

Innes Community Council

Minutes

4/11/2014 / 1900/ 2100 at Lhanbryde Community Centre

Be at the heart of
your community 

Chair: John Fettes

Community Councillors. Sec P.Bush Vice Chair L Bodman J Mackie. Lansana Bangura, Sandy Anderson, Winn Linn, Peter Gordon Smith.

In Attendance. Margo Howe MC. Jennifer Heatley SNH. Anita Milne and Gill Stewart.

Apologies. A Speake. D. Ross MC. Police.

1. Police Update.

The Secretary said he had emailed Alistair Bruce about the Change of Venue. JM mentioned that when you call 101 there is a 15p charge per call, it's not a free number.

2. Guest Presentation

John Introduced Jennifer Heatley from the SNH to give us a brief talk about INNS (Invasive Non-Native Species).

Jennifer said that there are a lot of none native species in the country that can grow alongside our own native species, there are some though that do damage to our native species, Giant Hogweed Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed.

It is estimated that it costs the Scottish economy £264 million per year, so it's not a small issue, so it's something the government takes seriously..

In 2012 we led the way in putting out a very comprehensive piece of legislation to control INNS, basically it looks at prevention other than cure. So we accept there is a problem.

The Scottish Government's approach to none-native species is guided by a 3 stage hierarchical approach.

1 Prevention, preventing introduction in the first place.

2. Rapid response, eradication to avoid the establishment of the species where prevention of introduction has failed and;

3. Control and containment to minimise impact where both prevention and eradication has failed and species is established.

Landowners can control these species on their land but action is usually taken only in areas where it may be interfering with estate activities such as fishing. Moray council has in the past controlled giant hogweed in areas where there are path networks and amenity spaces. A small amount of control is probably still carried out by the Council in select areas but generally resources for this are limited.

Jennifer went onto to say there are other organisations the we might like to be aware of that have a keen interest in managing and controlling INNS are the fishery trusts

	<p>The Spey's fishery trust is the Spey Foundation www.speyfisheryboard.com/spey-foundation/ .</p> <p>There is another organisation called RAFTS (Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland, which helps to coordinate the fishery trusts across Scotland and is seeking more funding for INNS management and they have a lot more information about giant hogweed and many other INNS that can be useful for people thinking about control. www.invasivespeciesscotland.org.uk/ .</p> <p>If people are concerned about the problem but feel unable to contribute to control directly, they can also submit records and sightings of INNS online that provides invaluable information on the distribution and extent of these species:- www.invasivespeciesscotland.org.uk/report-a-sighting/ .</p> <p>SNH's role is largely strategic and developing advice and guidance. They have published a new set of web pages to further advise and inform on changes in the legislation, www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/safeguarding-biodiversity/nonnative-species .</p> <p>There followed a brief question and answer session.</p> <p>JM pointed out that the legislation is weak, and there should be in place an act to force landowners to spray if its wild land or agriculture, land is owned by somebody and they should be made responsible for what is growing on it. If you look at the river trusts they are there to look at the river and the fish, and the ownership of fishing rights is not necessary tied to the land owners like the Crown Estates for example who own a lot more fishing rights on the Spey than anyone else.</p> <p>Jennifer said that she would hope a voluntary approach would persuade them rather than go down the legal route to force them to take action.</p> <p>John thanked Jennifer for a very informative presentation.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting</p> <p>Liz pointed out that there were a couple of spelling mistakes.</p> <p>JM said he put the apologies for Anita but he never saw them mentioned.</p> <p>Proposed LB Seconded WL With alterations</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Wreaths.</p> <p>The Secretary he had the Wreaths here for distribution.</p> <p>PB Mosstodloch, LB Lhanbryde. JM Urquhart, JF Garmouth. JM Airman's Grave Garmouth.</p> <p>Teindland right of Access.</p> <p>LB had met someone Brian Stacey from the Forestry Commission up on the road affected, the previous week. They have come back to Liz, and confirmed that Scottish Water had no plans to lock the bottom gate.</p>

