



## **Minutes of the Meeting of Inverurie Community Council (ICC) Held in St Mary's Centre, Inverurie on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 7.15pm**

**Present:** Ron Reid (Chair), Eric Simpson (Secretary), Archie Peebles (Treasurer), Martin Auld, Alison Auld, Tracey Skene, Josh MacRae, John Sangster, Mike Heberton, Jane Summersgill

**In attendance:** Cllr Whyte, Cllr Baillie, Cllr Ewenson. PC Steve Middleton, John Glover – IEI, Dawn Brown - Garioch Partnership, Mary Simpson, Christy Annand, Mike Barron, George Niblock

**Apologies:** Colin Clark, Fiona Peebles

**Minutes of the previous meeting, 17th April 2017:**– Proposed by Josh MacRae and Mike Heberton

### **Matters arising:**

There were no matters arising

**Police report:** PC Steve Middleton updated the Community Council Meeting with a detailed report. See attached Police Report June Meeting 2017

### **Aberdeenshire Council Roads and Landscape Services**

The Chair then welcomed Brian Strachan Roads and Landscape Area Manager for Inverurie to the meeting following on recent Community Council concerns on lack of repair work to the Bass Cemetery. Brian introduced himself to the meeting with a brief background on his role and responsibilities and addressed several areas of concern

- Bass Cemetery – The delay in repair was a result of pricing issues which have been resolved and with a new Council Contractor in place – FES (Forth Electrical Services) it is hoped that the work to both the cemetery wall and railings will be completed by late summer. Additionally vermin control has been stepped up to reduce the growing rabbit population that is causing damage in the immediate vicinity to the cemetery
- BS intimated that the old lampposts in the town centre will be removed by late summer **BS to action**
- Cllr Whyte expressed concern that the Davidson Park bund had not been grassed post rebuild and been left fallow with a possibility of soil erosion **BS to action**
- ES requested that the footpath alongside the bund be fully reinstated along entire length **BS to action**
- Giant Hogweed alongside river banks is being sprayed when the weed reaches a particular size in an attempt to eradicate. BS stated that Council only had responsibility for combatting weed control and treatment on Council land and not private land. This was challenged by MA who stated that Council can approach private land owners where Hogweed is growing and spraying seed downriver to address the source and remove the weed. This work can be done at land owner's expense or by council who then cost work to land owner. **BS to clarify**
- Aberdeenshire Council have had concrete blocks placed around environs of Harlaw Centre to prevent further access to travelling community who have in general now moved to council land at Blythwood Port Elphinstone. Council will soon access the land for maintenance and grass cutting when last travelling caravan has departed. It is hoped that the Harlaw Centre demolition date will be around August/September

BS then addressed the meeting on the announcement of major road improvement works on the Oldmeldrum Road resulting in the closure of the railway bridge to all vehicular traffic w/c 14<sup>th</sup> August. ES intimated that he had written to BS on the matter with one comment requesting signage on A96 to divert HGV and traffic away from town centre onto diversion route. **BS to action**

BS then took questions from the meeting on a number of concerns from Councillors, IEI and public

GN - Weed management throughout the town is very poor on both footpaths and planted beds

MB – Council must have a consistent approach to landscape maintenance. MB stated that the service provided by Council in Inverurie was a disgrace. Planted areas are neglected across the town and a eyesore. MB did identify areas that had some winter work completed such as Blackhall Road and Burghmuir Drive but others named as a disgrace were Station Road, Westfield Gardens and Stonyfield Place. Photographs of the neglect were distributed.

Grass cutting was a huge area of concern where public parks were cut badly with grass deposited back onto the cut area. In some instances litter was not removed prior to cutting and shredded adding to neglect. MB stated that he had met with management who had promised that grass cutting would be supervised but this is not happening.

JG Chair of the IEI informed meeting on progress to the Scotland in Bloom competition in which Inverurie had entered. Working with Council services it had been identified what had to be addressed prior to judging. The town centre will be focal point but stressed that the entire town is part of the community and will be involved. Judging will take place on TUESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> AUGUST between 2 – 4pm.

Again it was mentioned that grass cutting was poor with no edging work completed. MB and GN indicated that there were alternative methods of grass cutting and collection and that these should be looked at urgently

JG intimated that there is support in place from Council but a long way to go to achieve desired level of landscape services provided.

