

Innes Community Council

Minutes of Meeting

6th February, 2024 in Lhanbryde Community Centre

Present: - Toby Christe, Chair; James A Mackie, Acting Secretary; Crinan Dunbar, Treasurer; Sandy Anderson; Peter Fitch; Kenny Henderson; Angus Fettes.

Debra Duke, CCLO; Nigel Sanderson; Fiona Mackie; Glan Price; Chris Perkins; Tom Cattanach

Apologies: - Angus Fettes; David Mackay, Secretary; Councillor Morrison, Councillor Macrae, Councillor Williams

The Chair, apologised for the very short notice of change of venue from Garmouth Golf Club which was caused by flooding of the River Spey.

Public Session: -

No Councillors Report.

Police report had been circulated beforehand.

Speymouth West Community Resilience Group. Introduced by Nigel Sanderson and Fiona Mackie. Further discussion later in meeting as item was on agenda.

Community Council Business

Minutes of Last meeting 12th December, 2023.

Accepted. Proposed JM seconded Sandy Anderson.

Matters arising

Were on the agenda for further discussion.

Treasurers report

Gave up to date balance of ICC account. Discussion re transfer of balance from ICC Heritage Account to Speymouth Environmental Account towards cost of Dr Moir Survey. Balance of £480.00 to clear account. Proposed by JM. Unanimous decision. JM to forward minute of meeting to CD.

River, sea and flooding

A number of items on the agenda covered these items. Chair proposed that all items be discussed as one issue.

JM gave update on breach of beach head at Kingston with the threat of sea breaking through into The Lein from where it could wash down lane to Lein House before entering Kingston Burn. Discussion over flooding events where people could not travel in or out of Kingston because of river flooding in Spey Street and Spring Tides affecting Burnside Road. The suggestion of building a walkway from

Lein Road across the Kingston Burn to the western end of Burnside Road discussed. Agreed that Chair would write to Moray Council with suggestion. Discussed that emergency services would not enter flood waters thus putting people's lives at risk. Also noted that a number of elderly people in Kingston received care at home from Moray Council. This care was not available when the Shorey Road and Burnside Road flooded with Spring Tides and or river flooding. When residents could not leave Kingston there was an economic impact as could not attend place of employment nor children get to or from school. Threat of sea breaking through into Lein gave added impetus to the discussion and the need for such a walkway. Agreed that Chair would write a letter to Moray Council to ask if Council would be capable and prepared of building such a walkway.

JM gave a resume of discussions on Kingston Beach at Moray Council Economic Development Meeting that morning. Explained that officers proposal was to develop a plan to stabilise the beach side of the car park and playing field at Kingston using drift wood and gravel. Informed meeting that Councillor Morrison had suggested that removal of firewood and driftwood from the beach had weakened it. That opinion reinforced by Councill Officer who said that removal of driftwood etc from that area was an offence as area was a SSSI. JM informed meeting that he had answered the same questions for Councillor Morrison over a week before the meeting and that he had advised her that the use of drift wood and shingles would not work and that the removal of drift wood from Kingston Beach over decades had not made any impact on natural coastal erosion. Council to publicise the fact. Officer advised Council Meeting that concrete structures left over from when the former cement block factory was operational in that area were now being exposed. Said that as site a SSSI Council may be liable to legal proceedings in relation to that. Discussion as to why Council and NatureScot had ignored the same situation at that location for past 6 or 7 years. Why did the movement of the beach head into Council property suddenly change the situation.

Discussion as to why Council was suddenly taking action and responsibility for that 200 yard stretch of beach other than the fact it was Council property. Explained by JM and others that until very recently beach and edge of park were controlled by Crown Estates who in the past had some dangerous and exposed materials removed and had erected fencing and signs warning people of the dangers from the site. Questions asked as to why Crown Estates had not been pursued in the past under the legislation governing SSSI and why the Council had suddenly taken ownership of that area and the problems.

Concerns raised that the community had not been informed that the Moray Council were taking ownership of the area. Also concerns raised that Council officers consistently failed to answer questions raised by the Community and ICC re safety and evacuation plans and other matters in connection with the river and beach. Concerns that the officers had drawn up plans for the beach without any consultation with the community who, having now been aware of the plans were concerned that reinforcing one area of the beach would force tidal currents and water east and west, creating bigger problems in the future.

