

# Fortrose and Rosemarkie Community Council



**Meeting: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Fortrose leisure Centre.**

Present: Sarah Atkin (SA), Anne Phillips (AP), Russell Mackenzie (RM), Lucy Tonkin (LT), Tom Heath (TH)

Apologies: Iain A C Brown (IACB), Douglas Stuart (DS)      *The Highland Council = THC*

## **1.0 Welcome & Apologies**

Apologies were received from IACB and DS. SA thanked Isla Mackay for her service as Minute Secretary. SA agreed to Chair the final meeting before handing over to TH as Chairman.

## **2.0 Minutes of last meeting**

Proposed, AP. Seconded, TH.

## **3.0 Matters Arising**

- 3.1 Flagpole in King George V Park: Flagpole has disappeared without knowledge of High Life Highland. HLH to pursue search.
- 3.2 Request for mirrors at Station Road junction & Castle Street junction: Cllr JB advised CC that THC have no intention of installing any more mirrors at junctions.
- 3.3 Provost's Chain: Still awaiting information from Bank of Scotland C/F **IACB/**
- 3.4 Speed/concern over cars swerving into Ness Road on the wrong side of the road. SA still awaiting response from THC on measures to prevent this. C/F **TH**
- 3.5 Large vehicles parking across junctions on Fortrose High St: Awaiting response for request for extension of double yellow lines. C/F **TH**
- 3.6 Tulloch's Play Park: JB advised CC that 'No Dogs Allowed' sign is in place.
- 3.7 Fortrose Notice Board: Wood has been stained/treated by an anonymous resident. Inside still needs painting. C/F. **IACB**

## **4.0 Correspondence/Points from the public**

- 4.1 Consultation & licencing board policy statement received – AP circulated.
- 4.2 Community Payback will be working at Chanonry Point on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July, AP will represent CC. **Action: AP**
- 4.3 National beach clean to take place on 4<sup>th</sup> August – CC to publicise. **Action: TH**
- 4.4 Brass band: Playing on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July at Rosemarkie Beach Sandcastle Competition.
- 4.5 Green Tree Gift Shop, Fortrose: Complaint from proprietors as the shop was included in the Dolphin Shuttle leaflet as a local outlet offering 'cash back'. Stressed that it's the post office that offers cash back. SA apologised in writing. Inclusion of their business was done in good faith but the request to withdraw & re-print the leaflet wasn't practical or affordable.
- 4.6 'Fortrose: a bloody past': Information from a historian resident regarding this 5-minute film about historical punishment for murder, theft, witchcraft in the Fortrose of old. Viewable on YouTube. SA to circulate link. **Action: SA**
- 4.7 Belated thank you received from resident regarding the picnic area which has recently been upgraded.

4.8 Complaint of overflowing bins at the picnic area & seagulls emptying the bins and making the mess worse, causing a health hazard. SA informed THC with suggestion that signage on the bin include a request to take litter home with you when the bin is full. Also suggested a way of sealing bins when they are full. THC has no money for additional collections.

4.9 Complaint regarding litter in Cathedral Square during school hours. Also, bins not emptied regularly. Noted previously that litter on Castle Street has improved.

4.10 Kate Forbes sent a thank you to SA for her hard work and commitment as Chairperson this past 2 years.

4.11 Complaints from both Fortrose & Rosemarkie volunteer groups that THC has not kept areas tidy following had work from volunteers. After a major volunteer project clearing/restoring Manse Brae a year ago the volunteers were promised: maintenance of the work but grass cutting isn't being done to the top of the Brae. A promise to cut back the overgrown grass and weeds on the Gollanhead Avenue amenity grass area up from the school bus stop. Not done and it is not overgrown with weeds and sapling trees. A promise for the steps and railings at the post box on the Manse Brae to be repaired. Not done.

4.12 Warning road sign at sharp bend coming down Manse Brae: overgrown with shrubbery. Urgently needs cutting back. **Action: TH**

4.13 Gollanhead Avenue playing field: litter bin not being emptied regularly.

4.14 Council House in Bridge Street, Rosemarkie: still lying empty despite previous assurances from Cllr Barclay that THC were to sell it.

4.15 Long staying camper vans on Marine Terrace: no signs up so not much the CC can do about it. Discussion about this being a pedestrian area even if it is grass. If it were a pavement they'd be causing an obstruction. SA to contact THC with this line of argument.

**Action: SA**

4.16 Multiple grass cutting complaints: All to be collated & sent to THC. **Action: TH**

## **5.0 Police Report (reads)**

"The following are the crimes, offences and antisocial behaviour and other incidents of note dealt with between 11/06/2018 and 09/07/2018:

- Foot patrols carried out in area of playpark in Tulloch homes development after concern raised regarding discarded needles. No needles or drugs recovered.
- Alcohol seized from youths on Deans Road, Fortrose.
- Foot patrols carried out Rosemarkie Beach to deter anti-social behaviour.
- Drugs seized at Chanonry point. Personal amount of Cannabis and amphetamine.
- Vandalism to a vehicle on Anderson Drive, Fortrose between 30/6/18 – 1/7/18.

Any information can be passed to police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. During the past month Dingwall Police have received 66 calls for your area."

## **6.0 Treasurer's Report**

As per the annual accounts submitted at the AGM before this meeting

## **7.0 Planning/Licensing**

- 7.1 17/02523 - Care Home: Field has still not been signed over to Parklands. No change communicated to expected September start date.
- 7.2 18/00444 - New House by Shorelands has been given planning permission.
- 7.3 18/00927 - Greenside Farm. Work expected to late August. Promised residents liaison group still not established – a year after it was suggested - TH awaiting response from Cllr GA & Daffyd Jones (THC).