AP highlighted danger of uneven footpath along High Street to both wheelchair and buggy users  
ES made concerns on high grass verges along the hospital to Polinar Dam road which was heavily used by pedestrians, runners and cyclists and was a serious road hazard

Overall it was agreed that the standards of landscape services within Inverurie had deteriorated in the last few years and that the existing model was broken and required action. The town centre and immediate environs were grubby and neglected and the CILrs present agreed to action the concerns of the Community Council meeting

It was agreed that BS would communicate with ES on action points with timescales where appropriate and regular updates to address the above concerns

## Chair Report

RR then updated meeting on a number of matters that had arisen since last Meeting

- Greggs Baker Application – RR and ES had submitted a letter of concern to Council on the planning application following feedback from some CC members. John Sangster voiced concern on this intimating that the application would create jobs and that the concerns were not ground to object. It was noted that future “objections” would be minuted at CC Meetings before submission to Council
- LDP – Request by Aberdeenshire Council to attend CC Meeting on the Local Development Plan. Agreed to hold separate meeting early November **ES to action**
- Constitution – RR reported that having submitted our revised Constitution post AGM it had been suggested by Area Manager to defer until post creation of the Scheme of Establishment. RR proposed to ratify and approve the ICC Constitution to allow introduction of Standing Orders and that any required further changes could be made after final SoE had been published. This was agreed and the subcommittee to address and report back at August Meeting **Sub Committee to action**
- Bass Cemetery – Letter had been written and this had now been addressed with visit by Brian Strachan
- Bennachie Toilets – Intimation by Aberdeenshire Council of closure. Although a Bennachie CC matter the toilets would be used extensively by many of the Inverurie Community. Agreed to leave to Bennachie CC to address
- BID Meeting – Invitation to BID Declaration on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. John Sangster to attend on behalf of ICC
- Inverurie Campus Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June at St Andrews. RR to check if he can attend

## Secretary Report

ES updated meeting with the correspondence sheet that had been distributed. There were only a few matters for attention of the Meeting

- Strathburn Cottage Planning Application – Agreed that Community Council would continue its objection based on increased traffic concerns and over development for area **RR/ES to action**
- Mark Ruskell – Seeking support for reduction on default speed limit on restricted roads from 30mph to 20mph. Agreed to support the consultation **ES to reply**
- Scottish Flood Forum Meeting – Invitation to attend meeting in Perth. Cllr Whyte intimated that Community Council should support the forum and engage the Inverurie Flood Prevention Group and at same time investigate a local resilience programme similar to other local community groups. It was agreed that IFPG to be asked to attend meeting and that some funding be made available to them to attend meeting.  
ES to forward detail to Cllr Baillie to liaise with IFPG

## Treasurers Report

AP reported that the accounts from the AGM remain outstanding. DB of Garioch Partnership intimated that this could be completed by 30<sup>th</sup> June

AP reported following expenditure since last meeting

- £40 – Room Hire Kintore Arms – GE Hustings
- £150 – PA Hire for above
- £50 x 2 – Room Hire at St Marys Church Hall for ICC Meetings

Outstanding Balance in Account £5485.14

John Sangster intimated that the ICC held too much money within the account and that it should be spent on local support. This was agreed by all but it was important to understand true bank balance prior to commitments

## Garioch Partnership

DB introduced herself and intimated that the Garioch Partnership had begun the process of a Community Transfer Asset in relation to the Market Place Primary School building when the school migrates to Uryside later 2017

The purpose of this was to create a community third sector hub for use across the Inverurie community. At this time it was at first stage application

## Councillors Report

The Councillors present gave ICC an update post Election

- Colin Clark was successful as candidate for GE2017 and this will mean by-election in Inverurie
- Cllrs now been appointed onto Policy Committees **Cllrs to forward information to ES**
- Council celebrated Armed Forces Day 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017
- Update on Community Campus and integration of St Andrews School
- ANM has won appeal as reported in local press
- New A/Shire Council HQ – More information to follow
- St Andrews School – Stakeholders to meet regarding migration to Campus

## Community Council Projects

JM thanked ICC for their support in both recent Hustings at Kintore Arms and the importance of engaging candidates with the community

MH updated meeting on recent subcommittee meeting on Standing Stones in which Council officers looking at various funding options to place Stones back into Bass Cemetery post treatment and that a tender was to be placed for a design. Additionally it was agreed that the subcommittee would engage with Garioch Heritage Society to progress discussion on the proposed Heritage Trail

AOB

ES asked how best ICC could engage with the numerous groups within the community such as, BID, Uryside, Inverurie Events. Consensus was that if BID successful then the ICC would be formally involved as a stakeholder

With no further AOCB the Chair thanked everyone for attendance and the meeting closed at 9.30pm

**Next Meeting - MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 7.15PM at St Marys Church Hall**

*Secretary's Note: Meetings in 2017: Aug 21<sup>st</sup>, Sep 18<sup>th</sup>, Oct 9<sup>th</sup>, Nov 20<sup>th</sup>, Dec 18<sup>th</sup>.*