

Lossiemouth Community Council Minutes of Meeting

Date: 15 Feb 2021

Time: 19:00

Location: Microsoft Teams

Chair: Carolle Ralph

Attendees: Fiona Birse (LCDT), Jane Martin (Moray Council), Carolle Ralph, Kristi Corbett, Ryan Edwards CLLR, John Cowe CLLR, James Allan CLLR, Gina McNicoll, Peter White, Marian Evans, Maureen Garden, Louise McBride

Apologies: Callum Luce, Stewart Garden, Fraser Bowie (RAF)

Agenda:

1- Police Update:

No representative or update.

Tony McNalley will be replacing Carrie Grigg as Inspector.

RAF Update:

Operational Activities. Some of the Typhoon Sqns are on work up for operational and training deployments over the coming months so here will be an increase in aircraft activities including night flying. We also be hosting some visiting detachments for essential NATO training activities. The USN P8 team continue to retain a presence at LOS and that is forecast to be a more permanent with the US currently scoping the construction of dedicated accommodation block.

Lossie Development Programme. The major infrastructure programme continues at pace and now the airfield is back to being fully operational, attention is now on the Typhoon Training Facility and in ensuring IX(B) Sqn have fit for purpose accommodation.

COVID Testing. RAF Lossiemouth stood up an internal LFD test facility last week which has capacity to provide twice weekly testing for all who are required in the workplace. This is “Whole Force” which means anyone RAF (Regular and Reserve), MOD Civil Servant and MOD contractors can access tests. LFD testing is a useful tool for identifying asymptomatic COVID cases, but it is a bit of blunt tool so the strict COVID mitigations remain in place. Anyone who tests positive via the workplace site will then have test result confirmed by NHS Scotland PCR testing.

Friends and Family Day. We have commenced planning for a summer F&F day with a date tbc but will be mid-week in July. This is all provisional planning to secure the Air Display assets and will be subject to ensuring we can deliver it in a COVID safe manner. We had originally hoped to operate the event on the Fri before Seafest but due to clashes with the Gordonstoun Summer School arrivals day, that date is no longer viable.

Airfield Lights. RAF Lossiemouth wants to thank the local community for its patience whilst we ironed out the glitches in the new lighting on the airfield. It is a Health & Safety Executive requirement for when the engineers are working on the P8s outside, but we have now installed switches which will allow us to zone the lights in operation for when required together with the ability to switch all off.

Raft Race: The Raft Race 2021 is currently on hold, but the camp is interested in possibly holding it later in the year if possible as it is a big fundraiser for the community.

The Community Council would support this if it were possible, but construction on the bridge maybe a factor and at this time we do not know when the construction will be taking place. We will hopefully know before the pre-election break of the Scottish Parliament.

3- Minutes of January Meeting:

The minutes were corrected to show that the CC has purchased £1000 worth of vouchers to aid the covid relief and that we will be funding the community meals through the end of March.

4- Matters Arising:

Membership and roles: Jane Martin from Moray Council was present to help us elect our officers and discuss out membership roster.

Officers were elected to serve until opening meeting in September.

Role	Name	Nominated By	Seconded By
Chairperson	Carolle Ralph	Kristi Corbett	Gina McNicoll
Vice-Chair	Gina McNicoll	Carolle Ralph	Kristi Corbett
Treasurer	Tim Stanning	Gina McNicoll	Kristi Corbett

Jane also suggested that we have an AGM in September to re-elect the officers.

Jane Martin will be forming a sub-group to promote the election scheme and we need to look at who is going to be standing for election.

Station Park Toilets: We are waiting to find out what Moray Council is planning with the Esplanade Toilets before we make a decision on if we open or not. The MC budget meeting is next month so we will make a decision at our next meeting.

We do have about £2000 to use towards maintenance on the toilets, they need toilet seats, new lights, new toilet roll dispensers, and sanitizers.

We also need to decide on an outdoor spigot, we can get locks for them to prevent them being used by the public.

The LCDT will be having a meeting in the near future to discuss their future plans for Station Park so we will wait until after their meeting to make any long-term modernization plans for the Station Park toilets to accommodate camper vans and heavier use.

Jane and Fiona have suggested that we look into the Cora Foundation for grants for funding public toilets.

COVID Relief/Volunteers:

The larder is helping an average of 10 families a day on the days it is open. 95% are working families who are struggling due to COVID.

