

Nairn West & Suburban Community Council Ordinary Meeting (by Zoom)
Monday 26th April 2021
DRAFT MINUTES

Present:

Sheena Baker (Chair) (SB)
 Jimmy Ferguson (JF)
 Ally Macdonald (Comm Liaison Sec) (AM)
 Alastair Noble (Vice Chair) (AN)
 Brian Stewart (BS)
 Bill Young (Treasurer) (BY)
 Alan Hampson (AH)

Ex Officio:

Cllr Tom Heggie (TH)

Apologies:

Cllr Peter Saggars (PS)
 Dick Youngson (DY)
 Lorraine Mallinson (LM)
 Joan Noble (JN)

Also present:

Donald Wilson
 5 members of the public

Item	Description	Agreed motion/action
1.0	Welcome: Apologies, reminder meeting being recorded. No interests declared	
1.2	A short resume is attached as appendix one - Scott Dalgarno (SD) and Dafydd Jones (DJ) from HC who were in attendance to respond to the letter sent 19 th February regarding Developers Contributions. SD explained it would not be a presentation as such more an outline followed by any questions we had which both he and DJ would do their best to answer.	
2	There were no amendments to previous minutes and were passed	Proposed: BY Seconded: JF All members agreed.
3	Matters arising from previous minutes	
3.a	No further update received from Richard Porteous	
3.b	Correspondence - SB advised that an email had been received and responded to from Chief Inspector Jenny Valentine relating to NNCPP. The response had been drafted, then circulated to the members who approved it and a final response had been sent 25 th April 2021.	
3.1	Speeding Restrictions: SB advised no update received since last meeting	
4.0	Treasurers Report: BY advised there had been no change since the previous meeting but that the annual website hosting had now been paid, secretarial costs still had to be paid that related to the 2020 – 2021 accounting period and that the annual accounting statement may reflect these. Bank Balance: CC Funds £1,414.76 Fireworks Account £3,261.12	Proposed – JF Seconded - BS
5.0	Inner Moray Firth Development Plan Consultation: SB advised that the members had received the finalised response and that tonight we needed to formally approve its submission onto the HC Consultation site before 30 th April 2021. No further amendments were suggested, and the draft circulated 25 th April was approved. JF asked for agreement for him to issue it to NRCC, a Gurn from Nurn, Nairn our Town Our Voice and Donald Wilson. BS suggested it is also posted on our website. JF will include the reminder that residents still have time to quickly make their own submission. All present agreed to these suggestions	Proposed – AN Seconded – AH

6.0	<p>Involvement Community Councils (Common Good matters) SB mentioned that at the previous meeting TH had advised looking to possibly forming some form of inclusive working group which might include the CC Chairs, Ward Manager and Common Good Officer.</p> <p>TH advised on two issues, one as a CC there are issues with the format of consultation. A full discussion with colleagues will be made at a Ward Business Meeting a week Friday where a formula will be made. There are other matters which will become self-evident within next few day. This will also reflect on the HC recovery plan as well. TH said they were being put in this situation where matters will change significantly for our Ward. TH advised he will update the Chair immediately after the Ward Business meeting. TH advised it is not a change of policy just circumstance</p>	
7.0	<p>Sandown Land Highland Council Consultation SB had asked The Common Good Officer Sara Murdoch (SM) for an update as the 8 weeks expired 23rd April. Her update advised that she is still working on all the responses, other officers will also have input. It will go to the Nairnshire Committee on 9th June. SM is prioritising Sandown, but her workload includes being part of the postal vote elections team.</p> <p>TH had also sent an update that afternoon which had been circulated to the members. He advised that the responses will be précised before being published online. Due to the value of the land, policy requires that the final decision be made by full council after which NW&SCC will be formally notified along with other parties who have made representations.</p> <p>TH was asked by BS to explain the process, sequence, and timescale. TH advised the summary of response would be presented to the 4 Elected Members. They then had 3 options which are – accept it, reject it or if there are significant changes following the responses it could be put out for a renewed consultation.</p> <p>Following further questions, he advised that the Nairnshire Committee papers are normally available for the public to view 7 days ahead of the meeting which is when the public can see the information that will be discussed at that meeting</p>	
8.0	Request for verbal update from Councillors	
8.1	<p>Common Good rental/maintenance in lieu of rental income SB advised that PS, along with his apology, had sent responses to the matters he was following up from the previous meeting. Last time PS had advised he was taking legal advice in case there were contractual reasons for the manner of charging. His email says he is still waiting to hear from the lawyer, the advice is pro bono, so he is reluctant to push him.</p> <p>JN had sent supplementary questions to the Chair on 23rd April and as they overlapped, some of the work PS was already actively working on SB had forwarded it to PS. One of these questions asked what steps PS will take to ensure officials produce the information – His reply is – until he has progress on the original question he cannot comment on this. However, he does not anticipate any delaying tactics on the part of council officers.</p>	
8.2	<p>Fair Shares At the last meeting PS said he would progress the comparative figures for all leisure spend by area across the Highland – Part of this is covered in an answer to a supplementary question of JNs. He advises that work is currently being carried out on the basis of the allocation of play park expenditure between Wards and he anticipates</p>	SB to issue JN email

