

Elgin Community Council Zoom Meeting

11 August 2020

7pm Minutes

1. Welcome and Apologies

Attendees:

Alastair Kennedy, David Chapman, Eddie Wallace, Pat Paterson, Sheila Cochrane, Douglas Clark, Cllr Graeme Leadbitter, Cllr Paula Coy, Cllr John Divers, James Wiseman

Apologies:

Cllr Ray McLean and Cllr Maria McLean

2. Previous Minutes

Previous minutes from 27.7.2020 were agreed with no changes.

3. Matters Arising

Clash Gour - Alastair Kennedy is to make a presentation to the public enquiry hearing to say on behalf of the JCC that people in Moray welcome the idea of a Moray wide investment opportunity.

4. Planning

Spynie - Response was submitted. People have contacted the Community Council with further information. Anyone wishing assistance from the Community Council with the Planning process for this development should contact James Wiseman or the Secretary.

Burnside North - This development is part of the Elgin South area and being developed by Springfield is likely to be good design. Adjacent developments by the same developer have good permeability.

Billbohall - James Wiseman to draft a response for comment

Poundland - Agreed to support the development as it would ensure viability of a large town centre building and the residential aspect fits with other initiative which ECC has previously agreed with.

5. Elgin BID

Alastair Kennedy is to contact the Elgin BID Manager to introduce Elgin Community Council.

6. Agency Updates - none

7. Elected Members' Update

The Councillors in attendance mentioned forthcoming topics for consideration by Moray Council including car parking charges and public toilets across Moray.

Cllr John Divers highlighted the planning application for the sports development at Lesser Borough Briggs. Members of the Community Council were pleased to hear that the opportunity had not been lost. It was noted that the CAT is accepted in principal but had still to go through the court.

Cllr Graeme Leadbitter highlighted some of the challenges experienced guiding the Moray Council through lockdown while meeting the expectations of the community and business and how the return to school is being achieved. Waste Management has been challenging with operations disrupted by the additional load from people working at home but is expected to get easier as lock down eases. Working smarter should lead to some positive outcomes for the future.

8. Treasurer's Report

9. Reports and Updates

Development Trust - Jeff Gable to update at future meeting

Common Good Fund - Alastair Kennedy to get a speaker to inform on origins limits and opportunities of the Common Good Fund and also trusts as they have different limitations.

Website Facebook - Douglas Clark highlighted that the communication offered by the facebook page was not being monitored. Alastair Kennedy to find out from Bryan Watson where these go.

Fair trade has nothing going on at the moment because of covid but will be looking for opportunities.

Giant Hogweed has been tackled by the Findhorn Nairn and Lossie Fisheries Trust. A report was circulated showing what work they had been able to achieve in the current circumstances. It was noted that Moray Council Lands and Parks had treated accessible areas of council owned land.

Gull initiative was done this year but was affected by lockdown. The hope is to reduce numbers over time. The problem of gulls attacking shoppers and making noise at unsociable hours was highlighted by various members.

Douglas Clark to write to Stagecoach thanking them for maintaining a service during lockdown, acknowledging the role of the drivers, maintenance staff and management and highlighting that the busses are being kept cleaner.

Eddie - how to attract people

Douglas Clark highlighted the use of herbacious rich grass land as examples have been seen around the country. He described a product he had bought and asked for a talk on opportunities for implementing this in Moray. Alastair Kennedy to invite Grant Speed or Colin Bell to give a presentation.

The delivery charges levied online by Tesco were noted as excessive. Secretary to write to Tesco to complain. It was also noted that Click & Collect is not available from the Elgin store, with the nearest Tesco offering Click & Collect being in Huntly.

Cllr John Divers noted that Saturday is VJ day and there will be a wreath laying ceremony on the Plainstones in Elgin.

10. Agenda Items for Next Meeting
11. AOCB
12. Date of next meeting Tuesday 8 September 2020.

James Wiseman tendered his apologies for the next meeting.