We are getting new referrals daily with requests for help from the community, not just financial, but for other needs as well.

We need to secure a new premises ASAP for the larder as we have to move out of the Community Centre in March. The Body Matters space on Queen Street is available for £500 PCM Louise will speak to the owner to see if we can negotiate a lower rate.

To secure a more permanent space we need funds to pay the rent, we can look into grants for that. Jane

Martin suggested that we are looking into ScottishFoodPantry.com to see if we can work with them to keep the pantry in Lossie.

Louise has secured 22 Chromebooks to distribute to working families and they will be distributed through the larder.

Gina has two left from the ones for the elderly and has asked Sylvia from Moray Council if she can turn them over to be used by the families instead.

Carolle and Louise will be meeting with the Rotary to see what we can do together to help the community.

Our volunteers are assisting the Red Cross at the COVID Vaccination Clinic in Elgin.

Weather/Gritting: Moray Council has done a great job of keeping the bins filled and distributing temporary grit bags around Lossiemouth.

John requested 12-15 grit bags for the community use.

Ryan has submitted a request for a grit bin on James Street behind the Bowling Green, but Moray Council is currently out of them, but they do have more on order. We should request them now so that our name is on the list.

High School/Community Centre: The High School was handed over 12 Feb and it is expected to open after the Easter Holidays.

Kim Patterson will speak with all of the community groups who are customers of the Community Centre by 31 March to determine their needs and then liaise with the school to see what is available.

Louise McBride voiced the view that Moray Council has deliberately moved to push the get the community groups out of the centre by. This view was supported by members of the Community Council.

This was supposed to be a like for like space and at this time it is not.

John Cowe has written to Moray Council that the members of the community feel that the Community Centre has been left out. The school has been built to house 800 students and at this time there's 530.

At this time, it is unclear if the gym will be available to the public during the day when school is in session or if any of the community space will be available while students are present.

The library will be mixed use, when it's open to the public the students will not be allowed and when it's open for students the public will not be allowed. We do not know when the library will be moving, as it was supposed to move to the new space a year after the original opening date for the new school.

The community council has elected to wait until after John Cowe has a response from Moray Council on the Community Centre before we take action. If we are unsatisfied with their response will ask for a meeting to discuss it with them and choose a course of action at that time.

Online Banking: Gina brought up that currently she is the only one with access to our online banking, it has been decided that Carolle and possibly Tim will sign-up for online banking access for the account.

Pay Pal: We currently have two Pay Pal accounts and will move to close one of them. We do need our constitution to continue opening the business PayPal account and Jane Martin will send us the relevant paperwork.

Online Fundraising: We are now registered with Moray Council to establish an online fundraiser like a Love Lossie Fund.

Bridge Update: There is not much change from last time. The reports have been submitted to Moray Council.

5- Correspondence:

We have been contacted by Tetra Tech who have been contracted by the DIO to update the wastewater system from the camp to the sea. They are requesting any feedback we have by 25 Feb. Carolle will distribute the plans and information. This work is required by SEPA and it will mean that parts of the West Beach will be closed for 8-10 weeks this summer, access to the lighthouse from the beach will be maintained at all times.

The US Navy personnel who are currently based at RAF Lossiemouth have contacted us requesting a community service project. Carolle will contact them to organise a project. A litter pick in the woods and on the sides of the main roads has been suggested.

6- Community Councilors Issues:

The path to the nature reserve in the woods is blocked off, Carolle, Maureen and Peter will walk up and investigate this. We have not had any communication about this from any authority.

7- Councilors Updates:

John Cowe: Moray Council will be replacing Arthur's Bridge due to rapid deterioration.

The Seatown Coastal Protection works have now been pushed back to 2026.

There is a small community grant available for camper van facilities, Lossiemouth may not qualify but Seatown possibly could as it's part of the Fochabers ward.

Ryan Edwards: The weight limit on Arthur's Bridge will be reduced until it can be replaced. This will further affect Tarmac.

8- Treasurers Report:

We have £17,500 in the bank with the following breakdown:

Tarmac Donation: £5000 (for a community project)

Fundraising: £5000 (for community projects)

Private Covid Donations: £3,123

The rest us for other small projects.

9- Chairman's Updates:

We will be delivering the next issue of the Lossie Local as a fundraiser, Carolle will get us more information.

10- Planning Issues: None

11- Date and Time of Next Meeting: 15 March 2021