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|  | **INVERURIE** **COMMUNITY COUNCIL** |  |

 **Minute of the Meeting of Inverurie Community Council (ICC)**

**Held in St Mary’s Centre, Inverurie on**

**Monday 20th August 2018 at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Community Councillors Josh MacRae (Chair), George Petrie (Vice Chair), John Smith (Secretary), Jane Summersgill (Treasurer), Alison Auld, Martin Auld, Mike Hebenton, Rae Jardine, Archie Peebles, Fiona Peebles, Ron Reid, John Sangster, Steve Russell, Heather Watt, Colin Wood.

Councillors Neil Baillie, Lesley Berry, Marion Ewenson, Judy Whyte.

**In attendance:** Christy Annand (Inverurie Advertiser), Lynne Copland, Galen Will, Nom Wright.

**Apologies:** Gillian Martin MSP

**Welcome**

The Chair welcomed all Community Councillors, Councillors and members of the public to the monthly meeting.

He informed the meeting that there would not be a presentation from Alex Malley (Grampian Postcard Club) due to family reasons. It is hoped that such a presentation can be arranged for a future meeting.

**Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made in relation to the business shown on the agenda.

**Minute of Previous Meeting (18th June 2018)**

Page 1 of the previous minute showed that ICC had not objected to the planning application for McDonalds. ICC did object to this application, but there was confusion surrounding sources quoted in the Inverurie Advertiser. The Chair apologised to the Inverurie Advertiser for any inconvenience caused.

A typing error was corrected in page 2 under AOCB, in relation to Inverurie and ‘District’ Councillors.

Fiona Peebles, seconded by John Sangster, proposed that the amended minute from the previous meeting be accepted as an accurate record of proceedings. This was **agreed**.

**ICC Laptop**

Ron Reid had been in touch with AO.com as he used a personal credit card to purchase the ICC laptop. Financial protection is provided under Section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act 1974, if the item is for personal use. This protection is not provided if the item is for business use. Following negation, AO agreed to a 55% refund on the laptop. The arrangements for this will be discussed between Josh, John and Ron, outside of the meeting.

ACTION: Josh MacRae, John Smith, Ron Reid.

A new laptop was purchased from Currys PC World for £419.98, with a three-year insurance package. George Petrie purchased the new laptop, and the Community Council **agreed** to reimburse George the full amount.

**Police Report**

The Community Council **agreed** to the Chair’s request to take this item earlier in the agenda.

A copy of the Police Report can be found at the end of this minute.

Councillor Ewenson informed the meeting that a phone scam is taking place in Inverurie and encouraged Community Councillors to spread awareness of this.

Police Scotland advised the meeting that if any residents are subject to such a scam, they should hang up contact 101.

**Review Report**

The Community Council **agreed** to take this item in private.

A finalised list of approved recommendations will be circulated to Community Councillors.

**Councillors Report**

Councillor Whyte informed the meeting that there will be rezoning of local primary school catchment areas.

Inverurie and District Councillors also informed the Community Council that there would be various site visits of at the next Garioch Area Committee.

**ICC Accounts**

Archie Peebles provided an update on the current financial position.

The bank balance to July was £3474.41.

The outstanding expenditure yet to go through the account is the new laptop (£419.98) and meeting room hire (£80.00).

The current balance in the account is £3474.41.

The Chair gave formal notice of an Emergency General Meeting to be held at 7pm on 17th September 2018 to approve the accounts from the last financial year.

**Community Council Projects**

Heritage Trail

Mike Hebenton gave a report on the continued progress of the Heritage Trails project. The Community Council **agreed** to continue to allocate £1000 in support of this project.

Tapestry

Josh stated that he was no longer in a position to continue on this project, given his responsibility as Chair, and recommended that it be shelved, unless there was a volunteer to take the lead. No volunteer was forthcoming. The Community Council **agreed** to shelve the tapestry project.

Groupfest

Fiona gave an update on the preparations for Groupfest, which is scheduled to take place in the Town Hall on Saturday 3rd November 2018.

This event is designed to bring community groups together in Inverurie and share ideas with the town.

The Community Council **agreed** to establish a working group to organise the event:

 Groupfest Working Group

 Convener: Fiona Peebles

 Members: Steve Russell, Jane Summersgill, Heather Watt.

ACTION: Groupfest Working Group

Twinning

Fiona gave a report on the ceilidh night and other components of the visit from the Bagnères delegation in June. Fiona wished to thank the town, particularly local businesses, for their support and the warm welcome given to the French visitors. There was nothing to report since the visit.

**Planning and Licensing Matters**

Information on the latest planning and licensing applications were emailed to all members prior to the meeting.

The Community Council **agreed** to create a Planning and Licensing Committee to focus on duties as a statutory consultee:

 Planning and Licensing Committee

Remit: To review any and all planning and licensing applications made for the Inverurie Community Area and refer these to full Community Council, if further action is deemed necessary.

Members: Martin Auld, Ron Reid, Colin Wood.

