

Elgin Community Council Zoom Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 8 December 2020

7pm

Welcome and Apologies - Alastair Kennedy welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Brian Irvine, Alison James and Graham Jarvis.

In Attendance - Alastair Kennedy, James Wiseman, Sheila Cochrane, Eddie Wallace, Douglas Clark, Steven Christie, Graham Leadbitter, John Divers, Graham Jarvis, Alison James, Brian Irvine.

Apologies - David Chapman, Ray McLean, Maria McLean.

Co-option of New Members - Alison James and Brian Irvine were co-opted and there were no objections.

Matters Arising -

Environmental Issues - The proposed letter to Moray Council Planning and Local Developers was discussed. The topics include design to accommodate movement of animals, wildflower meadow applications and vehicle idling. Councillor Divers gave examples of how animal movement had been dealt with recently in planning applications.
- Douglas and James to finalise letter and send.

Wildflower Meadows - Douglas Clark gave an update on wildflower meadows. The Community Council is to identify locations from trial areas and submit to Colin Bell.

Dr Gray's - Jamie Hogg's presentation last month was well received however we await the outstanding information requested.

Planning -

Lochside Farm (gun dealership) - Planning application 20/01401/APP was briefly discussed - James Wiseman to investigate and respond.

Broadband Poles - Steven Christie raised the issue of broadband telegraph poles being installed throughout the town. It appeared that there had been little or no consultation regarding the location of the poles - Steven Christie to write to Openreach to understand the consultation requirements for this infrastructure.

Moray Growth Deal - Alastair Kennedy and James Wiseman gave some insight into the latest news from the Cultural Quarter project. Much work has gone into this and the other seven projects in the Growth Deal. It will be vital to support these when they come out for consultation.

Elgin Community Sports Trust - Construction is now underway for the new football pitch which will be in popular demand.

Street Closures - The proposals for street closures at Seafield School and New Elgin School were discussed. Access for tradesmen appears to have been overlooked however this may be difficult to implement.

Immunisation Proposals - It was thought to be inappropriate to discuss at this time.

High Street/Costa - Douglas Clark highlighted the problem of buddleia plants growing in the upper reaches of buildings in the High Street principally on the corner of High Street and Commerce Street. This problem has been brought to the attention of the owner who has undertaken to investigate and resolve. Members recalled previous work on this subject by Community Council members and the difficulties in getting owners to take action - Douglas Clark to consider writing to William Clark at Moray Council on this subject.

Community Development Trust - Brian Irvine offered to help Douglas Clark.

Energising Moray - Alastair Kennedy said that the Development Trust would be required to facilitate any community benefit from the Clash Gour Wind Farm.

Agency Updates - The Community Safety Report had been circulated; there were no issues raised.

Elected Member Updates - Graham Leadbitter gave brief highlights on the work of the council: the Growth Deal is ongoing, gates on the High Street proposed, benches outside the Clydesdale Bank being changed, Learning Estate consultation now closed.

Agenda Items for Future Meetings - Douglas Clark reminded Alastair there had been a request for information about the Common Good Fund. Councillor Leadbitter gave an interesting overview of some of the complexities that arise and differentiate Common Good from various Trusts. Management of the Common Good Fund sometimes requires paper accounting of many small value accounts. It is a complex field and the precise rules about any given area tend to be discovered when there is a need to explore that area for development purposes. An example given was the Cooper Park Trust and the Lossie Green Trust in relation to the Flood Alleviation Scheme paths.

AOCB - A Zoom meeting was proposed for Thursday 17 December - Alastair to arrange.

Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 12 January 2021