

Minutes of meeting of Grangemouth (incl. Skinflats) Community Council
Held within Community Education Unit, Abbots Road, Grangemouth

19th January 2023

Attending: A.Mullen, W.Inglis, D.Higgins, D Cameron, A.Ross, M.Tulley, R.Spears, A Nimmo, M.Russell and C.Russell

Apologies: M.Richards, K.McIntosh, M.Tripney, D.Casey-McEvoy, A.Gillies,

Police Report: The Police Scotland report had been circulated. S Aitkenhead said he was pleased to see that action had been taken to deal with kids hanging about the primary schools. This issue had been raised at a previous meeting. The Police Scotland report will be attached to these minutes.

SEPA Report The SEPA report had been circulated, W.Inglis read the brief report and it will be attached to these minutes.

Presentation Slot. None were scheduled, however R.Spears gave an interesting explanation of the proposed sell off of council facilities in the area.

He advised that the budget was always a difficult time for Councillors, and pointed out that there were some buildings that were not used very often and were too costly for the council to maintain but felt because of sentimental reasons, local communities may oppose any idea of closure. He added that if a councillor or member of the public wanted to oppose any decisions to close a council facility, they would be expected to bring forward an alternative budget that could be considered.

He encouraged people to be realistic, but to understand that it is going to be a very difficult budget.

W.Inglis stated that he and Grangemouth CC were concerned about Grangemouth. The Greener Grangemouth Fund could perhaps be tapped into and could be used to help maintain local buildings, however the problem then is finding a long term management committee to run things.

There was a brief discussion about the proposed Green Port for Grangemouth and the fear that it would not only mean more traffic but would bring other problems to Grangemouth.

There was a wide ranging discussion around poorly timed and located public face to face meetings and opportunities to explore Community asset transfer.

R.Spears was thanked for his insight.

Minutes of last meeting. Proposed D.Higgins, Seconded A.Ross

Matters arising

W. Inglis advised that he had not contacted SEPA about smells in the area reported by colleagues at our previous meeting as dates of events had not been confirmed.

D.Higgins reported that he had also written to SEPA about various matters but had no reply.

W.I. and D.H. agreed to liaise and write to SEPA to seek further direction on the vehicle type used for fish meal transportation.

Correspondence – It was confirmed that all correspondence had been circulated to GCC.

Planning matters: W.Inglis reported ASDA G/mouth and ASDA Bainsford had a hazard substance request to store LNG and to operate a vehicle filling facility. W.I. advised that he had written to ask various questions and raised concerns regarding this. So far he had no response. *Post meeting note response received 24th January*

There had been another application for Hazardous Material storage on the H.W. Coates site. D.H. reported that there were loads of containers on the site at the moment. W.I. reported that he had written to seek further information about this.

Local Community Planning, an invitation had been received to attend the stakeholder meeting on 31 January.

Treasurers Report – K McIntosh, had submitted a report and W.Inglis read it out. It was noted that the current balance is: £1530.00.

Matters raised by members of the general public with Community Councillors. Mostly it was about the closure of council facilities which had been discussed above.

AOCB.

A question was raised about the lack of toilet facilities in the town.

W. Inglis explained that he had been invited to a meeting with Scottish Futures Trust, who were talking about having a consultation with Grangemouth folk in relation to the Greener Grangemouth Project and other projects that form part of the Falkirk/Grangemouth Growth Deal. He advised them that Grangemouth population had been 'consulted to death' but if they want to have quick win to get the community's attention they could do this by considering opening the toilets at La Porte Precinct.

Community Asset Transfer. It was noted that there is an online course that CVS have produced for people who were interested in taking over an asset. However it is all online and it was reported that it was not easy to access for all who might be interested.

A question was raised about buildings which had been gifted to Grangemouth and how Falkirk Council could sell a building or offer it as an asset transfer if they do not own it.

D.Cameron reported that he felt that more information about local councils, and community councils should be taught in schools so that pupils left with ideas of what is involved in belonging to a community, it would help build mutual respect and community spirit.

W.Inglis explained that Forth Valley college was being set up to help give pupils leaving schools the qualifications needed for the future industries in the area and also to re-skill those already in industry.

Strategic partners meeting – W.Inglis explained that he had enquired why there was not a community fund based on the industries surrounding Grangemouth similar to other areas where

they received funding for hosting wind turbines.

W.Inglis raised the matter of the round the houses race which had been discussed at a previous meeting but that no decision had been reached. After discussion it was agreed not to oppose this.

W.Inglis suggested that rechargeable batteries be purchased for use with the recording device.

It was reported that the first talk regarding the Grangemouth 150 year anniversary, will take place in the Grangemouth Library on the 25th.January.

S.Aitkenhead reported that there would be a Burn's supper, held in Kersiebank project on 9th February at 6.30. This event is free.

Date of next meeting – The next meeting will be 16th February 2023.