

**MINUTES OF CONON BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE LEANAIG COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON WEDNESDAY 07 FEBRUARY 2018**

PRESENT

Fiona MacKintosh (FM), Jim Attwood (JA), Hazel Bushell (HB), Alistair MacKintosh (AM), Jane Attwood (IJA), Councillor Graham Mackenzie, PC Kevin Taylor (part meeting).

WELCOME

Fiona MacKintosh welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies

Councillors Alister MacKinnon, Angela MacLean and Margaret Paterson.

2. Police Report

PC Taylor had produced the Community Engagement Form for the period from 01 December 2017 to 02 February 2018. During this period a number of incidents had been reported relating to road safety and antisocial behaviour. There were no significant issues relating to drug and alcohol abuse during this period. There were also other incidents logged relating to minor road traffic accidents, noise calls and medical matters.

PC Taylor advised the meeting that a dedicated foot patrol was made in Conon Bridge on 20 December 2017 and stated that these patrols would be carried out again within the coming months. PC Taylor had also attended the Senior Citizens Lunch Club on 12 January 2018 and had an informal chat with the attendees who were also provided with helpful leaflets regarding online safety and how to avoid being the victim of online scams. They were also reminded of the dangers of doorstep crime and the signs to look out for if a bogus workman should arrive at their door. PC Taylor hoped that he would be able to attend another Lunch Club event in the coming months.

PC Taylor then asked if there were any questions with regard to the report or if there were any concerns from the community. FM once again expressed concern with regard to children using bikes without any lights on them, this time on High Street, where children were weaving in and out of parked vehicles with no concern for their road safety. FM was concerned that a child would be knocked down and seriously injured. PC Taylor said that he would pass this information on to his colleague who was the school police liaison officer.

FM also reported that a works vehicle had been parked on Leanaig Road just round the corner from the War Memorial. This was causing an obstruction and vehicles had to go onto the route of oncoming traffic, the view of which was obscured by the parked vehicle. PC Taylor advised the meeting that he would look into this matter.

FM thanked PC Taylor for attending the meeting and delivering his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by FM and seconded by JA.

4. Matters arising and actions

- FM thanked Councillor Mackenzie for organising the cutting back of the overgrown shrubs in the vennel at Sellar Place. FM had contacted the resident concerned who was delighted with the work that had been carried out.
- FM advised the meeting that there was no further information from Kenny Fraser with regard to the progress being made at the Ladies Walk.
- A representative from Transport Scotland had attended the January 2018 Ward Business meeting and agreed that the slip road at the junction of the B9163 and A835 was not adequate. However it does conform to legislation and therefore it was unlikely that any remedial works would be carried out in the near future. It was suggested that a video survey could be carried out at the junction but it was felt that it did not warrant the expense. Had this junction been in the process of being installed now, it would not meet the current specification.
- FM advised the meeting that a Road Safety Audit had been carried out at the roundabout at Leanaig Road. The audit had stated that there was nothing wrong with the roundabout. JA asked if there was a copy of the audit report available for the Community Council. FM will contact Councillor MacLean to request a copy of the audit report.
- Councillor MacKinnon is again going to arrange a meeting with the developers of Braes of Conon with regard to the ongoing drainage issues throughout the development. During the last spell of extremely low temperatures some of the drainage water on pathways was freezing over.
- IJA raised concerns with regard to the amount of litter present throughout the Braes of Conon development and asked whether it was the developer or the council's responsibility for litter clearance. Councillor Mackenzie replied that he would check whether the development had been adopted by the Council and also arrange for the area to be included on the waste collection timetable.
- At the last meeting JA had been tasked with contacting the resident in Willow Court with regard to the unavailability of a fibre broadband connection to her property in the new phase of the Braes of Conon development. JA advised the meeting that he had made contact with the resident and had also contacted BT, Openreach, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and our MSP, Kate Forbes. The resident concerned has now gone on Twitter and Facebook

asking for other residents with the same problem to contact the Community Council with their concerns. JA has now set up a standard email reply to send to all complainants and will be consolidating the details to pass on to the organisations concerned. FM advised the meeting that she had contacted Rhoda Grant about 2 years ago on a similar connectivity matter and she had been willing to lend her support to this cause.

