



Slains and Collieston Community Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 30th March 2011

Present: Rachel Hitchcock, Sally Sheehan, Huib Attema, Roger Berl, Sheena Junor, Nora Harper, Charles Esson, Councillor Rob Merson,

Apologies: George Jamieson, Julie Swan, Sarah MacPherson, Trish Cowie, Trish Davidson, Councillor Isobel Davidson

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Approve minutes	Proposed by Roger Berl, seconded by Sheena Junor	
Matters Arising	All items to be discussed included in agenda business	
Secretary's Report and Correspondence	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formartine Area Committee papers for meeting 22nd March • Councillor Merson – letter re hall • Receipt from Marmax re picnic bench • Formartine Partnership - £500 Environmental Grant • Receipt from Cruickshank Blinds £295 new blinds <p>Email</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formartine Area Committee Bulletin • The Census – shaping Scotland's future • Buchan Corridor Commercial Service Revisions • Formartine Area Bus Forum • Consultation on the future of your local fire and rescue service • Aberdeenshire local transport strategy review • Draft Ythan Fishery management plan <p>A number of village residents had approached Sheena expressing their concern about the speed of vehicles entering and leaving the village. Ellon police had been asked to advise – they will use the Muni Quip (which is the hand held radar) over a couple of days to raise awareness of the problem.</p> <p>Sgt Harries had been asked if he would submit an application on our behalf to the police community fund toward the cost of swings. He is happy to do this on receipt of more detailed information.</p> <p>Purchase of new replacement swings was discussed at length. Sarah MacPherson had done a lot of work sourcing and costing new equipment, but although the suggested swings are of a commercial standard there was general agreement that they might not be robust enough for Collieston's weather conditions. It was suggested that a small sub group might be willing to take this on as a project as a like-for-like replacement of the old swings, will require major funding and grant applications.</p> <p>Michael Milligan, Slains Estate Factor, had informed the Community Council that representatives from DM Hall, Chartered Surveyors, would be undertaking a survey of the village over the next month or so undertaking a survey on</p>	

	<p>behalf of the Estate.</p> <p>“The purpose of the survey is to ascertain once and for all what areas of land the Estate still own in the village and comparing them with the titles held in Edinburgh. This will involve measuring round people’s/owner’s properties.</p> <p>I hope this will not cause any inconvenience.”</p> <p>Sarah MacPherson had asked whether the Community Council would pay for replacing broken flower tubs around the community. (Approx 10) Also the cost of compost etc. All in agreement.</p> <p>The new picnic bench had just been put in the Bog. There are extensions either end which makes it suitable for wheelchair users.</p> <p>Annabel Drysdale from Forvie had contacted the Community Council and asked if the Community Council could inform the local community with an update on the way marked trails at Forvie. Her message was as follows:-</p> <p><i>“We have been reviewing our trails as part of a wider visitor management exercise and we are now promoting 2 trails on the reserve; the heath trail is the former 'green' route at the north of the reserve and the dune trail is the former 'blue' route around the dunes in the south of the reserve. The routes the trails take are no different to before so local walkers will not really notice a difference.</i></p> <p><i>However, we have taken the decision not to continue marking the yellow route between the Forvie Centre and the bus stop at the crossroads. We decided we could not commit to the extra cost of new way markers for this route (which are primarily for the benefit of new visitors to the reserve) at this time, while the end of the route at Cotehill is 1) not within our ownership or management, 2) the drainage at this end of the route is poor and water logging is frequent and 3) the publication of Aberdeenshire's Core Path plan has not taken place yet.</i></p> <p><i>Obviously we still very much hope to promote access to Forvie via public transport in the future and when the Core Path plan is published there may be additional support to formalise this route. In the meantime, please could you assure the community that the route to the bus stop is still there and accessible. Those that do use the route will also have seen drainage works taking place recently, but these are now complete.</i></p> <p><i>As always if anyone would like further information, they can contact me at the office at Forvie (751330).”</i></p>	
Update on hall works	<p>Sally was pleased to report that the current upgrading work to the hall and kitchen was almost complete. All costs for the work will be met via a number of grants; in addition the new oven and hob had a 15% discount deducted thanks to timely use of a voucher.</p> <p>The only remaining work still to be done was the installation of safety flooring which will be done in approx 6 – 8 week’s time. Councillor Merson had been asked if he could help expedite the Council’s responsibility for keeping the hall in a “fit for</p>	

