

MINUTES OF CONON BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUCIL MEETING
HELD ONLINE VIA TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY 18 AUGUST 2021 AT 19:30

PRESENT

Fiona MacKintosh (FM), Hazel Bushell (HB), Alistair Mackintosh (AM), Janet Winchester (JW), John Bruce (JB), Cllr Alister MacKinnon (CAM), and Cllr Graham MacKenzie (GM)

- **APOLOGIES**

Val Wilkinson, Cllr Angela MacLean

- **POLICE REPORT**

No police presence. It was mentioned that there has been no Police presence or report over the past few meetings. CAM will address this with the relevant parties.

- **MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING (17-06-21)**

The minutes of the meeting were proposed by HB and seconded by JW

- **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The financial position is the same as the last meeting with the addition of the Council grant of £592.50. The current balance is £8902.88, this balance includes ring-fenced amounts for various projects including the notice board to be installed, and the repairs to the Ladies Walk.

- **MATTERS ARISING/OUTSTANDING ISSUES/ACTIONS**

Real-time bus displays – no further update on this

Braes of Conon – play park – CAM has spoken with the landowner, who has been to planning to discuss the removal of the condition for the first phase of houses, this is to be followed up as the Planning Officer has recently changed.

Noticeboard – this has been ongoing now for quite some time. It is accepted that lockdown measures have had an impact on getting this finalised. There have also been changes in Council personnel. The area that had been indicated for this by the Council in the lease agreement is not suitable and an alternative site has been suggested. CAM is going to follow this up, and previous correspondence will be forwarded to him.

Ladies Walk project – this has had a further push back for starting due to ongoing issues in supplies.

Defibrillator(s) – FM has had communication on this from a resident in the village who had started to work with the Amenities Association on the provision of one for the village. The purchasing price is around £1500 and £1750. One of the main obstacles encountered has been getting somewhere to have this installed. However, there are now four possible locations – Mo's Spice Grill; Planet Ocean Café; Conanvet, and if the pharmacy was happy to have one installed at their shop the owner of the property has given the go-ahead. The Community Council has some funds ringfenced for this, it was thought that the Leanaig Centre Association would also donate. The Amenities Association has advised that they also have funds to donate to the purchasing of a defibrillator, however, they

cannot contribute to any ongoing costs. HB advised that she has been researching community defibrillators and the upkeep of them and there is much more to just purchasing the machine. JB asked HB to pass on her findings to him and he would draw up projected costs, and he will circulate the budget to all.

Station Path Fence – still requiring attention and it is unclear who is responsible for the fence. The Council grit the path, but it is thought that Network Rail is responsible for the maintenance on the fence. CAM to enquiries on this.

Gateway Sign – this is still lying in the Tullochs yard with no further progress on it being installed. The next phase of Tullochs could be starting shortly and this will need to be moved. The site which had been identified for this is not suitable due to a gas main and the depth that would need to be dug for this to be installed. It had previously been suggested that the sign goes on the other side of the road but representation had been made that this was the wrong side. Recently it had been pointed out that when coming into the village from Muir of Ord the gateway sign is on the wrong side of the road, and it, therefore, should not matter for this one. Tulloch had applied for the planning for the original site and will need to apply for the new location. There has been a change in Tulloch's who is dealing with this, CAM will find out who the new contact is and be asked to move this project on.

- **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Sinkhole Sellar Place – HB mentioned that on the grass area between Sellar Place and Riverbank Road a hole has appeared which is quite deep. She asked if this was a sinkhole. CAM will get this checked.

Planning and Developments – the next discussions held were about developments and planning for the village. CAM advised he could not comment on these, and at this point, he left the meeting. JB advised that two planning notifications had appeared on the portal for the Community Council. One of these which is marked for Riverford stated that the Community Council had been advised in July. This is not the case and the Community Council only became aware of it when looking at the application for Tulloch's Phase 5 at Broompark. GM is going to speak to the Planning Office about this.

JB said that perhaps a developer contribution could be made for this to get a more formal path the length of the Ladies Walk made, which would be fully accessible by disabled people with motorized wheelchairs etc.

Tulloch's Phase 5 – JB mentioned that a few years back there had been complaints to do with broadband provision for the Braes of Conon estate, he added that with the announcement of landlines being done away with by 2025, this is something that needs to be addressed and that Tulloch's should include the provision of this. AM mentioned that now with lots of people working from home this is necessary. JB went on to say that the Government has indicated the removal of petrol/diesel vehicles and new development should be required to have EV charging points for residents and visitors. JB added that when looking at the application on the portal there was no flood prevention plan or flood alleviation attached, this planning application should not be approved without these documents. The response date for the Tulloch's Phase 5 is Friday 20 August and JB will submit these points on behalf of the Community Council. JB further added that Ben Wyvis Primary has already had to have more classrooms added and this may not be sufficient as there are

other developments which we are aware of, the Drouthy Duck site; the Ferintosh House site, and possibly the Pescanova site.

In addition to the above JB mentioned that the 20mph restrictions do apply to any of the Braes of Conon sites or School Road. GM will speak with Ross Bartlett on this.

- **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS**

22nd September 2021

03rd November 2021

08th December 2021

JB asked if face-to-face meetings were to resume or whether we carry on with virtual meetings meantime. GM advised that things were beginning to open up but was not sure what would be happening with Community Facilities. It was agreed that the September meeting would be held via Teams.