

Dyke Landward Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 7 December 2016 at 7.30pm in Dyke & District Community Hall

Present

Carol Shaw (Chair) (CAS), Alistair Sutherland (Vice-Chair) (AS), Steve Arkley (Treasurer) (SA), David Shaw (Secretary)(DS), Arnold Boyle (AB), John Bonsall (Youth Rep)

Apologies

Jane Foster, Cllr George Alexander

In attendance

Cllr. Anne Skene (Cllr AS), Sgt Stephen Carmichael (Sgt C.)

2. Police Report

DLCC members were in receipt of the new form 'police report' now known as the Community Report and including reports from other community service agencies. The whole report is rather large but it was noted that much of it could be skim read at the reader's discretion.

The actual report indicated that no crimes had been committed in the Dyke Landward area during the latest reporting period but Sgt Carmichael updated this by reporting that two youths had been apprehended after an incident with a horse. The horse had been badly injured and had been put down.

Whilst new regulations now forbid smoking in a vehicle containing a person under 18 yrs. the police are still trying to determine the best way of enforcing this.

Sgt C emphasised that home security was vital at this time of year when houses contained high value Christmas presents and we experience the long, dark nights.

All airguns must be licenced by the end of December. Sgt C advised that any new applications could not be processed by 31 December so the owners of unlicensed weapons should keep them in a locked cabinet or hand them to a gunsmith to ensure suitable security.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting 12 October 2016 were amended to include the following from Cllr AS.

"Cllr. Anne Skene is a member of the Leisure Project Review Board. Over the previous few months this group has been looking at all options for the whole leisure estate operated by TMC to become sustainable.

Local authority councils are exploring ways to work collaboratively so that they can work together to share resources, training and aspects of curriculum development rather than each spending sums of money to do the same thing. As an example Cllr. Skene explained that Aberdeen City, Aberdeen Shire, Moray and Highland Councils were all offering different incentive schemes to attract teachers and that a unified approach would have been more effective."

The minutes were then agreed to be a correct account of the meeting and were signed off by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

(i) During November a 10K road run had taken place on roads including that through Dyke village. No complaints had been received concerning the event.

(ii) The feasibility of adopting and maintaining the red telephone boxes in the area was discussed and members of the CC agreed not to proceed with the adoption process. DS had already received information that formal planning permission would not be required for the boxes and Cllr AS advised that TMC had agreed to our original adoption wish the day before. Cllr AS and DS are to contact the Head of Development Services to advise that DLCC no longer wish to adopt these boxes.

(iii) The CC discussed the request for feedback on the current Scheme of Community Councils and felt that these were quite satisfactory as they were and no change was needed.

(iv) CAS advised that work had started on signage for the extended 50mph speed limit at Brodie although the signs were still encased in black plastic.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the bank account now held £2,032:78.

It was reported that Dyke Church were seeking funding for the creation of a disabled access path from Dyke car park to the church. The church was asked to submit a written application for a donation and that this would then be considered by DLCC.

6. Correspondence

It was noted that General Aviation Alliance had made a complaint to CAA that formal procedures had not been observed in relationship to consultation concerning the change to flight paths for aircraft arriving at Inverness airport.

A letter has been received from Dyke and District Hall confirming the tenure of accommodation for DLCC meetings.

Richard Lockhead MSP forwarded a letter he had received from the Chief Executive of TMC.

A request has been received from Forres Area Community Trust to give a short presentation to DLCC. DLCC agreed that this could happen early in 2017.

7. Community Feedback

No issues were raised.

8. Reports

Cllr Skene reported on the presentation of the Leisure Project Review Board findings to the full Council. The Moray Council (TMC) pays out £6,000,000 p.a. in subsidies to its leisure facilities and this is unsustainable. TMC has to explore avenues to reduce this spending and there will, inevitably, be cuts affecting all leisure properties in all communities.

The Auchernack Trust has funds available for donation to communities within four miles of Forres. These donations are intended to benefit the elderly and infirmed in the region. Applications for donations from the fund are considered in May and November and further details are available on the TMC website.

Cllr Skene is still involved with interviewing applicants for teaching posts but reports that the interviewing panel is still struggling to fill vacant posts with suitable applicants.

TMC will be dissolved next April in preparation for elections of a new Council on May 4th. It is anticipated that a large number of the current elected members will be standing down and the council has set up a Strategic Planning Group to enable the newly elected members quickly become accustomed to their new responsibilities.

9. Planning Issues

The planning application for five houses at Crowhall has been approved with conditions. Amongst the conditions is a requirement to ensure that water and gravels are no longer allowed to wash onto the public road, the construction of two passing places between Crowhall and Dyke plus a footpath on the north side of the road between Crowhall and Dyke.

Since the last meeting of DLCC one planning application has been received. This is for a visitor attraction at Brodie Castle, sited within the area of the walled garden. The attraction will include a 'garden of Playfulness' and a visitor centre with tea room. DLCC will make no representation on this.

10. AOCB

Members of DLCC were delighted to note that our Youth Member, John Bonsall, along with one other student from Forres Academy had triumphed in the Northern Schools Debating Competition. The competition featured teams from both private and state schools in Aberdeen City and Shire and Moray.

CAS reported on two meetings concerning the duelling of the A96. The first, at the Ramnee Hotel in Forres was judged to be a waste of time as there was no new information offered and it was not properly chaired. The second, at the Newton in Nairn, concerned the section from Inverness to Hardmuir and had some interesting information and detailed plans. It was noted that the earliest that construction could begin was 2019 and that construction work would take three years.

DS attended a public meeting in Nairn Community Centre advising of the likely impact of Ship-to-Ship oil transfers in the Moray Firth. The well attended meeting heard of issues such as noise, lights and VOC atmospheric pollution as well as visual impact during the summer tourist season. Nairn River CC is asking for support for a joint effort by CCs along the Moray Firth to protest the StS oil transfer. DLCC has agreed to be part of this.

DS attended a Management Committee meeting of Findhorn Bay Local Nature Reserve. Chair, Roy Dennis, is to convene a meeting of conservationists, wildfowlingers and residents to find a solution to the issues surrounding wildfowling in the Bay. It is hope to draw up a set of draft by-laws to be trialled on a voluntary basis during the 2017/18 wildfowling season after which TMC will formally impose these by-laws.

SA advised the meeting of a proposal to abolish the Forestry Commission.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting of DLCC

Wednesday, 1 February 2017, at 7:30pm, at Dyke & District Community Hall.