

**MINUTES OF CONON BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE STAFF ROOM AT BEN WYVIS PRIMARY SCHOOL
ON WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE 2017**

PRESENT

Fiona MacKintosh (FM), Jim Attwood (JA), Alistair MacKintosh (AM), Jane Attwood (IJA), Councillor Margaret Paterson (part attendance), PC Kevin Taylor (Police Scotland) and one member of the public.

WELCOME

Fiona MacKintosh welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies

Hazel Bushell and Councillor Alistair MacKinnon. Councillor Graham Mackenzie by email at 19.20

2. Police Report

PC Kevin Taylor opened by advising the meeting that he had only been in the area since February 2017 and had been in the police force for the last ten years. He hoped that he would be able to come to future meetings but that depended on operational duties and he would endeavour to meet the expectations of the community. Although he had only been in the area for a few months he could already see that there were two main problems within the local area, these being anti-social behaviour and neighbour disputes. Two offences had been reported to the Procurator Fiscal this month and PC Taylor hoped that these would be dealt with robustly. He is working very closely with the housing associations and The Highland Council in trying to resolve the ongoing neighbour situations. Also of note were various incidents involving vandalism and one instance of shoplifting by a child. This has been reported to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA). Currently the Conon Bridge area is seeing an increase in the level of reported anti-social behaviour by youths. In response to this increase, local officers have increased both high visibility mobile patrols and foot patrols within the area. The local police have also been assisted by various other units which are based in Inverness. A lot of attention is being given to the area by the police and this will continue until further notice. PC Taylor continued by reading out his very comprehensive report which is attached to these minutes.

FM advised the meeting that Councillor MacKinnon had arranged a meeting with the Rector of Dingwall Academy and the Manager of the Co-op to try to find a solution to the problem of shop lifting in the store.

FM also asked if anything could be done with regard to "boy racers" driving through the village. PC Taylor advised that unless the person concerned was actually caught in the act, there was not a lot else that could be done. JA at this point advised that a message had been posted on the Community Council Facebook page by a local resident who was concerned by the amount of speeding traffic on Bridge View. She had also suggested that speed bumps be installed to alleviate the problem. PC Taylor replied that he would try to get the Road Traffic Unit which is based in Dingwall to increase their patrols in the area concerned to address the resident's concerns. There were no further comments raised with regard to the Police Report.

FM and JA both thanked PC Taylor for attending the meeting and looked forward to his attendance at future meetings.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by Alistair MacKintosh and seconded by Jim Attwood.

4. Matters arising and actions

- FM had received an email from Councillor MacKinnon with regard to various issues causing concern within the community. Councillor MacKinnon had received an update from John Mackay re grass cutting. While the situation had improved it was nowhere near where it should be. Councillor MacKinnon will be meeting with Mr Mackay again in two weeks time when it is hoped that additional resources will have been made available and the situation greatly improved. Councillor MacKinnon had also been advised that weed killing would be carried out in July. JA stated that he had requested that a schedule of grass cutting be made available but to date this had not been forthcoming. Councillor Paterson advised that this would be made available when the current situation had been brought up to date.
- JA advised the meeting that planning permission had been granted for change of use from Shop (Class 1) to Hot Food (Class 3) for the 2 retail units beside the Co-op.
- FM advised the meeting that there had been lots of interest in the “Bags of Help” scheme in the Tesco Dingwall store. Currently it looks as though the Ladies Walk project is in the lead. The scheme runs until 30 June 2017. No further work had been carried out on the Ladies Walk as we were waiting for the pathway to be marked out by Kenny Fraser. Until such time as this is done there is no point in randomly tackling the clearance of undergrowth and vegetation. FM had also been advised that Tesco would be willing to supply a team to help with the clearance when work goes ahead. JA had contacted Marcia Rae (Countryside Ranger) who advised that a bag of tools would be made available when work was to commence. JA had also contacted the Deputy Head at Dingwall Academy as the school had also expressed an interest in helping out. To date JA had not received a reply to his email in which he requested clarification from Dingwall Academy regarding several matters. JA also stated that he was aware that The Highland Council had made £200,000 available for improving the flood prevention defences at the River Conon and wondered what impact this may have on the Ladies Walk restoration project. Councillor Paterson stated that The Highland Council was aware of the work scheduled for the Ladies Walk and that the additional flood prevention measures would not impinge on the Ladies Walk restoration project. Councillor MacKinnon in his email to FM had also made mention of the flood defence investment which would be made near the former Pescanova site. This investment would help to open up development opportunities in the lower part of the village.
- FM had received an email from Tania Mackie (Head Teacher) asking if the Community Council would like to attend a briefing on Friday 23 June on the use of the new spotlights which had been installed in the games hall. AM agreed to attend. This coincides with the expected handover of the games hall to the school by the

