

Dyke Landward Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 6 May 2015 at 7.30pm in Dyke Village Hall

1. Present

Carol Shaw (Chair) (CAS)
Steve Arkley (Treasurer) (SA)
Alistair Sutherland (Vice-Chair) (AS)
Arnold Boyle (AB)
David Shaw (DS)
John Bonsall (JB)

In attendance

Christine MacLeod (Secretary) (CM), Cllr. Anne Skene (The Moray Council) (Cllr AS).

Apologies

Jane Foster

2 Police Report

CS had received a report that afternoon. There had been only 8 incidents, including 2 reported crimes in the DLCC area between 1 April and 6 May, both on 17 April: one concerned unruly dogs in the Culbin Forest, the other a theft of money from an unattended handbag at business premises in Brodie. There was a brief discussion of the growing potential for conflict between dog owners and horse riders in the Culbin Forest.

Action CM will circulate the report to CC members.

3 Minutes of Last Meeting(s)

Minutes of the 3 meetings on 1 April (at 17.00, 18.45, and 19.30) were agreed and signed off by the Chair. CM thanked DS for taking the minutes in her absence, especially given the difficulty of recording a fast-moving public meeting.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Brodie Pond: AS reported that 'pedestrians crossing' signs have been erected as requested; he understands that NTS is still considering how best to fence off some of the unofficial parking areas. CS has asked Tracey Rae (TR) about temporary speed cameras at the two entrances to Dyke: TR has forwarded her request to The Moray Council (TMC), but so far with no response.

Local Development Plan (LDP): DS spoke to the LDP report recently sent to DLCC by TMC. It mainly concerns the contributions that developers are required to make to local communities when they plan large construction projects, e.g. provision for additional school places, or more playground equipment. AS commented that developers are increasingly circumventing the threshold of 10 houses by proposing a series of smaller schemes. Cllr AS

remarked that TMC is trying to follow the strict national criteria in administering this aspect of the LDP, and she will report back to TMC about developers' exploitation of this loophole.

Dualling of A96 CAS encouraged everyone to attend the meeting and exhibition about this, in Forres, on 12 May; she will provide a poster for public display.

5 Treasurer's Report

SA reported that the balance of DLCC's account is presently £1137.23; invoices for use of Dyke village hall were paid up to date.

6 A96 at Brodie

CAS invited comments on Stephen Davies's (Transport Scotland) response to issues raised at the meetings on 1 April. His report covered only 5 issues; items 6 and 7, concerning the speed limits, would follow once the necessary surveys had been done. It was agreed that the report failed to address several issues to the DLCC's satisfaction: HGVs pulling out of Brodie Countryfare; burger van's unauthorised parking in layby east of Brodie, especially his customers blocking access to layby and nearby houses; the problem for slower residents, especially a wheelchair user, crossing the A96; Stagecoach's buses standing at eastbound stop for several minutes if early, and thereby blocking visibility for cars emerging onto A96 at level-crossing junction (perhaps wait at another stop?); safety barriers to prevent cars veering off road into residents' gardens; daily shunts of cars turning into Old Mill Inn's car park; lack of street lighting. AS mentioned a further problem he'd recently witnessed: a bin lorry stopping in middle of A96 in order to reverse slowly into the lane beside the Old Brodie Hall, which must happen weekly. The problems are under-rated because only the most serious incidents require reports to Police Scotland. CllrAS stressed the importance of a detailed reply to SD, preferably with photos of bin lorry manoeuvring and wheelchair user waiting to cross, etc; it will be necessary to be persistent and persevere.

Action: CAS will draft a reply for CM to circulate to all DLC councillors for their comments; in order to reply to SD (also *Forres Gazette*) by 13 May. Ideally someone at Brodie should be recruited to note and photograph every incident

7 Malicious damage to verge at Conicavel

AB reported that, last year, a resident of Conicavel had been seen in protective clothing spraying the verge outside his house with a herbicide; the verge belongs to TMC. AB has reported the incident to TMC because the grass on the verge has failed to regrow, leaving it both unsightly and potentially dangerous to road users because of mudslides. Since TMC has taken no action, he would like DLCC to raise the matter with TMC.

Action: CM will draft letter to TMC suggesting it writes to the resident (unnamed but name is known to AB) requiring him to reseed the verge at his own expense.

8 Correspondence

Scottish Orienteering Championships 2015: Mike Rodgers wishes to address the DLCC, ideally at a public meeting, to raise awareness of the SOC events.