Correspondence had been received in relation to the demolition of the abattoir outlined in APP/2014/2245. This correspondence was noted and the Community Council **agreed** to take no further action.

Steve raised a query surrounding APP/2018/1972 for 34 flats at the Foundry. The Community Council **agreed** to refer this to the Planning and Licensing Committee for further consideration.

**Reports from External Meetings**

Garioch and North Marr Safety Group

John Smith and Heather Watt attended the last meeting of the Garioch and North Marr Safety Group. Heather gave a report on some of issues discussed. The Community Council **agreed** that Heather would be the primary representative for the Community Council on this group.

Reach Programme

Heather told the meeting that she had been invited to conduct mock interviews for the Reach Programme, which aims to develop skills for work. This was commended by the Community Council.

Inverurie Environmental Improvement

Josh attended a meeting on 7th August with IEI and the judges from Keep Scotland Beautiful. Councillors Ewenson and Whyte were also in attendance. The Community Council wished to commend the IEI Group for maintaining the flower displays in the town.

MSP Town Connector Programme

Fiona and Heather met with Tom Mason MSP as part of his visit to Inverurie on 16th August. This visit was part of the Town Connector Programme which aims to bring MSPs closer to towns in their respective constituencies and regions.

**Representation on Inverurie Events**

Josh MacRae and John Smith attended the AGM of Inverurie Events on 24th July. A volunteer from the Community Council was sought for the Inverurie Events Committee and John Smith volunteered for this role on a temporary basis.

The Community Council **agreed** that Heather Watt would be the primary representative for the Community Council on the Inverurie Events Committee.

**Inverurie Health and Care Hub**

A written submission was received from Galen Will (Will Chemists) in relation to pharmaceutical provision at the new Inverurie Health and Care Hub, due to open on 27th August.

The Community Council **agreed** to support a request to the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership for specific space on the aforementioned site for pharmaceutical provision. The Secretary will contact Mr Will outside of the meeting to discuss this further.

ACTION: John Smith

**1745 Battle of Inverurie Cairn**

A written submission was received from Aaron Johnston (Director, Scottish Battlefields Trust) regarding the renovation of the cairn commemorating the Battle of Inverurie 1745. This cairn is situated between the River Don and the Keithhall Road, and was installed in 1999.

The Community Council **agreed** to work with Aaron Johnston to obtain more information on the proposed actions and the financial implications. The Secretary will contact Mr Johnston to discuss this further.

ACTION: John Smith

It was noted that Stuart Watson was involved in the writing of the cairn’s information board and may be able to provide further assistance.

ACTION: John Smith

**Reuse Connect Programme**

The Community Council received a written submission from Aberdeenshire Council on the Reuse Connect Programme.

The Community Council **agreed** to work with Aberdeenshire Council further on this.

There are a number of ongoing environment consultations from the Scottish Government. George and Martin agreed to draft responses to some of these.

ACTION: Martin Auld, George Petrie

**AOCB**

Community Asset Transfer – Former Market Place School

Rae Jardine raised the pending Community Asset Transfer proposal for Former Market Place School. A discussion was had, and it was noted that the Community Council had offered support for this proposal previously. As this support had been given more than six months ago, the decision was open to challenge.

A vote was taken on whether to continue support for the CAT.

 VOTE

Question: That the Community Council supports the Garioch Partnership Community Asset Transfer for Former Market Place School.

 For: 12

 Against: 0

 Abstentions: 3

The Community Council **agreed** to continue its support for the Former Market Place School Community Asset Transfer.

ICC Paperwork

The Secretary raised concerns over paperwork security, given that not all of this is held by a sitting Community Councillor. Ron agreed to contact a previous Secretary enquiring as to whether any information is still held.

ACTION: Ron Reid

**Date of Next Meeting and Close**

The next meeting will held on Monday 17th September in the St. Mary’s Centre, Inverurie.

The EGM will begin at 7pm, with ordinary business commencing thereafter.

The Chair thanked Community Councillors, Councillors and members of the public for their contributions and closed the meeting.

**Next Meeting:** 7pm, Monday 17th September 2018, St. Mary’s Centre, Inverurie.

**Remaining Meetings in 2018:** 15th October, 19th November, 17th December.



**Community Council Report**

This report covers progress we have made in dealing with your priorities for the Inverurie Community Council area during the period 16 July to 20 August 2018.

The report aims to highlight emerging issues in your area, and to provide crime prevention advice and guidance to Community Council members and residents you represent.  Our focus is to reduce crime and disorder, help create safer communities and respond effectively to local concerns.

**Community Policing Priorities**

**Antisocial behaviour, Violence and Disorder:**

5 individuals were charged with possession of a controlled drug and one further with being concerned in the supply of a controlled drug as the result of the execution of a drug search warrant in Inverurie.

Operation Bayswater continued this month with a further 9 early interventions carried out with youths involved in disorder. Further patrols will be carried out during the entirety of the summer holidays of the hot spot areas of Inverurie.

