

MINUTES OF CONON BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUCIL MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY ON WEDNESDAY 24
MARCH 2021 AT 19:30

PRESENT

Fiona MacKintosh (FM), Hazel Bushell (HB), Alistair Mackintosh (AM), Janet Winchester (JW), John Bruce (JB), Cllrs Angela MacLean (AMaL), Alister McKinnon (AMc), Margret Patterson (MP), also 1 member of the public and minute secretary Erica Harrap.

APOLOGIES

Cllr Graham MacKenzie (GMack)

POLICE REPORT

No police report was submitted. Richard Ross is the new police inspector for Conon.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The annual grant from the Highland Council has been paid in.

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING 4 February 2021

The minutes of the meeting of 4 February 2021 were approved.

CO-OPTING OF MEMBERS

Val Wilkinson (VW) was co-opted as a member and welcomed to the Council. Her appointment was proposed by FM, seconded by AM.

MATTERS ARISING/OUTSTANDING ISSUES/ACTIONS

Braes of Conon – Gateway sign – No progress, original contact has left Tulloch's.

ACTION – AMc to find out who to speak to now at Tulloch's.

Braes of Conon - Old play park - This is ongoing, AMc said he would speak with Ewan MacDonald to encourage him to contact Julie Ferguson in Planning to get the condition removed and play park dismantled.

Real-time bus display – No update.

Notice board – No update.

Ladies Walk project – The route has been cleared and improved by Barry Sutherland & Team. Barry Grant has provided a quote for repairing bridges, steps and handrails, this quote is within the amount ring fenced for the work. The following points were noted: There will need to be 'closed' signs for the walk when the work is going ahead, The Council will need to ensure that the person doing the work has the correct H&S tickets and liability insurance. AMc noted that there is Council money for projects to improve fitness and local areas, and this could be made available if there were extensions to the route, such as loops back up to train station and into Balvail woods.

Defibrillator(s) – It was suggested that perhaps newly established ‘Mo’s Spice Grill’ would host the defib.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Development Plan – This is a good opportunity for the Council to put forward things it wants to see, e.g. green spaces.

ACTION – JB to compile a response by 30th April 2021.

Antisocial behavior – It was noted that Conon is particularly bad at the moment for smashed bottles and dog mess. AMc stressed that people must report this to the police on 101 if they see it happening, this helps raise awareness with the police that things are happening in Conon and a police presence is required.

Burnside lane fence – The fence along the footpath to the station has collapsed. It was not known whether this is a Council responsibility or the landowner.

Steps from Sellar Place to River walk – These have collapsed.

ACTION – FM to contact Phil Waite (Access Officer Highland Council)

Conon Bridge Hotel – It was noted that the refurbishment is looking good, and it is nice to see it coming back to life.

Community Fridge – VW asked if the Council would be open to the idea of a Community Fridge. There was broad agreement, although location might be an issue with risk of antisocial behavior around carpark. If anyone has thoughts on funding, power and provision please contact Val.

Planters and benches – VW offered to tidy up the benches at the war memorial. The planters in the car park are falling apart and need to be replaced. FM has a form for application to the Council for a discretionary grant for buying new planters.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

12 May 2021