	purpose" condition. A letter from Alex Salmond had been sent to the Council's Chief Executive. Subsequently, Rob Merson has had conversations with Council officials, who were under the impression that a new build project was still likely to go ahead. As this is not the case, the Property Department will be reviewing the state of the building(s) with a view to doing repairs and renovations as required.	
Treasurer's report/Financial update	Treasurer Huib Attema told the meeting that despite his best efforts he had been unable to close the two outstanding small accounts which were no longer required. If this situation persists Councillor Merson asked Huib to pass him all correspondence which he would then ask the Council's legal services to follow up. The current balance is £15,180 however there are two quite large cheques still to be cleared. £500 has been received from the Formartine Partnership for the environmental grant. The cheque to PVS has been voided. Rachel had an outstanding bill from Aberdeen Grasscutters, which was passed to Huib. The pier account stands at £14,036. Thanks to Colin and Sarah MacPherson for bringing in £300 to the funds with the sales of their calendars.	
Proposal for kitchen launch/ community meeting	Sally made the suggestion to the meeting that a "launch lunch" takes place in the hall, inviting the community to see the new kitchen and windows. This would also provide an opportunity to consult the community on a number of issues, highlight the new Factsheet, and generally ask the community if there is anything they would like to bring to the attention of the Community Council. The pier group and CASCT would also be invited to attend to raise their own issues. All in agreement. Flyers, posters etc will be devised.	
Gala	Rather than having a separate Gala meeting which tends to only attract a few people, it was hoped that volunteers might be recruited at the community meeting on the 30 th April. Decision made to order raffle tickets now, with same prizes as before. These may be available on the 30 th . Costs of new signs to be investigated. Gala is to be the main agenda item for the next meeting.	
Village Maintenance/ Work parties	Grass cutting – No alternative tender had been submitted to the Community Council, therefore it was decided to keep Aberdeen Grasscutters as our contractor again this year. Councillor Merson believed that the Tidy Village grant this year is to be £500, (£750 last year) but everyone appreciated this was in the face of the current financial situation. The marquee boards had taken flight during recent storms which caused concern to their potential danger. Anyone using the boards must ensure they are secured and weighted to avoid this happening again. Abi Stott had very kindly made a wooden planter which he has placed beneath the village notice board. The Community Council were very appreciative of this.	
Planning Applications	None this month	
CATs	Some difficulty with numbers attending recently. Hoped to re-launch the group again after the hall work is complete. The group also need to consider the minimum attendance age, as this may bring numbers up.	
Pier	The pier group were to have their meeting the following night.	

Blether	<p>Latest edition had just been distributed. Councillors to be included in distribution. Lesley Stewart would like to check mailing lists for sending out the Blether.</p>	
Well Being	<p>No one present to report Sheena intends having a social get together for the community once a month or so, later in the year.</p>	
CASCT	<p>Nothing to report.</p>	
Work Parties	<p>A joint work party will be held on Saturday 7th May. Support for tasks in the harbour, on the pier and in and around the village is hoped for.</p>	
Any other business	<p>Huib reported that there had been a lot of empty beer cans strewn around the Cransdale car park recently, which Neinke had collected up. Thought that one of the recycling skips may not have had it's lid re-secured after emptying.</p> <p>Huib also suggested that it may be in the community's interest to investigate a communal collective for buying heating oil. This met with favourable interest from all present, who though it worth investigating further.</p> <p>Sally asked Councillor Merson what the position might be if an unadopted road was in need of repair, mentioning particularly an area leading along to the play park. Councillor Merson replied that it is normally the responsibility of the frontagers.</p> <p>Sheena said that she would like to put on occasional "soup kitchen" lunches for the community in the near future.</p> <p>Charles said that a committee meeting of the Slains School Hall Committee is to be organised at a future date.</p>	
Date of Next Meeting	<p>Community Council - Wednesday 4th May 2011 Lunch Launch - Saturday 30th April Combined Work Party - Saturday 7th May</p>	