



Minutes of the Meeting of Inverurie Community Council (ICC) Held in St Mary's Centre, Inverurie on Monday, 15th May 2017 at 7.15pm

Present: Ron Reid (Chair), Eric Simpson (Secretary), Archie Peebles (Treasurer), Martin Auld, Alison Auld, Tracey Skene, Josh MacRae, Mary Simpson, John Sangster, John Glover, Richard Cowling, Mike Heberton

In attendance: Cllr Whyte, Cllr Baillie, Cllr Ewenson. PC Steve Middleton

Apologies: Jane Summersgill,

Minutes of the previous meeting, 17th April 2017:– Proposed by Archie Peebles and Josh MacRae

Matters arising:

- Bass Cemetery Railings - Community Council expressed concern that no progress had been made on the start of works. **Chair to action**
- Harlaw Centre – Council challenged Councillors on an update on the situation around the Harlaw Centre

Police report: PC Middleton updated the Community Council on recent monthly Crime Statistics in the Inverurie area. See attached report. PC Middleton then went on to detail the recent instances of disorder in Inverurie that have been the subject of press and media attention and of real concern to community as a whole. He went to reassure Council that the Police have increased foot and vehicle Patrols within the Town Centre and at the railway station and are working very closely with several partner agencies to prevent a repetition. This will include Police liaison with Schools and community groups such as Scouts etc. PC Middleton emphasised that part of this message to the younger community was the consequences of having a criminal record and the impact on any career that it could have should they be convicted of any offences as a result of been involved in the disorder. PC Middleton then addressed questions from the floor and wished to reassure the Community Council that Inverurie is a very safe community to reside in and that such outbreaks of disorder are very rare and will be dealt with by the full force of the law. The Chair thanked PC Middleton for his Police Report and he left the meeting

Councillors report:

Secretary's note: Councillors *questions* have been replaced with Councillor's *report* as an initiative to make this item less of an inquisition of our four local representatives, but more of a means for them to consult with us and seek our involvement in the work that they do on behalf of the community.

The Chair welcomed the new Councillors present to the Community Council and thanked all outgoing Councillors for their work and support over the last year and thanked the other candidates who stood at the recent local elections. As the Councilors had just taken office and had yet to convene there was no Cllrs update. There were two matters that the Council wished the Councillors to review

- Lampposts – The removal of the old lampposts across the Town Centre that have been left in situ when replacements have been installed
- Street Paving – The poor condition of street paving in the Town Centre by goods vehicles driving and parking on the footpaths. Could bollards be erected to prevent reoccurrence and increase pedestrian safety

Cllrs to action

Hustings:

With the success of the hustings at the recent local election it was agreed that Community Council would host another in relation to the General Election 2017. This will be held at Kintore Arms Hotel on 24th May at 7pm. A subcommittee of Josh, Archie and Ron was agreed to action

Community Council Projects:–

- Cllr Baillie updated the Council Meeting on the BID project on which he had been a member of the steering group. Ballot Papers had now been distributed with a Ballot Date of 22nd June. This was a very exciting opportunity for the Inverurie businesses and community groups to partner the local authority and other agencies enhancing the town centre that will benefit the wider community. A question on the recent media article on the proposed plan for the area immediately outside the Town Hall was addressed as an artist's impression and work in progress and would be picked up by BID if there was successful outcome of Ballot. AP paid tribute to the work by the IEI on the wonderful delivery of the hanging baskets and floral displays across the town which was endorsed by all present
- Josh MacRae updated the meeting on the Inverurie Tapestry project. Unfortunately due to ill health of a key member the project team there has been a delay
- With the success of the protection of the Standing Stones within the Bass Cemetery, Mike Heberton raised whether Community Council could look at a leaflet on Inverurie Historic Walks as a project detailing the history and points of interest across the Town. This could be in conjunction with both the Council Archaeologist and BID team. It was agreed that a subcommittee of MH,ES,JM and AA to meet and discuss further **MH to action**
- Fiona Peebles updated meeting on the Twinning project. Schools have been contacted to design a Logo for bags. There was frustration around the slow progress on proposed "Twinning" road signs for the A96 and that an appeal had now been forwarded to Transport Secretary. Martin Auld outlined the legal responsibilities around Trunk Roads by BEAR and B Roads by the Local Authorities
- Xmas Festival – ES informed Council that a subcommittee of Inverurie Events is in place to deliver and will update on progress at next meeting **ES to action**

Correspondence:–

Archie reported the correspondence circulated until AGM

Planning matters:–

Archie reported that all Garioch area weekly planning lists, as received from Aberdeenshire Council had been circulated with exception of recent one. Cllr Ewenson gave a brief detail on content for meeting

Any Other Competent Business:–

John Glover reported on the work by the IEI and the submission of an entry for Inverurie in the Keep Scotland Beautiful competition. There are three categories which are to be addressed as part of the submission and John and the team are looking for input by the Community Council and other agencies to support the submission. There was also a requirement of a deep clean of the town centre to remove chewing gum, road grit etc. Additional planters will be positioned across the town and both of these will have financial implications to IEI. The IEI are working with several partners such as Mens Shed, Pitscurry Project and Aden Park that will all be required to help with the management and care of the planters. John explained the importance that a route for the Judging Team had to be confirmed and that there were some challenges along possible routes namely, removal of lampposts, river walks to be reinstated and the eyesore of the Harlaw Centre. Going forward John explained the overall financial support from BID rather than individual donations by businesses. John was thanked by the Chair for his update and continued success with IEI

Richard Cowling reported that the Council do have access to a top up budget that could be used to address and assist with the Keep Scotland Beautiful submission to help address the financial implications and work that Council may be required to action. Agreed that Community Council will write to Council seeking support to the IEI submission **Chair to action**

Mary Simpson had intimated at the AGM that this would be her last Community Council and there was a unanimous vote of thanks and recognition of her time and contribution on Council

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:30pm.

Secretary's Note: Meetings in 2017: Jun 19th, Aug 21st, Sep 18th, Oct 9th, Nov 20th, Dec 18th.

Next meeting: – 19th June 2017