Operation Pine patrols were carries out where Criminal Justice Social Workers worked with officers during a Saturday late shift in Inverurie. These have helped to keep the levels of violent crime involving the licenced premises within Inverurie particularly low this month.

**Acquisitive Crime:**

A male was charged with 2 minor shoplifitngs from Co-cop on North Street, Inverurie.

A number of fuel drive-offs occurred in Inverurie during this review period, whilst these can often be genuine mistakes, these incident have been deliberate acts and are still under investigation.

Operation Magpie is a fore wide operation aimed at combating the threat posed by Acquisitive Crime through the division. This Divisional wide Strategy will involve the promotion of our Crime Prevention message, coordination of intelligence gathering, targeting of offenders and locations, and providing a visible Police presence in affected locations. We will continue to proactively heighten public awareness to reduce the risk of our communities becoming victims of Acquisitive Crime, and use local Police Officers and other specialists to target repeat offenders.

**Road Safety & road crime:**

During this reporting period, a number of fixed penalties were issued for no seatbelt, using a mobile phone and speeding. A motorist was charged with Dangerous driving after being stopped doing 114mph on the A96.

The Operation CEDAR (Challenge, Educate, Detect and Reduce) Strategy, which was initiated in Aberdeenshire, is now a pan Divisional approach to Road Safety.

Along with key partners in Aberdeenshire we will continue to be a stakeholder in the newly formed North East Scotland Road Casualty Reduction Strategy Group which strives to deliver improved outcomes for Road Safety throughout Grampian.

We will maintain a highly visible Police presence on key routes throughout Aberdeenshire, including the A90 and the A96, to influence driver behaviour.

**Community Engagement & Reassurance**

Anyone can be a victim of a bogus caller or rogue trader – so don’t let your doorstep be their marketplace.

That’s the message to every single homeowner and tenant in Scotland as Police Scotland launches a campaign to raise awareness under Operation Monarda.

Between April and September 2017, 336 victims of doorstep crime were defrauded out of around £420,000 across Scotland.  While most victims were considered vulnerable in some way (54%), or were of pensionable age (79%), a significant proportion were out with these groups which are traditionally targeted by such offenders.

Bogus callers will visit a property claiming to be from perhaps a utility company or a charity in order to gain access and steal from within.

Rogue traders offer services typically carried out to a poor standard at over inflated prices, and may use violence or threats to get payment or consent to carry out work – sometimes they will just take the money and do no work whatsoever.

During the campaign Police Officers in the North-east and across Scotland will be running events and stalls to speak to the public at key locations such as banks, garden centres and supermarkets, as well as events giving advice to partner organisations and their clients such as care providers, groups that support those with dementia, and Citizens Advice Scotland.

Community Councils can also help by taking the opportunity to speak with those residents within communities, particularly the elderly and those who may be vulnerable to this type of crime and highlight the dangers associated with bogus callers or rogue traders.  If in any doubt, just say no thanks and hang up or close the door.  Never give out personal details or banking information or agree to purchase items, irrespective how convincing the scam may be.

**Rural Watch Scotland**

'Rural Watch Scotland' is an extension of the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland movement and endorsed by  the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) and is aimed specifically at the rural communities of Scotland and aims to bring all the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch to all rural communities irrespective of location, size or demographics.

Rural watch is an online community for any member of the public where appeals, crime prevention tips and safety alerts can be posted by those who subscribe which can be viewed by all members. Subscription is free and the sharing of information on the forum is a great example of real time crime prevention in action.

The objectives of Rural Watch Scotland are to:

* Reduce crime and the fear of crime by providing the right information, to the right people, at the right time.
* Encourage people to think about safety and security for themselves, their neighbours and their community.
* Improve community cohesion and well-being by supporting communities to develop 'their watch, their way'.
* Work in partnership with national and local service providers to develop more resilient communities that are better prepared against threats, intentional or unintentional, such as crime or extreme weather.

The experience of Neighbourhood Watch throughout Scotland and elsewhere across the world is that members of Rural Watch Scotland will be less likely than non-members in the rural community to be a victim of crime.

By joining the Rural Watch Scotland scheme members can receive alerts and advice by phone, text or email. By keeping members informed about crime and other threats in specific areas, Rural Watch Scotland can help prevent crime, keep communities and residents safe, and members responses to these alerts can help catch criminals or be better prepared to deal with other threats to communities. To join Rural Watch Scotland simply:

Log onto [www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk)

Click the green JOIN button at the top of the page.

Follow the on screen instructions.

**Contact Us**

Please also remember you can communicate with us using any of the following:

* **** 101 – Non emergency;
* **** Twitter - @NorthEPolice
* **** Facebook – [www.facebook.com/NorthEastPoliceDivision](http://www.facebook.com/NorthEastPoliceDivision)
* **** Web – [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk/)
* **** 999 – Emergency;
* **** 0800 555 111 - Crimestoppers;

Darren Bruce

Inspector

Inverurie Community Policing Team