

**MINUTES OF CONON BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE LEANAIG COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7.30pm**

Present

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

Welcome

Fiona MacKintosh welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies

Councillors Angela MacLean and Margaret Paterson.

2. Police Report

PC Taylor had produced the Community Engagement Form for the period from 01 October 2017 to 07 November 2017. During this period a total of 56 incidents had been recorded for Conon Bridge. For the road safety priority, high visibility speed checks had been carried out during October 2017 on School Road, Station Road and High Street. This resulted in persons being cautioned and charged with speeding and several others being warned. Checks will carry on throughout November and December 2017 as resources allow. Four instances of anti-social behaviour were also recorded.

PC Taylor also reported to the meeting that he had dealt with the complaints that had been raised by members of the public at the previous meeting on 20 September 2017.

Included in PC Taylor's report was a message from Inspector Ogilvie reminding the community of a few seasonal issues. Motorists should check that their vehicles are roadworthy and ready for the winter months. Residents should remain vigilant for their own and neighbours' property as some people use the darkness as a cover to commit theft. Online and telephone scams are still being reported throughout the area.

PC Taylor then asked if there were any questions with regard to the report or if there were any concerns within the community. FM expressed concern with regard to children using bikes without any lights in the vicinity of Fraser Street. There are many parked cars on this street and the children are weaving in and out of them with no concern for their safety. A child had also been seen using a scooter in the centre of the road. FM was concerned that a child would be knocked down and seriously injured. PC Taylor said that he would highlight these concerns with the school and if it was felt that it was children who would be of an age to be attending secondary school, he would take it up with the school liaison officer.

A member of the public present also brought up the matter of speeding mopeds. PC Taylor once again advised the meeting that he had spoken to the individuals concerned and had believed that matters had been resolved. It was agreed that there had been a huge improvement since the last meeting when the matter had been discussed.

FM thanked PC Taylor for attending the meeting and delivering his report.

A full copy of the report, which includes the message from Inspector Ogilvie, is attached to these minutes.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

With regard to the adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 20 September 2017, in para. 6 Communication and Consultation on page 3, there was a sentence 'The meeting was also of the opinion that a hold should be put on further house building until the school was able to accommodate an increased roll and further planning consent for house building should not be granted until the appropriate infrastructure was in place.' FM did not consider that this wording was accurate and requested that the whole sentence be removed. IJA, having re-checked her hand-written draft minutes of the meeting of 20 September 2017, suggested that the sentence should be re-worded to read 'The same resident was also of the opinion that a hold should be put on further house building until the school was able to accommodate an increased roll and further planning consent for house building should not be granted until the appropriate infrastructure was in place.' This was subsequently agreed.

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

4. Matters Arising and Actions

- FM had asked Kenny Fraser and Simon Logan along to the meeting to advise on the proposed works that required to be carried out for the restoration of the Ladies Walk.

Kenny suggested that the best way forward was to hire a small excavator for one to two days to clear roots, brambles etc., rather than spraying the undergrowth, as this would require yearly maintenance to keep the area free from re-growth. Wood removed could be chipped to provide mulching for the pathways. A route has already been marked out from the railway bridge up to the halt. Kenny had been in touch with John Mackenzie who had agreed that anyone from the village could help themselves to any firewood that was available from the trees that had been cut down. Some of the footbridges on the route required repair or replacement and Kenny agreed to get quotes for these works to be carried out.

Both Kenny and Simon were willing to offer their services free of charge to carry out these works and it was agreed by the Community Council that an excavator be hired. Kenny and Simon preferred that the works be carried out by themselves rather than involving the volunteers who had kindly offered

their services as there were health and safety issues with the use of such equipment. If at a later date assistance was required, then the volunteers could be approached.

FM thanked Kenny and Simon for their involvement and also thanked Kenny for pruning the rose bushes at the War Memorial.

- An email had been received from a resident of Willow Court who was unable to attend the meeting personally. She stated that she had been in contact with BT with regard to upgrading the broadband connection in her home. She had been advised that there was no capacity in the cabinet and BT were unable to say when there would be capacity. JA advised the meeting that Willow Court was not served by cabinet 8 but by cabinet 12. JA would contact the resident by email to advise her of the situation and suggest that she approach BT for compensation for the lack of broadband facilities. Councillor Mackenzie also agreed to take up the matter with Kate Forbes MSP.
- There had been another accident at the Leanaig Road junction with the A835 and the Community Council once again expressed their concerns with safety at this junction. Councillor Mackenzie stated that a representative of Transport Scotland had been invited to attend the next Ward Forum scheduled for Monday 20 November 2017. Councillor Mackenzie advised the meeting not to raise their expectations of any improvements being made to the junction as Transport Scotland maintain that accident figures do not give cause for concern. However, it may be that a longer slip road could be considered.
- Councillor Mackenzie had passed on the details of required shrub pruning/clearing to the relevant department. However, any work that had not been completed by now would not be done until next year as staff are now deployed in road gritting operations over the winter. Councillor Mackenzie requested that the matter be raised once again at the February 2018 meeting after which it would be passed on to the relevant department.
- Councillor Mackenzie had passed on the complaint with regard to the shrubs being damaged by council operatives whilst strimming the area at the school memorial garden and hoped that no further damage would be done.
- There was no further information with regard to the timetable for the installation of the Real Time Digital Display equipment at selected bus shelters. JA advised the meeting that he was aware that preliminary work had commenced at both bus stops on Leanaig Road at the entrance to the village.