contractor. JA stated that he had received a report from Councillor Mackenzie of all works that had been carried out in the mail hall.

- JA stated that he had not received any further information from Mid Ross Community Partnership (MRCP) following the meeting which he had attended on 08 May 2017. JA had been promised a poster to advertise the next meeting which is due to take place on 10 July in Conon Bridge. JA also stated that the MRCP website did not appear to have been updated since the 08 May meeting.
- JA advised the meeting that unfortunately no volunteers had come forward to help with watering and caring for the proposed planting of flower tubs in the village and as such there did not seem to be much point in planting-out the tubs. Councillor Paterson suggested that we contact the press to get them to do a feature on the lack of volunteers and also post on the Community Council Facebook page requesting volunteers.
- In an email to FM, Councillor MacKinnon advised that:
 - i. he is currently working with The Highland Council and Police Scotland re abandoned vehicles and caravans in the village. PC Taylor also advised that the DVLA Enforcement Unit had also mounted a very successful campaign to remove abandoned vehicles in Tain.
 - ii. the Jet Patcher was expected to be in the area over the next month and various roads in the village will receive attention
 - iii. he hoped to have a meeting with Tulloch Homes with regard to outstanding issues in the new Braes of Conon development.
 - iv. he had concerns with regard to the safety of the stone walls in the new Braes of Conon development in light of an injury sustained by a child at Ben Wyvis Primary School.
 - v. litter appears to be more prevalent within the village since the Co-op opened. He hoped to bring this up with the Rector of Dingwall Academy when he meets with her later this week.

5. Treasurer's Report

The balance of the bank account at 21 June is £4,514.76.

6. AOCB

JA advised the meeting that there was no further information with regard to the timetable for the installation of the real-time digital displays at the bus shelters and there had been no further updates from Councillor MacLean with regard to the cycle route between Muir of Ord and Conon Bridge and the Corntown link.

JA had been advised by Andrew MacMaster of Tulloch Homes that the "Welcome to Conon Bridge" sign had now been received and would be installed very soon. In light of Andrew's imminent departure from Tulloch Homes, **JA** will email him to ask about an installation date.

JA asked FM if she had completed the questionnaire from HM Fire Service Inspectorate. FM stated that she had not and asked JA if he would do this before the closing date. **JA** agreed.

JA had contacted The Highland Council with regard to the dispatch of brown bin stickers that he had ordered and was advised that the task had been outsourced and the company concerned were currently posting out stickers to households who had paid the charge.

JA again raised the question of Community Council support for a Private Members Bill which proposes reducing the default speed limit on restricted roads from 30mph to 20mph. JA stated that in Conon Bridge this would involve 2 x 300 metre sections of road and the Braes of Conon development. AM stated that the current mix of 20 and 30mph zones was confusing. JA had emailed Councillor MacKinnon with a request to apply for a Road Traffic Order to be raised but had not received a written reply. FM reminded JA that Councillor Mackenzie had stated at a previous meeting that a revised speed limit would be difficult to enforce. JA made reference to a notice in a recent edition of the Ross-shire Journal advising of the introduction of a 20mph Speed Limit Order in Muir of Ord. **JA** stated that he would investigate this further.

The member of the public present at the meeting asked the Community Council if they had heard anything further with regard to fibre broadband connections. Openreach had returned this week to work on both cabinets near the roundabout. JA said that he had heard nothing further and the "Connect" status was still showing on the Openreach website.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 20 September 2017 at 7.30pm

Meeting dates until the next AGM were then agreed as:

15 November 2017
17 January 2018
21 March 2018
16 May 2018 and
20 June 2018

FM stated that she would book accommodation for the scheduled meetings.