- JA mentioned that IJA had sent an email to Community Councillors regarding an inquiry into Digital Connectivity in Scotland. IJA had asked for responses/comments to the questions posed but as no responses had been received JA had sent a written submission to the Scottish Affairs Committee on Digital Connectivity inquiry with what he believed would be the views of the community. Since then JA had watched on You Tube a meeting in Aberdeen of the Scottish Affairs Committee on Digital Connectivity. Councillor Davidson had been scheduled to attend but for whatever reason she was not present.
- JA reminded Councillor Mackenzie about the pruning of shrubs on Station Road which were obliterating a road safety sign. Councillor Mackenzie said he would contact the relevant department to have the work carried out.
- JA had asked Councillor MacLean at a recent HITRANS meeting if there were any further developments with regard to the installation of the Real Time Digital displays at the bus stops throughout the village. Councillor MacLean had emailed David Summers and asked him to contact JA with an update.

5. Treasurer's Report

JA stated that the balance of the bank account at 07 February 2018 was £8,574.64. This balance includes a number of ring-fenced amounts. After discussion, it was agreed that the sum of £1,125.94 from the 2015 and 2016 galas should be ring-fenced for community benefit with the possibility of some of it being used to purchase seating on the completion of the restoration of Ladies Walk. However agreement would have to be sought from the land owner. Councillor Mackenzie advised the meeting that Dingwall Community Council had purchased seating for their recently renovated river walk. He advised the meeting that he would be able to get catalogues should we decide to proceed with this idea. A new notice board was still required and it was agreed that an amount of £2,500 be ring-fenced for the purchase and installation. The Ward Discretionary Fund had already contributed £700 for this. A sum of £2,250 was already ring-fenced for the Ladies Walk restoration project.

A discussion then took place regarding the possibility of purchasing more Christmas lights. There was uncertainty regarding the ownership of and responsibility for the existing Christmas lights as to whether this lay with the Community Council or the Amenities Association. The lights had been purchased by a previous Community Council in 2010. JA agreed to contact Morag Foster, a previous Chair of the Community Council, to see if she could shed any light on the matter. It was suggested that the lights had been purchased previously from contributions received from the Fairburn Wind Farm community benefit fund.

FM pointed out that the Community Council were now responsible for the direct payment of the Community Council insurance premium. JA however advised the meeting that the premium for the coming year would be paid as previously by The Highland Council and this would be deducted from the Administrative Grant when it was paid to the Community Council on receipt of the Community Council accounts for 2017/2018.

6. AOCB

JA brought up the matter of the proposed reduction in speed limits from 30 to 20mph throughout the Maryburgh and Conon Bridge area. He stated that he had been to a couple of Maryburgh Community Council meetings where the matter had been discussed. It was felt that it would be of benefit to road safety in both communities if the speed limit was reduced to 20mph from the roundabout at the A835 entering Maryburgh to the boundary of Conon Bridge on the A862 rather than the present limits of 20 and 30mph in different locations. As Maryburgh Community Council did not have the resources to take this initiative forward, JA had agreed that he would take the matter up with the relevant authorities on behalf of both Community Councils subject to agreement from Conon Bridge Community Councillors. JA asked the meeting if they were happy that he should deal with the matter as a joint initiative and as there were no objections it was agreed that JA would take this matter forward.

IJA raised the subject of the deterioration of the "Drouthy Duck" building. The building is an eyesore and she felt that the owner should be asked what his intentions were for further use of the building and whether some remedial work could be carried out to improve the facade of the building. FM agreed to speak to the owner and ask him what could be done.