5. Treasurer's Report

The balance of the account at 27 September 2017 was £7,970.64. This sum includes a number of ring-fenced amounts, namely £1,125.94 from gala events, £700 for a new notice board and £2,250 for the Ladies Walk restoration project. Since the last meeting, expenditure of £66.00 had been incurred for 2 poppy wreaths and income of £420.00 for advertising in the Conon Craic had been received from Tulloch Homes. JA advised the meeting that he had attended the Maryburgh

Community Council meeting in October when one of the Ward Members present suggested that where Community Councils were holding large bank balances this could affect future funding from the Council. It was then suggested that consideration be given to ring-fencing more of our funds for specific purposes.

6. **AOCB**

FM had received an email from a resident of Beinn View with regard to the poor condition of the childrens' play park in Beinn View. FM asked Councillor Mackenzie who would be responsible for the upkeep and repair of this park. Councillor Mackenzie replied that he would make enquiries to find out if the park was a responsibility under the council maintenance programme. Initially, the park would have been created as part of the developer contribution.

FM had discovered correspondence dating back to 2016 when a resident of Sellar Place had requested that vegetation be cleared away from the fence which bordered the vennel between numbers 4 and 5 Sellar Place. The person concerned was registered partially sighted and Sight Action had agreed to paint the fence but could not do so until after the vegetation had been cleared. Councillor Mackenzie stated that he would take up the matter with the Community Warden.

The meeting was advised of an Inclusion Scotland event which was being held in Muir of Ord on 29 November 2017 and a Mid Ross Community Partnership meeting which was being held in Fortrose on 30 November 2017.

FM had been contacted by the Ward Manager to find out if the Community Council would be requesting funding from the Ward Members Discretionary Budget for a Christmas Party for the Senior Citizens of the village. FM had approached the organisers of the event who had advised her that the venue had not yet been confirmed for the party but it was hoped that it would go ahead on the 2nd Tuesday in December. FM had agreed with the Ward Manager that FM would submit the Discretionary Funding Application and should the event not take place, the funds would be returned to the Highland Council.

JA asked Councillor Mackenzie about the role of the Community Warden and the area that he covered. JA was aware that the role of 2 Community Wardens in Lochaber had been extended to cover such matters as dog fouling and the issue of fixed penalty fines for parking offences. Councillor Mackenzie replied that Decriminalised Parking Enforcement was in operation in Lochaber but not as yet in Ross-shire.

JA advised the meeting that the Conon Bridge Amenities Association was holding their AGM at 7.30pm on 16 November 2017 at 6 Beinn View, Conon Bridge.

On the subject of Christmas lights, it was believed that these were going up on Saturday 02 December but as nothing had been heard regarding a Christmas tree

lighting up event it was assumed that no event had been planned by the Amenities Association.

A member of the public present advised the meeting that there were a number of street lights not working on Leanaig Road. Councillor Mackenzie asked that the numbers on the lamp posts be sent to him and he would have the matter dealt with.

A member of the public present was concerned about road safety at the Leanaig Road roundabout. There was a lack of visibility along School Road for traffic approaching the junction at the roundabout from the school on Leanaig Road and cars approaching the junction at the roundabout from School Road are considered to be speeding onto the roundabout. At previous meetings the member of the public present had asked that a road safety audit be carried out, but this had not been forthcoming. JA quoted from an email sent to him by Tina Luxton (ex Highland Council) stating that the roundabout had been constructed to the approved design drawings and in the view of the Highland Council the design was fit for purpose and met the road construction consent criteria. JA also quoted from an email sent by Kate Forbes MSP with details she had received from the Highland Council with regard to the design and construction of the roundabout. Councillor Mackenzie advised FM to contact Councillor MacKinnon as he was dealing with issues raised with regard to the roundabout. The member of the public present who had raised the matter stated that he was a member of Road Safety Auditors, suggested that the roundabout was dangerous and once again requested that a road safety audit be carried out. FM will contact Councillors MacKinnon and MacLean to request such an audit. The member of the public present also stated that the road sign that was fixed to the pedestrian barrier fencing should not be there. Fencing of this type was used so that both pedestrians and road users have complete visibility for safety reasons.

The meeting closed at 20.30 and FM thanked the members of the public for their attendance.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 17 January 2018 at 7.30pm

JA requested that the meeting scheduled for 16 May 2018 be brought forward to 09 May 2018. FM stated that she would have to check her diary with regard to her availability.

MEETING DATES FOR NEXT YEAR

21 March 2018

16 May 2018

20 June 2018

Actions Arising from this Meeting

1. JA to email resident with broadband concerns
2. Councillor Mackenzie to advise broadband concerns to Kate Forbes MSP
3. Community Councillors to consider specific purposes for ring-fencing funds
4. Councillor Mackenzie to check responsibility for maintenance of Beinn View play park
5. Councillor Mackenzie to speak to Community Warden regarding vegetation clearance at vennel between numbers 4 and 5 Sellar Place
6. Councillor Mackenzie to liaise with Highland Council lighting department after being given details of non-operational street lights on Leanaig Road
7. FM to contact Councillor MacKinnon with regard to safety concerns at Leanaig Road roundabout and Councillors MacKinnon and MacLean to request a safety audit at the roundabout