	<p>INNS (Obnoxious weeds).</p> <p>The Secretary read out some responses he had received from letters he had written to the SWT, David Gowns Moray Council Consultancy Manager, and the secretary was waiting a further reply, most responses were the same.</p> <p>It was agreed by the meeting that the secretary should write to Crown Estates, and other Land owners and tour MSP and MP to get their views on INNS and see what they can do about it.</p> <p>Jim suggested a petition calling on the Scottish Government to pass legislation to make it compulsory for Landowners to destroy the INNs on their land.</p> <p>After discussion it was agreed that Jim should set up the petition and the petition will be reviewed at December's meeting.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Correspondence.</p> <p>The secretary had circulated correspondence out. As there were no comments, these were referred to file.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Treasurers Report</p> <p>Liz said since the last meeting we have set up the ICO direct debit, the cheque of £200 has been sent to the G & K Amenities, towards the cost of new notice boards which we will share.</p> <p>The other thing is the grant we receive from Moray Council for administration will be paid into the ICC account by BACS. The form we received has been sent back to the Moray Council and we are awaiting for the grant to be paid in. That's the report as it stands.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Community Feedback</p> <p>No feedback.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Reports. Moray Councillors</p> <p>Margo said that the next big thing to come up before the Moray Council is the West Road bypass on the 12th 13th and 14th November. The reason this is over 3 days is the amount of speakers.</p> <p>Jim asked Margo about a new salt depot somewhere, Margo replied it's not a new one its one "The Dome" Jim stated the A96 was the responsibility of BEARS and he is led to believe there are only 3 salt depots along the whole length of the A96. One in Aberdeen one in Inverness, and one in Keith. And if you look at the coverage of Keith to Inverness of over 50 miles you have lorries doing a 50 mile round trip running empty back to Keith and they are laying it barely thin to cover the more distance, and another thing they have been running is 6 wheeled trucks instead of 8 wheeled trucks. If they moved to 8 wheeled trucks they would get an extra 6 tons of salt on the load which will enable them to put the salt down heavier or run further with the extra. It needs something done by the Moray Council or Parliament.</p> <p>G&K Amenities.</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>

Milnes Neighbourhood Forum.

The secretary reported the MNF had their AGM recently. They had a good turnout, which was good to see. The police estimated there was a 1000 people on the march.

Paul Ralf was elected Chair, Fiona Rolt Secretary and Anita Milne Treasurer.

Anita reported they had good meeting regarding Footpaths, and the Moray Coastal Trail. A working Group has been formed to take it forward.

Save Milnes School Action Group March.

The secretary went on the march from Mosstodloch to the Fochabers Bridge, the turnout was impressive, it was well organised, the Fochabers Bridge was decorated with green and yellow ribbons and balloons.

Winn went to the Council offices on Monday morning, and she would like to say thank you to the three Councillors for coming out onto the steps to meet the petitioners and accept the petition, and I would like to see it minuted, to say thank you to Margo, Douglas and Sean, for all their hard work on this campaign. Thank you to all concerned because we have got Milnes High School.

The secretary said when the community gets together and speaks with one voice they can be a very powerful weapon.

Margo said she has appreciated everything the community has done, because without that she doesn't think we would have won that.

Elgin is bursting at the seams and this must be a priority now.

9. Planning Issues.

Other than that nothing more of importance has come through.

Brown Muir. The secretary said he had received a letter and cd from Vento Ludens regarding the Wind farm on Brown Muir.

He had passed the cd with the plans on it over to Liz.

Liz said that the Brown Muir Plans were in for verification. The secretary wondered if it would be an idea to set a subgroup to look at it.

Jim mentioned it might be a good idea to find out how much subsidy per turbine they will be receiving, at the end of the day its sustainability and how much subsidy they get. Jim was wondering if the project would be sustainable without the subsidy. That has to come into it as part of the public discussion.

Liz pointed out that a new Wind farm policy has come in from Moray Council with changes to the original policy, one being Brown Muir has been designated a Landmark Hill.

Jim suggested it might be a good idea to get community groups together to find out their views regarding the wind farm.

The community could come in with one community response towards the planning application.

