

Innes Community council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday September 2nd 2014

At Garmouth Village Hall.

Community Councillors Present John Fettes Chairman

Peter Bush Secretary. Liz Bodman, Peter Gordon Smith, Winifred Linn, Lansana Bangura
Sandy Anderson James Mackie

In attendance. Margo Howe MC. Anita Milne and Gill Stewart

Apologies Anne Speake. Douglas Ross.

John welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Before the meeting started John stated that the meeting would be recorded and has anyone got any objections. None was raised.

James asked if there was any protocol about meetings being recorded, John said it had been agreed at June 17th meeting that a recorder would be used to help with the minutes and there were no objections to this.

Jim said he knew this, but he believed some sort of protocol should be put into place. Also the subject of public liability Insurance was raised.

Peter B said he had noted James concerns and would look into it, and would put the matter up for discussion for October's meeting. PB to action

Margo Howe arrived at this point, John pointed out that the meeting was being recorded, and that protocol for recording meetings had been raised and public liability insurance, John asked Margo if she had any information on this, Margo said no.

Peter said we will look into it.

Gill Stewart raised the point about the recording could prevent anyone feeling free to talk about something.

John said that he does not want anyone to talk about something that cannot be put in the minutes.

1. Public Submissions.

Anita Milne raised the concerns about the Hospital cuts and the increased waiting times at Doctor Grays Hospital. This was raised at the last meeting of Milnes Neighbourhood Forum and the Forum were asking the Community Council for support. Anita said that NHS Grampian were sending a brief to the Moray Council, has Margo any more information on this? Anita also said that Doctors are leaving or retiring and not being replaced. Eye patients are now having to travel to Glasgow for treatment.

Margo Howe said that the NHS Grampian will be sending a full report to The Moray council.

Anita asked if she could raise a couple more items, one was the Scottish Governments consultation review of polling stations, this has only come out recently and we have until 6th of October to reply.

Margo said that the only change as far as Innes was concerned was Urquhart Polling station was being moved from the pub to the Village Hall.

John and Peter said they had not been made aware of this consultation.

Anita also asked if the Community Council had picked up on the Community Energy consultation document. Peter said he was not aware of this as he only refers to the Moray Council consultations .Anita replied that this was a Scottish Government Consultation.

2. Reports.

Police report.

John referred to the Police report on the table. This had been circulated around the Community Council

Moray Councillors

Margo reported that the Full Council had met last week, the only issue that came up that affected our area was the Schools review. The meeting was to discuss the allocation of money from the Scottish Government, The Council did do that, but Milnes High school came up, Douglas Ross stated if all these schools were getting money and effectively were taken out of the equation.

And in that case Milnes should be taken out of the equation. The MC decided that they should wait and see the full report that is coming out on the 19th September, going to the SER, to digest what is in the report. Then the report goes to the based review, then it goes to full council, after this it comes out for further consultation.

Jim asked is Milnes High School going to be shut or is it just supposition? Margo replied that Status quo is not an option.

Margo stated that we should wait until the results of the review.

Jim asked apart from Milnes which other 3 schools are affected Buckie Keith and Forres, Margo said yes.

Treasurers report.

Liz reported that the Bank balance is £1732.91, Liz mentioned she has to do the accounts up to the end of September and asked would the meeting agree that John Third who used to be treasurer on the last community council and is competent to sign the report off. This was agreed by the meeting.

JCC reports.

Peter B said that he had circulated August 14th minutes, Unfortunately John and himself couldn't attend the meeting.

Save Milnes High School Public Meeting.

Winn gave a report on the public meeting held at Lhanbryde.

The Action Committee has asked everyone to write a letter to each Moray Councillor to support keeping Milnes High School open. And for bodies such as the Community Council to do the same.

Winn said it would be a good idea for the Community Council to write a letter to each Moray Councillor.

The Meeting agreed that Winn and PB would write the letter to each Moray Councillor

Community Reports

Kingston and Garmouth Amenities.

Nothing to report.

3. Community Council session.

August 5th minutes.

Liz said on page 4 item 7 should read Liz said she had sent out details of the plans, has anyone got any comments on them, they are mostly extensions.

Jim pointed out the times of Sandy and Lansana arriving late was unnecessary.

John asked if everyone had read the minutes and that with alterations they were a true record. Proposed Peter Gordon Smith seconded by Winn Linn.

4. Matters arising.

Litter Picking Mosstodloch

Peter B stated as the weather had been bad this last month, no litter picking had taken place.

5. Consultations.

Moray Proposed Development Plan. Peter B asked Margo was there anything new, Margo said that it will come up for full discussion but she did not know when.

Schools review.

Peter B said there was nothing new to report on this item.

6. Items for discussion.

Obnoxious Weeds

Jim stated that Giant Hogweed was growing rampant over the area,

Also Japanese Knotweed was also becoming a problem.

After discussing the Council decided that the secretary should write to the Council and ask what are their Powers regarding these weeds and what powers they have enforcing the removal of these weeds especially close to public lands and footpaths.

Also it might be a good idea to write to the Ministry of the Environment.

Margo said that this problem came up at Lennox CC meeting recently, and they said it was coming down the River Spey. Lennox is writing to the Crown estates to see what can be done there.

Teindland Right of Way.

Sandy said that a right of way, the Teindland road has been cut off, the water board had put gates up, thus stopping a right of way for residents in the area. The gates are locked. As it's a right of way no one has the powers to close it as far as Sandy is concerned.

Margo said that this is a moot point, the Earl of Seafield had managed to do it.

Liz pointed out that the Scottish water were legally entitled to do this.

The Forestry commission were planning to close the road at the bottom.

