storage Scheme – no recent communication but JM commented that CM had a phone conversation with Greg Templeton and they were close to tying up their funding agreement. The CAP is in hand and £10,000 to be released soon from funding and the CC will proceed to seek professional advice

3.7 Dores Beach – there has been some great publicity about Jamie Forrester from the village who was given a Citizen of the Year award for his litter picking work tidying up the beach. The CC to advertise for future awards of this kind.

3.8 Path to School – work has gone ahead and all commented the path looks good. However, at least 5 bollards are broken and should be replaced. JMCK to get this work done.

3.9 Public Toilet – JM discussed this at length and he asked the Development Trust for money for reopening the disabled toilet at Dores Inn on a 24/7 basis. Signage, donation box and QR code were discussed. Nominal sum to run this to reopen the toilet would cost £500/month with lots of variable costs included, until expert advice was realised. JM is disappointed that this was turned down and was only given for 2 months until beginning of April. It was discussed to hire a consultant regarding voluntary tourist tax, funding from HIE and Visit Inverness Loch Ness. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the CC pay for 2 months until things are pulled together and a complaint be made to the Highland Council. The Development Trust will be invited to contribute an amount towards this and all agreed to this proposal in the interim.

3.10 Buoys – waiting for rope and decals. Gavin and Robin doing the work on this.

4. Police Report – none received. No local contact phone number to be given by Police Scotland for CC members. Chris Ballance commented that Judith Hill, local area commander, is open to questions regarding community Police.

5. Planning – Fiona Cairns, Dores has made an application for erection of field shelter and store.

6. Treasurers Report – report sent from NP stating there is currently £9,202.54 in the Bank account with £8,127.07 unrestricted funds. Since the last meeting £30.99 was paid out for donation box and £100 was received from the Comfort Scheme. £10 received from donation box.

7. Visit Inverness Loch Ness – an invitation will be sent to the Chief Executive to attend the next CC meeting.

8. Correspondence –

Broadband – nothing to report. However, AM had commented that they went ahead with the equipment and receiver installation for new broadband which has now been installed at Cullaird. The installation team Monsternet filled in the application for the R100 broadband scheme and received a voucher.

EM mentioned buying some more litter pickers and suggested 10 – NP to be contacted about this.

Gavin Finlay brought up about the telescope at the beach and purchasing a new one to replace the current damaged one. He is now handing the responsibility over to SF who is to look into getting a new one and will be collecting the money from the telescope.

AOCB

Community Webinar event is being held to find out about the Inverness & Cromarty Firth Green Freeport on Wednesday, 22nd March.

SEPA 2023 Opinion Survey for CC colleagues to complete. JMCK did on a personal basis.

Inverness Car Show to be held at Dores on Sunday 14th May 2023 from 10 am – 4 pm. JM to distribute email about this with discounted tickets for Dores locals.

JM closed the meeting at 2130 hrs

Date of next meeting – 15th May 2023 at 1930 hrs