	<p>Liz pointed out that it could be a possibility that we might have to call a meeting to discuss this, as we are not meeting in January.</p> <p>Margo pointed out that it might be a good idea to raise this at the JCC meeting on November 13th.</p> <p>After a brief discussion it was agreed the Secretary would contact Community Groups and the JCC to hold a joint meeting to exchange views regarding Brown Muir.</p>
10	<p>Consultations.</p> <p>Nothing that hasn't been discussed</p>
11	<p>The Joint Community Council of Moray</p> <p>The minutes and agendas had been circulated</p> <p>The next meeting is to be held on November 13th. John and the secretary would attend, anyone else can go as observers, and Jim said he might go.</p>
12	<p>AOCB</p> <p>The Scottish Rural Parliament.</p> <p>The Secretary mentioned that Liz had applied to sit on the Scottish Rural Parliament and had been selected to sit on it. The secretary would like to propose that Liz represent the ICC. Jim stated he had also had applied to sit on the Scottish Rural Parliament. It was agreed that the ICC was a rural community council and representation was justified more than the urban areas sitting on the Parliament. This was left on the table for further discussion.</p> <p>Drop in Clinics.</p> <p>Liz raised the subject of the Community Council holding drop in clinics in Lhanbryde and Mosstodloch. The idea being that if anyone within the community had a problem they could raise it with the Community Council and we could raise it on their behalf. Thus raising the profile of the Community Council.</p> <p>Jim stated a one off newsletter and minutes posted widespread around the area should let people know where we are. Also there is the Social Media that can be utilised.</p> <p>After a brief discussion it was decided that Drop in Clinics would not work, several ideas were put forward and will be followed up.</p> <p>The Secretary raised an issue brought to his attention by Anne Speake who unfortunately could not attend tonight's meeting.</p> <p>The secretary read out an email outlining the problem that has arisen over email communication, Anne mentioned that a key worker had been on holiday and when she came back found a memo advising her of a drop in that was being organised over the next two days, When Anne found out about this she had phoned round and discovered that no one else had any knowledge of this drop in, which was to do with SDS. Anne is a volunteer working with children who have special needs. Anne was</p>

concerned that the people who would have benefited from this Drop in knew nothing about this.

Anita said that this was an ongoing problem, and has been raised with the CEG and with the MC Convenor, it wouldn't hurt if it came from the Community council.

Margo said she would take this up with the department concerned.

Jim pointed out that Grampian NHS is not providing a home chiropody service to the elderly any more due to the cutbacks. The elderly now are expected to visit the Chiropody service provided by the local doctor's practices.

Margo said that Anita had brought up several issues to do with the health service at Dr Grays it was brought up in the MC chamber, the Convenor, A member of the Health Board from Dr Grays would come to the Council and speak to the chamber, but up to now that has never happened. Margo is going to remind the Convenor of this.

There is now a partnership between the Moray Council Social dept. And Grampian Health Board, It is now becoming an integrated service.

Margo said that Pat Gowan is the new head of the board.

Invitees to speak at Future meetings.

The secretary mentioned that after the last Milnes Neighbourhood forum AGM, Liz and he had discussed inviting John Ferguson or Ian Todd to the next ICC meeting to discuss the different roles of the ICC and the MNF, Liz suggested it might be a good idea to hold a joint meeting.

The secretary phoned and asked John Ferguson his thoughts, John thought it was a good idea and to let him know the date of the meeting and he will arrange something.

The secretary emailed Fiona Rolt secretary of MNF for her thoughts on the joint meeting, he received a reply from Paul Ralph who said it was a great idea, but can we leave it until the new year.

Anita Said that was what Ian Todd was going to talk about at the MNF AGM but unfortunately he was ill so couldn't attend.

She also said it might be a good idea to invite Lennox CC to join in the discussion with ICC and MNF

Jim suggested as the MNF has got that in hand and are organising it the two Community Councils would be invited to the Joint meeting.

Jim apologised to Anita for dropping her into it but Anita stressed that Fiona would be organising it.

The secretary raised the idea of inviting other speakers to future meetings of the ICC such as SEPA to talk about the flood warning system.

.Jim mentioned that SEPA had said the flood waters were receding and Moray Council warned the flood waters were rising.

	<p>Peter GS mentioned that he had had 3 warnings from SEPA since the last ICC meeting warning him that a flood alert was on from the Garmouth viaduct down to the mouth of the River Spey, so it is working.</p> <p>Jennifer said that the Dingwall SEPA office might be our best bet to invite someone to a meeting.</p> <p>The secretary said that Anne had mentioned a speaker to talk about the SDS at a future meeting.</p> <p>Margo said they had a briefing from them and it was very good. The secretary said that if the meeting was interested he could arrange this.</p> <p>Jim said that this could be co-ordinated with MNF and Lennox as this covers a wide area. And it would be better to have a speaker to talk to a larger audience than a small one. And if it's the ICC that's organising it, it would open up our profile to a larger audience.</p> <p>Sandy raised the problem with Lhanbryde Bridge and wanted to know what was wrong there? He was referring to the road under the bridge flooding, It was closed today, and he was wondering what was causing the flooding there.</p> <p>Margo went onto a site visit the day before, Sandy said he think there is a pump there and the pump was out of action, he said the flooding had started since the creek flooded.</p> <p>Margo said she will look into it.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 2100, John thanked everyone for their contribution and attendance.</p>
13	2/12/2014, 1900 Lhanbryde Community Centre
	<p>Chair</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Secretary</p>