

# DRAFT

## HELDON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held 05 April 2022 via Zoom

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Mr J Montford – Dallas</b>	
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Mrs L Smailes – Pluscarden</b>	
<b>Secretary</b>		
	Mrs M Evans – Duffus	Ms Jo Kirby - Miltonduff
	Mrs S Hodder - Pluscarden	Mr W Mustard – Fogwatt & Birnie
	Mr K Milne - Miltonduff	Mrs D Kelly - Alves
	Mr W Duncan - Fogwatt	
<b>Attendee</b>	Councillor R Edwards	
<b>Apologies</b>	Mrs A Masson – Alves	Mr C Souter - Miltonduff
	Mr N Sutherland - Dallas	

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs A Masson, Mr N Sutherland and Mr C Souter.

#### 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 01 March 2022 were approved.

Proposed: Mr W Duncan    Seconded: Mr K Milne

#### 3. MATTERS ARISING

a) Cloddach Bridge: as yet there has been no response from the survey. Councillor Edwards will continue to press for information. The engineer pointed out that the bridge is a hundred years old. Local commuters are unhappy with the situation but it looks as if matters are going to remain the same for some time.

b) Trees cutting on the Dallas Road: this is still outstanding as no work has been carried out. A decision needs to be agreed as to which trees are the responsibility of the Forestry Commission and which are on the verge and therefore the responsibility of the Council.

c) Millbuies toilets: No developments in this area as the person concerned decided not to go ahead with the application. The opening of the toilets was linked to the fishing licence and nobody is taking this on at the moment. There is currently a small coffee van there so, with this attracting visitors, it is important that the toilets are opened. The paths are safe to use so visitors are welcome but there is no one to open, clean and close the toilets. Another issue at Millbuies is that the rhododendrons have not only been cut down but also poisoned at the roots. A plan is due to be published soon so perhaps there will be information in these points.

#### 4. CORRESPONDENCE

Most correspondence had been circulated to all members but some needed to be brought to our attention.

- a) Fly tipping: an enquiry is ongoing. Members were reminded that if there is evidence of fly tipping in their area they should report this to the relevant Council department.
- b) Support for Rural Communities survey: this asks what rural communities need in terms of better communication. Poor broadband was highlighted as an issue for some areas. The Chairman will reply on our behalf.
- c) SSE Resilience Fund: communities are encouraged to create a plan that could be put into operation in case of an emergency such as flooding. A template can be obtained from [cummingston@gmail.com](mailto:cummingston@gmail.com).
- d) Jubilee Insurance: communities planning celebrations should check their insurance. An event with under 500 participants will probably be covered by the existing insurance but events over this number will need to have extra insurance.
- e) Red Cross workshops: these are available to communities. First Aid training should be encouraged as should training in the use of the defibrillators.
- f) JCC minutes: the Rural Transport project had been a topic at the last JCC meeting. The project, involving electric buses, will be trialled in Buckie and Speyside and will include purchasing six new electric vehicles for Dial M for Moray. Bus passes will still be accepted.

#### 5. FINANCE REPORT

The Treasurer submitted her report. There has been very little change since the last meeting. The accounts are as follows:

Roths 1	£23,057.61
Roths 2	5,754.65
HCC balance	1,122.73
<b>Total</b>	<b>£29,034.99</b>

There will be a claim for £2,000 this week from Mosstowie School. The climbing frame has run into trouble with the Council as only recommended suppliers can be used and so far none of these have responded with quotes. Council-recommended suppliers are required to satisfy the insurance.

No money has been received from the Wind Farm funding as yet.

#### 6. PLANNING ISSUES

All planning details had been circulated. There were no issues.

#### 7. AOCB – to include area reports

- Re the Cloddach Bridge: a Freedom of Information request sent by email to the Council has not yet elicited a reply, despite have been sent two months ago. Councillor Edwards will try to follow this up. When the report from the survey is completed we will be allowed to see it.

- Potholes on the roads in the old part of Duffus are numerous and every so often these are filled in by what looks like a mixture of gravel and cement. However, these repairs do not last for long. It was suggested that it would be more economical in the long run to carry out a more thorough repair. Councillor Edwards will check with the Roads Department as to whether rural village roads are given sufficient attention.
- Members were reminded that defibrillators need to be serviced regularly and that they need to be registered with the Emergency Services.
- Again re the Cloddach Bridge: some pupils attending Mosstowie School are affected by this closure and the situation has been exacerbated by roadworks in another location which has meant that traffic has increased.
- Thanks were given to the Roads Department for the fact that the road in Fogwatt has been quickly and efficiently resurfaced. There was a request for a 'slow' sign to be placed at either end.
- Re Millbuie: it is hoped that the rhododendrons will be replaced by other flowering shrubs so that the area becomes colourful once again. The area was gifted to Elgin so the Common Good Fund could be called upon. It was pointed out that the Council has made a grant available. The plan for the area is due to be published by the end of April.

Councillor Edwards explained that he will not be standing for re-election at the Council elections in May and he thanked the HCC for being so welcoming over the years. All the members expressed their gratitude for the excellent way in which he has supported us all over the years. He will be very much missed.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Date of the next meeting:

Tuesday 17 May 2022 at 7.30 pm in Fogwatt Hall.