

Dyke Landward Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 2 September 2015 at 7.30pm in Dyke & District Community Hall

1. Present

Carol Shaw (Chair) (CAS), Alistair Sutherland (Vice-Chair) (AS), Steve Arkley (Treasurer) (SA), Arnold Boyle (AB), Jane Foster (JF), David Shaw (DS)

In attendance

Christine MacLeod (Secretary) (CM), Cllr George Alexander (The Moray Council) (CllrGA)

Apologies

John Bonsall (Youth Rep), Cllr Lorna Creswell (TMC), Cllr Anne Skene (TMC)

2 Police Report

PC Scott Gallop and PC Luke Cochrane attended. PC Gallop spoke to the report for 4 Aug to 1 Sept previously submitted by PC Angela McCarthy: 1 reported crime in DLCC area (a road traffic offence), 7 incidents; Operation Cedar aims to improve driving standards, especially on A96. He warned of a couple of white vans supposedly selling tools, which police suspect of involvement in recent break-ins in Findhorn and Lossiemouth. Road closures: TMC's website is best source of information. Police patrols of Darnaway, etc. occur at least twice a week. **DS** asked if it's possible to get accident statistics for local stretches of A96. PC Gallop will email him: 4 categories of RTA (non-reportable/reportable/serious/fatal), but only the last two are completely accurate; not all reportable RTAs are recorded.

3 Minutes of Last Meeting

DS proposed, AS seconded, that the minutes be accepted as a correct record of the last meeting (5/8/15); agreed, and signed off by the Chair.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

(i) A96 at Brodie. CAS has replied (26/8/15) to the letter (14/7/15) from Richard Lochhead, MSP, outlining TMC's and Stagecoach's responses to her complaints: a smaller bin lorry is being used so that there's no need to reverse into the lane at Brodie; westbound Stagecoach buses have been instructed not to stop outside the bay at Brodie, but eastbound buses will continue to wait in the bay at Brodie until onboard GPS systems improve their time-keeping. **CAS:** given that Marypark, with only 8 houses along A95, has street lighting, she will press Transport Scotland (TS) to install it at Brodie. **CllrGA** criticised the failure of TS to take more preventative action at recognizably hazardous sites unless and until there were fatalities, citing a recent fatal RTA on the Forres bypass. It was agreed that perseverance is necessary, especially with the assistance of our Moray councillors.

(iia) Conicavel verge. AB regretted that no progress has been achieved via TMC and none was in prospect (TMC says it's 'stable' but it's not). He showed photos of the barren soil on the verge, probably the result of industrial-strength herbicides being applied. It was agreed to review the situation in the spring.

(iib) Dyke verge. CM has asked TMC's Roads Dept whether letters have been sent out, as promised in June, to request owners of properties beside the bend in the road at Crowhall Lane, (i) to remove boulders from the verge; (ii) to prevent water run-off that tends to make the bend icy in winter.

(iii) Speed monitors in Dyke. CAS: the flashing speed monitor at the south entrance to Dyke has been removed, perversely just as the new school year began, i.e. when it gets busier.

Action: CAS will ask TMC to reinstall the one removed, this time better sited, and install another one, at north entrance to Dyke.

(iv) Conicavel road closures: AB: again there had been no consultation with residents before notice boards appeared on C11 last week; Conicavel is isolated during these road works; why can't they be done in 2 halves (as they were outside Moray Estates Office)? SA and AS: they had received no notice before the Cloddymoss road, which runs past their properties, had been closed for roadworks on 1 Sept.

Action: CllrGA will raise these issues with TMC's Roads Dept.

(v) Giant hogweed: DS reported he had sprayed possible hogweed seedlings along southern edge of Dyke school's playground. CllrGA understands there is funding for a concerted effort to control hogweed next year, but it's important to continue efforts over the long term in order to eradicate it.

5. Treasurer's Report

SA reported the balance in DLCC's account is £1,375.70. He urged councillors to claim their travel and administrative expenses before the end of the financial year.

6. Correspondence

The following items had been received by the secretary and circulated to DLC councillors prior to the meeting:

tsiMoray bulletins (12/08, 19/08)

Foundation Scotland: Achieving impact with community benefit, 29 Sept

tsi Moray: Third Sector Forum for health and Welbeing, 7 Sept

FACT: Forres Online Digital project

Ian Todd (TMC): Charettes Mainstreaming programme, 2014/15

Alastair Kennedy: Community Engagement meeting, 19 Aug
tsi Moray: Environment & Sustainability 3rd Sector Forum, 3 Sept
Scottish Govt: Fairer Scotland CC event, 16 Sept
tsi Moray: Free training course in strategic & operational planning, 2 Sept
Yvonne Adams (TMC): Moray draft homelessness strategy consultation
Emma Ritchie: Greenfingers' newsletter
Tracey Rae: training for community councillors, 29 Sept.
Digital Highlands & Islands, latest briefing on broadband.

CAS drew attention to various items on the list: while several items might interest individual councillors, it was felt that nothing required the attention of DLCC.

7. Community Feedback

JF: a stone had been knocked out of the bridge over the burn. **CIIRGA** will check it's been reported to TMC.

8. Reports (a) Local Councillors

CIIRGA: (i) following his attendance at the Self-Directed Support meeting, in Elgin, with people with special needs who, under the new policy, now have control of their own budgets, he believes the new policy (in which Moray was among those leading the field) is working well. (ii) the new sustainable schools policy which was endorsed by TMC's Education committee will be piloted in the Forres area. He believes Moray is over-supplied with primary schools, half of which are less than 75% occupied, including 7 less than 50% occupied (Logie is now above 50%); many are now having to share head-teachers. It's a particular problem because many of the buildings are in poor repair and Moray cannot recruit sufficient teachers (for which it's about to be fined by the Scottish Govt!).

9. Planning Issues

DS: only one in DLCC area, at Conicavel, requesting change of use of old post office to a small health centre, probably providing sports massage. It was agreed this raised no issues and was likely to be of benefit to the village.

10. Joint Community Council of Moray (JCC)

CAS: DLCC's proposal for 'break-out' sessions at JCC meetings was rejected at 13 August meeting, but Forres and Findhorn/Kinloss CCs emailed her about informal local contact. Because of time constraints, this would probably be via regular exchange of minutes, with follow-up where more than one CC would be affected, plus perhaps an annual brainstorming and social event.

Action: **CM** will add Forres and Findhorn/Kinloss CCs to DLCC's minutes distribution list. **CM** will ask JCC to correct mistakes re: DLCC in items 1, 5 and 6 on 13 August minutes.

11. AOCB

CAS: DS and she had attended Transport Scotland's recent A96 dualling event in Nairn and were pleased to see that the proposed route will go well south of Nairn; they were told it is likely to run through the DLCC area south of the existing A96, which will continue to be the bus route between Inverness and Aberdeen.

CAS: will write to Tracey Rae to congratulate her on her new post and to thank her for all her help and support for DLCC.

CM: Cllr Lorna Creswell had forwarded a request to DLCC to contact residents who could remember the area in the 1930s and 40s to provide reminiscences for a new collection. **JF, AS and DS** volunteered to contact people they know.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting of DLCC

Wednesday, 7 October 2015, at 7:30pm, at Dyke & District Community Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.02pm.