The reason Scottish water had taken this action was because of recent vandalism at the water treatment plant. Access was gained and could have led to access to the chemicals stored there.

Scottish water were having a security review and that gates are the first part of the security. They have apparently got a second phase, which they haven't divulged what they

are doing. Sandy has a key. Margo asked if some folk had access, Sandy said yes. The final gate owned by the Forestry Commission will have its own lock and only the Forestry Commission will have access. Margo said she will take it up.

Memorial Wreaths.

The meeting agreed to buy 5 wreaths for Memorial Day.

7. Information.

Planning Issues.

Nothing relevant.

Correspondence.

There was 2 letters 1 from Zero waste Scotland this was referred to file.

There was a Poster from Milnes Neighbourhood Forum advertising an open meeting.

The Second letter was from Jim Mackie addressed to the secretary referring to the Community Council working together. Jim was asked, did he want the letter to be discussed. Jim said he wanted the letter to be discussed as he had several points and suggestions that needed saying. As the letter was 6 pages long, it wouldn't be feasible to minute the whole letter, copies can be asked for by contacting the secretary.

John stated that as the public were present, the letter should be read out.

John asked Winn if she would agree to do this.

Liz proposed that this should be done as a private matter. As the letter would have to be minuted and made available to the public.

Jim referred to a letter received from Anita Milne written to the Community Council, he did not recollect any reference to it. Liz stated the letter was read out. Liz was referring to June 16th meeting.

Winn read the letter out.

As there were items referring to individual members of the CC, John said he would like individual responses from around the table.

This was agreed.

John said he was going to start the discussion. John stated he did not see anything constructive in that letter. His election as chairman was done democratically.

The suggestion that there was a meeting at John's house after the June meeting was wrong. There were several cars parked outside his house one being Peter Bush's as he had left it there.

After his statement John asked Sandy if he had something to say about the letter, Sandy replied the least said the better.

Liz asked if she could comment, she said she had contacted Tracey about the Moray Council not wanting to have any contact with Innes Community Council. Liz said that the statement Jim had made was totally incorrect Tracey has received a copy of the letter as reference. Liz stated she was never at a meeting held in Lhanbryde Hall in February, as she was at a funeral on that day burying her sister. Jim said he never mentioned her name, Liz replied that Jim had said in the letter all five of us were attending a secret meeting.

Jim said he was acting on information he had received. Jim apologised that Liz had been included.

Liz stated if you are going to make accusations Jim make sure you have the correct facts. She had raised the question of Mark, as she was covering his post as Treasurer and was wondering what was happening regarding his leave of absence. In regards to the meeting held at John's house, Anita Milne, Lansana and Sandy had seen her drive off home. I did not go to John's house.

Jim replied that someone in Garmouth had told him. John stated that someone in Garmouth did not know their facts.

Peter B asked how you can have a secret meeting in a public hall like the Lhanbryde Community Centre. There were people there in the hall. The meeting was a private meeting, and not a stitch up to elect Office bearers. I had booked the hall with the four of us to discuss the constitutional crisis we had found ourselves in and how it affected us.

Jim Stated that as far as he was concerned the meeting was secret as other members of the CC were not included. Peter B once again stated the meeting was to discuss the constitutional crisis, and how it affected us, and to seek a way out.

Jim replied ok. Peter B said we have to learn to work together Jim, if this Council is to survive we must try to do this, Jim said he agreed with that.

Winn said she wanted to make a statement too.

Her first reaction was to laugh, her second reaction was not to reply.

But a response was needed, the reason she was in this room right now was to represent Kingston on Innes Community Council. Since March 2012 Kingston has been the subject of much criticism by Mr Mackie, in the press, criticism of

Its resident's behaviour regarding dog walkers, rights of access, etc. However the concern of many in our small community was the comments referring to Incomers.

She had written one letter to the Northern Scot and one letter to the Press and Journal hardly a press onslaught compared to what Mr Mackie has written.

She was encouraged to stand for the Innes Community Council, by the residents of Kingston, to represent them. To try and get some sense into the debate. To represent people in her village where she lives.

She has been attacked by a member of this council on two occasions, which she has chosen to ignore

Peter GS asked if he could make a brief statement. This letter from Jim Mackie is all too familiar. In its tone and content and length. With a little thought it could have been reduced to a single page.

John asked had anyone else got anything to say about the letter.

Peter B stated that now is the time to put it to bed and start working together as a Community Council.

Jim replied this is what he has been trying to for the last year. Let us give it time and see how it goes, draw a line and let's work together as a Community Council.

8. AOCB

Winn said she had a couple of things to bring up, this is about the Shorey road, between Kingston and Garmouth. It has about a foot high of grass on either side of the road, she has received a complaint from a neighbour that she cannot push a buggy along the path due to the deep grass. She has to go into the road which is ok, except when getting out of the way of cars. And when it rains it is severely puddled. So it is a problem with people with buggies, or wheelchairs she asked if something could be done to improve the situation. Also is it possible to extend the 20mph speed limit along that road as well.

Margo replied that another resident has raised the same problem, she has already been in touch with the roads department about that very thing, and she will mention it again with the department.

The second one Winn wanted to bring up with Peter GS was the white lines at Bird watchers corner has improved the standard of driving, and the safety of that corner, he suggested white lines at the Bankhouse corner which is nearly as sharp and just as blind as Bird watchers corner. And from the old Church Hall through the chicane up to the car park.

Margo said she had mentioned these to the roads department but has had no reply as yet.

John thanked everyone for their attendance, the next meeting is on October 7th 2014
Garmouth Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 8:40 pm.

Chair

Secretary