JM to research legislation on legality of collecting driftwood and other flotsam from beaches. Noted that removal of sand and gravel/stones from all beaches in UK without permission was illegal. However, beach combing and the collection of firewood from above high water mark was a custom carried out without any threats or interruption by communities around Scotland for generations.

Resilience plans

Nigel Sanderson, voluntary flood warden for Garmouth, Fiona Nicol, GKCA and Fiona Mackie addressed the meeting. Presentation gave plans to form a resilience group for Garmouth and

Kingston. To identify the organisation in its own right it would be called the Speymouth West Community Resilience Group. As Trustee of the GKCA, Nigel Sanderson would be the link person between ICC and SWCRG. AF volunteered to join the organising group. The group would be associated with ICC for support and insurance purposes. Was agreed it would have its own bank account in order that monies the group raised could be ring fenced. Also, would be easier to administer to the future if other communities wished to form their resilience group under the umbrella of ICC.

Teindland Wind Farm

JM informed meeting that the developers' agents had contacted ICC and that a meeting with them had been arranged for the following night in Urquhart parish Hall. Report back to ICC at next Meeting.

Plans for a battery storage Unit

JM reported that a planning application had been approved for a battery storage unit within IC area north of Elgin. The developers had mentioned in their press release the opportunity for community organisations to invest in the project. JM reported he had contacted the company but had not received any acknowledgement of the letter of interest.

Flooding at Whistle Stop Wood, Garmouth

AF reported on this. Has been a problem for over 5 years and Moray Council have been made aware of it on several occasions during that period. Pipe is drainage pipe from fields on Conneagedale Farm. Finally, Moray Council have sent a contractor into pump out the water which blocks entry/exit to the walkway/cycle track to the viaduct. Council officers have had pipes checked with a camera and agree that pipe under part of South Road is blocked. They report back that quotes being obtained, and work will be carried out when finances allow.

Access to Boar's/Bear's Head

JM explained that a number of years ago Innes Community Council through a Trust and Charity obtained vehicular access to the Bear's/Boar's Head to monitor coastal erosion. Originally free the permission was not renewed when a charge of £80.00 a year was placed on it. Discussed that with the massive coastal erosion at Kingston and what seems to be the transportation of gravel westwards through that area was discussed as to whether permit should be reapplied for. Following discussion unanimous agreement to re-apply. JM to make the application.

Zoom conferencing facility.

JM reminded the meeting that ICC had originally bought a licence to use Zoom for conferencing during Covid. After restrictions were lifted it was thought that there would no longer be a use for a Zoom account and it was closed. Experience has now shown that there is times when the Zoom account would be useful for meetings. Unanimous decision to reinstate the licence. Agreed that cost and availability of suitable cameras/speakers and microphones should be explored to allow multiple site engagement for meetings. JM to investigate.

JCC survey on CC expenses

CD had drawn up a list of ICC standard annual expenses. A list of suggestions had been discussed a previous ICC meeting, but no complete report/suggestion had been collated or submitted. A matter for a future meeting.

ICC Beach report

Prior to the meeting JM had circulated a report he had compiled of the back ground to the beach erosion and details all meetings, reports and discussions that had taken place over the past 13 years. Felt that because of the current situation in Kingston, that the report should be attached to Minute of the Meeting as a future reference document for researchers and the community. Unanimous decision to have report attached to Minutes of the Meeting.

AOCB

Peter Fitch and Glan Price highlighted the ongoing problems with traffic and flood water on the U23E at Loch Opre and the A96. The belief was that increased traffic had impacted on cundies and drains which retained water on the carriage ways. Continuing concerns about horses, cyclists and pedestrians using the U23E and accessing/leaving the A96 on to the U23E Agreed that ICC would contact Amey and Moray Council to discuss. PF agreed to draft required letters.

Place and time of next meeting.

Next meeting arranged for Lhanbryde Community Centre for Tuesday, 5th March, 2024 at 7.30 pm. Centre has been booked for four meetings through too and including June.