## 8.0 Community Issues

- 8.1 Fortrose Community Market: 1<sup>st</sup> market to be held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August, Fortrose Town Hall for a six-month trial. Transition Black Isle running the markets. An intern is taking on the organisation. Thank you to the Episcopal Church friendship group for agreeing to move their regular coffee morning to the Seaforth Lodge. This will 'double up' as refreshments for the market as well, at least for the short term.
- 8.2 20's Plenty campaign (Rosemarkie): AP to collect petitions with signatures. AP has given out more posters & stickers and has ordered more. **Action: AP**
- 8.3 Play Park – Chanonry Park/Tullochs. Dog Park: SA phoned Tullochs management company about ongoing concerns re: the play park. She also mentioned the dog park idea and its benefits. SA to follow up the call with an email. Then followed up after the summer. **Action: SA**
- 8.4 Volunteer groups equipment: CC agreed to spend surplus on items for community use. Brush cutter requested by volunteer groups. To be purchased and shared between them. IACB liaising with Tidy Our Burgh lead volunteer. SA assured LT that those using equipment are skilled. **Action: IACB**
- 8.5 Town Hall: commitment of volunteers in proposed group is patchy. Discussion of the Black Isle Partnership becoming involved but agreement that, for now we stick to the agreed strategy to first promote wider use of the facility. **Action: LT**
- 8.6 Academy Street fence: still no response from Tulloch's. C/F **Action: SA**
- 8.7 Ceilidh Fundraiser: TH agreed to organise a ceilidh in August, aimed at visitors and locals. **Action: TH**

## 9.0 Operational Issues

None

## 10.0 Common Good Fund (CGF) Update

- 10.1 Coastal protection project at Rosemarkie caravan site: No change from last month.

### Recap:

- Tender process has begun through Quick Quotes, Public Contracts Scotland.
- Works are due to start in October and last for 6 weeks.
- No decision has been taken on whether to use gabions or rock armour.
- Iain Moncrieff is to be the project manager on behalf of THC.
- CGF is liable for the repair and will cost the fund approximately £120,000 using all the monies accrued for the purpose of upgrading Fortrose Town Hall. The Caravan and Camping Club (CCC) has agreed to contribute to the costs but with conditions attached. This was the preferred option of the Trustees (Ward 9 Councillors) rather than borrowing the money.

### Update:

- The CCC agreement allows for a rent freeze until 2030 and for the lease on this site to be renewed a year early in 2026. The CC therefore assumes this lease will not be tendered.
- CC asked for assurances that any new lease will be at market value (the CC does not view the current rental of £6,600 as fulfilling this criteria. This is a profitable site.) The CC view is that, over time a commercial rent would restore the CGF to better financial health and generate considerable funds for the community over the next 25/30 years. Response from THC states that the current rent is a “fair” rent for the Rosemarkie site. They have rejected the CC view that the site is undervalued. The responsibility for setting future rent lies with the Trustees of the Common Good Fund (i.e. Ward 9 Highland Councillors) and to date the CC has been unable to convince them that a higher rent is appropriate. SA & TH will continue to argue the case. **Action: SA/TH**

#### 10.2 Chanonry Point: Updates – **Action: SA/TH**

- Ice cream vendor reports excellent business. She is delighted with her decision to tender for this pitch.
- Bin issues: overfilling. THC putting up notice to ask to kindly take litter home if bins are full.
- Parking meters have been installed and should be operational by Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July. Were promised for June. No guarantee they would have been put in without SA badgering. Signage advertising parking charges not erected at time of this meeting. For any visitor it’s not obvious you need to pay to park.
- TH/SA felt that parking charges were on the low side and maximum time allowed on the high side to encourage use of the Dolphin Shuttle bus. CC view on charges was not requested.
- Dolphin Shuttle leaflet: SA has continued efforts to get the leaflet into outlets. Laminates to be put at bus stops and around the community too. **/SA**
- D & E General Manager no longer with the company.
- Signage overall inadequate. SA/TH to make some up for the village. **TH/SA**
- General view that the meters have gone in too late.

#### 11.0 AOB

11.1 Free Church request from 2010 for Common Good Fund money to be used as capital for their new build has re-emerged. IACB has directed them to ward manager and advised this is not CC business.

11.2 GDPR: General Data Protection Regulation is the new law which was brought in on 25th May 2018 on data protection and privacy for all individuals in Europe. All businesses and organisations must comply – new document to be uploaded on the website.

**Action: AP**

11.3 Scottish Fire Rescue Service complaint: The fire engine had a callout **on ?? date at ?? time** but was unable to get out of Station Road junction between Boots Pharmacy and Cromarty Bakery as the traffic was backed up nose to tail on Fortrose High Street. They could have been delayed reaching a serious incident. Thankfully, the incident wasn’t serious. Parked cars along Fortrose High Street, especially outside Boots Pharmacy contribute to this being an ongoing problem. TH to contact THC – again – about this issue. **Action: TH**

**12.0 Date of Next Meeting**

TH proposed the next meeting be Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> August, 7pm, The Plough Inn, Rosemarkie. This is in place of the September meeting. Formal meetings for 2018/19 will be less frequent and take place in August, November, December, February (2019), March, May, June (AGM.)