Action CAS will reply, offering him a 10 minutes (maximum) slot, at the start of DLCC's meeting on 3 June; any public meeting must be MR's own responsibility to arrange and fund, on a separate occasion.

Moray Drug and Alcohol Partnership: SA remarked that the document circulated was vague and meaningless, its statistics contextualized by neither national comparisons nor trends over time. **No action.**

Community Engagement Group: CAS commented that attendance by anyone from DLCC was impossible since both groups meet on the first Wednesday of the month.

National Confidential Forum: CAS felt the news release was better directed at the local press. **Action** CM will mention it and its website in the short minutes (for public notice boards).

TSI training programme: noted that it contained nothing closely relevant to DLCC activities.

Working Together meeting, 20 April: nobody from DLCC attended.

Action CM will circulate its contents (received since DLCC agenda circulated), and reply to TR's email.

CllrAS remarked that the 4 Forres councillors on TMC will meet later this month to discuss the Moray Local Plan 2015: issues included a new development east of Forres, which the Examiner had recently approved subject to certain conditions; first, however, was almost certain to be a new railway station for Forres, which would require better access into the industrial estate (presently via the level crossing) and likely open up the Waterford area.

9 Community Feedback

CM suggested that Dyke and Brodie might follow the example of Kintessack in erecting a map of their respective villages, showing the position of individual cottages. She was often asked by bewildered delivery drivers and other visitors about particular addresses but, being a newcomer, was rarely able to help. CAS and DS responded that a plan of Dyke was available in the porch of Delft Cottage, and a public map would become out-of-date as new properties were built; the CC's regular budget was solely for administrative uses. CllrAS commented that any accrued money could be used for this sort of project; TMC's Planning Dept (via TR) should hold an up-to-date plan of the villages. **No action.**

10 Reports (a) Local Councillors

CllrAS said little of note had happened over the past month. However, TMC was about to tackle the question of how to make the £15million annual savings necessitated by the reduced budget allowed it by the Scottish Government, at the behest of Westminster's austerity programme. Every department of TMC and every Moray resident will be affected. Councillors will work in department committees together with TMC officials to identify possible savings by the end of June; it will be especially difficult given that large savings were already made in 2012; only tomorrow's Westminster elections offered any hope of reprieve. Since Council Tax raised only 13% of TMC's income, its capping had not been significant.

CAS asked why TMC was contributing financially to the new ice-making plant for the skating rink while withdrawing support for the Forres hydrotherapy pool. CllrAS explained that they were very different situations, the pool being a private venture to which TMC had no obligations, while the ice-rink was part of an agreement with Moray Leisure at Elgin that TMC was locked into until 2018.

AS asked how TMC could hope to attract more teachers to Moray in the current financial circumstances. CllrAS replied that Moray is already short of 73 teachers and has no supply teachers, requiring heads and deputy heads to cover for absences, while some subject specialists were working, 3:30 to 6:00pm, unpaid in other schools which lacked specialist teachers; this was clearly unsustainable. She hoped the situation might be alleviated by a new scheme that was offering free accommodation for 6 months to incoming teachers. Also, the GTCS is reviewing its requirement for teachers trained in England to spend 12 months retraining for registration in Scotland. This might encourage army spouses from Kinloss to resume their teaching careers.

AB expressed concern that the TMC's sale of advertising space on its roundabouts, e.g. in front of the Victoria Hotel in Forres, might be a traffic hazard via obstructed visibility and/or distraction. CllrAS said she would look into it, starting on her drive home.

11 Planning Issues

DS reported that there was only one application in DLCC's area: a bungalow at Loanhead to be demolished and the plot divided into two for rebuilding. He thought it posed no issues.

12 Joint Community Council of Moray (JCC)

No DLC councillor will be able to attend the next meeting of the JCC on 14 May.

Action CM will send apologies to TR.

There was some discussion about the appropriateness of community councillors meeting on a Moray wide basis: do Buckie or Keith need to know what's happening in DL and vice versa? There was support for CllrAS's suggestion that a quarterly ASG meeting (DLCC, Forres, and Findhorn/Kinloss) would be more useful, and CAS will raise it with TR.

12 AOCB

None.

13 Date and Time of Next Meeting of DLCC

Wednesday, 3 June 2015, at 7:30pm, in Dyke Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 9:00pm.