	<p>that this work will shed further light on why the allocation to Ward 18 is apparently close to the bottom, when comparing the situation with other wards.</p> <p>JN had also asked a supplementary question to Peter. Could he comment on the spreadsheets she had sent to him that seem to show an imbalance between the funding of different wards as far as HLH and HC spending on Sports & Leisure. JN also asked why all the facilities in Highland being managed by HLH (Incl Nairn Leisure Centre) have been fully funded through HC payments to HLH, while Nairn Common Good pays for HLH management fees for facilities such as the Links and Splashpad? JN had asked PS to explain what the parameters HC uses for a facility to be included in HLH spend and how is this equalised along fair shares budgets across the Wards.</p> <p>The answer PS gave re investigating the position and having asked the appropriate question covers both of these questions in the meantime so he will report back when he has further details.</p> <p>Following the update on these items, AN noted that he had fundamental concerns that PS was using a pro bono lawyer and he felt PS should be using the HC legal team. If they were unable to provide the answers AN felt HC should employ a QC to give the correct opinion. BS registered concerns that the additional questions, whilst being passed to PS, had not been circulated to the CC members. The chair apologised and said that was her error, but she had only received the questions and forwarded them on 23rd and had not anticipated PS would be able to respond to them this evening. SB undertook to circulate the supplementary questions to the CC members following the meeting</p>	
8.3	<p>Public Toilets & Signage (the Maggot area to East Beach car park and toilets)</p> <p>As PS was not present there was no update on what toilets will be open and what is happening about signage to the East Beach car park and toilets. TH had received an email late that afternoon which he needed to study but the two subjects were part of ongoing discussions. SB repeated her message of the previous meeting that it is important that there are sufficient toilets open for the prospective Staycationers and that there must be good signage informing the public that they can access the East Beach car park through Parkdean. SB also stated the toilets at that car park must clearly show via signage that they are available for the public to use.</p>	
8.4	<p>Highland Council Recovery plan</p> <p>TH was unable to announce specific detail about the town centre and other projects as there will be an announcement soon that will clarify many of the points we had asked for update on.</p> <p>Town Centre regeneration Update – including CAB/Flats build</p> <p>TH was able to advise the meeting that the OSWB will be used as a site office for the planned CAB/flats build and that this would be starting within the next week. He revisited the situation with the town centre regeneration funding application that had failed and noted that he understood from a recent meeting with Mike Barnet of NICE that they were still working on a proposal for the OSWB but TH also noted that he was aware that there is at least one other project in the pipeline and being worked on that might submit an application for the next round of TCRGF.</p> <p>BS felt that we had not learnt much and it was all wait and see and queried how the decision to use the OSWB as the site office had been made. TH advised that the OSWB is owned by HC and they had made the decision to utilise and make the building available for the contractors.</p> <p>There followed quite a lengthy discussion between AN and TH on town centre matters, whether the audit team had looked at the decision-making process around the</p>	

	<p>CAB/planning application. TH assured the meeting that proper process had been followed whilst the planning application was under consideration.</p> <p>JF intercepted after several minutes and voiced that he thought the matter was now beyond our meeting and that if the contractors will be using the building it is likely they will ensure that the services meet present regulations. AN apologised if he had inadvertently upset either TH or JF but he was concerned about the regeneration of the town centre. SB remarked that if NICE wished to make a presentation to the CC about their proposal for the OSWB they would be welcome to do so at a future meeting.</p>	
9	Questions or contribution from members of the public – there were none	
10	<p>AOCB:</p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting for any other business JF voiced concerns that Nairn is looking grubby, that the beach, links area and Balmakeith are all displaying signs of rubbish being discarded in some cases due to the lack of capacity with the bins. TH advised that Community Services had cleared up the river area after the travelling people left but the rubbish they had left at Balmakeith was on private property and he was uncertain who would clear that up. He mentioned that in 2020 when larger bins had been placed in some areas this had been abused. He felt there is a balance between collecting rubbish and personal responsibility. AM felt that there were not enough bins and emphasised the need for better educational signage. She suggested that any new signage should be more noticeable and contain information on bio-diversity, AM also felt the signage at the play park should state the ages it is suitable for. AM also mentioned vandalism by 3 or 4 teenagers to the mini roundabout at the play park area. AM then mentioned a recent accident in the Viewfield when an elderly lady had tripped due to rabbit holes/rough ground causing trip hazards which seem to be prevalent in the area.</p> <p>TH asked the Chair to send an email noting the 3 strands: 1. Bins needing a review possibly a walkabout might help identify what is needed to cater for the increase in tourists during the summer, 2. The signage being inadequate. 3. The situation at Viewfield re trip hazards. JF also asked if the corporate waste that is lying at the harbour can be removed.</p> <p>SB asked when the scaffolding at the end of Falconers Lane would be removed. SB noted that the flat and the shop in Falconers Lane had both suffered serious loss of light for a long time because of the scaffolding. TH advised work should be commencing on the renovation soon.</p>	<p>SB to email TH</p>
	Meeting closed	
11	<p>Date of Annual General Meeting: Monday 31st May followed by Ordinary meeting</p> <p>Date of Next Ordinary Meeting: Monday 31st May 2021</p>	