JA mentioned the draft Inverness East Development Brief and draft Developer Contributions Supplementary Guidance documents and the email from The Highland Council that IJA had circulated to the Community Councillors on 12 January 2018. JA stated that he believed it was important that the documents for the draft Developer Contributions Supplementary Guidance were read by all Community Councillors and asked the meeting that if they had any comments to make on the document that these be emailed to IJA by the end of February 2018 so that JA could then send a response to The Highland Council by the closing date of 09 March 2018. In view of the previous discussions on the lack of fibre broadband availability in the village, JA highlighted Question 20 in the draft Developer Contributions Supplementary Guidance document. This stated that 'although not a planning or building regulation requirement, do you think it is reasonable for the Council to insist upon the provision of fibre broadband to the home or business premises?' All present agreed that it was reasonable and that JA should respond accordingly.

JA requested an update on the subject of additional accommodation in the primary school. Councillor Mackenzie advised the meeting that the extension work would begin very shortly with completion expected before the commencement of the new school term in August 2018. JA asked Councillor Mackenzie what provision had been made for dining facilities for the additional pupils as currently the dining facilities were inadequate for the current school roll. Councillor Mackenzie could not comment on this matter but would look into it.

JA made reference to the provision of Chrome Books for some of the pupils. He understood that there was insufficient network capacity in the school for the use of the Chrome Books but believed that this was to be remedied over the Easter holiday period. JA also wondered if the community room could be tied into the revised network to improve the broadband speed as the current speed was insufficient to operate the laptops. If that was possible it would then allow Highlife staff to update the laptop operating systems rather than having to remove the laptops from the premises for them to be updated at home. FM stated that she would speak with Councillors MacKinnon and MacLean with a view to them enquiring if that was possible.

JA asked that an item be added to the Agenda for the next meeting for anyone interested in being co-opted on to the Community Council, as a member of the public, through the Community Council Facebook page, had expressed an interest in co-option.

The meeting closed at 20.50

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 21 March 2018 at 7.30pm

FUTURE MEETING DATES

09 May 2018

20 June 2018

ACTIONS

1. PC Taylor to pass on information to the Police School Liaison Officer regarding children riding bikes without lights.
2. PC Taylor to look into the matter of vehicles causing an obstruction near the junction of Leanaig Road and High Street.
3. FM to ask Councillor MacLean to obtain a copy of the Road Safety Unit audit report on the roundabout.

4. Councillor MacKinnon to organise a meeting with Tulloch Homes regarding poor drainage in the new part of the Braes of Conon development.
5. Councillor Mackenzie to check with The Highland Council as to who is responsible for litter management in the new part of the Braes of Conon development.
6. JA to produce a list of Braes of Conon residents who have notified the Community Council of their concerns with the lack of fibre broadband connections.
7. Councillor Mackenzie to contact the relevant department in The Highland Council regarding vegetation obscuring a road safety sign at Malton Villa, Station Road.
8. JA to contact David Summers regarding the status of the Real Time Digital Display Signs at bus shelters in the village.
9. Councillor Mackenzie to provide catalogues for bench seating, if and when required.
10. JA to contact Morag Foster regarding ownership of Christmas lights.
11. JA to progress speed limit road safety initiative with the Road Safety Unit.
12. FM to speak to owner of the Drouthy Duck regarding the condition of the building.
13. All Community Councillors to read the draft Developer Contributions Supplementary Guidance document and send any comments to IJA by 28 February 2018.
14. JA to send a response to the draft Developer Contributions Supplementary Guidance document by 09 March 2018.
15. Councillor Mackenzie to query if additional dining facilities at the school are going to be provided as part of the extension work at the school.
16. FM to speak to Councillors MacKinnon and MacLean to find out if a new fibre broadband connection can be provided to the community room at the same time as the network capacity in the school is being improved for the use of Chrome Books.
17. IJA to include an item for co-option of Community Councillors in the Agenda for the next meeting.