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|  | **Inverurie** **Community Council** |  |

Minute of Meeting on Monday 19th November 2018, 7pm St. Mary’s Centre, Inverurie

**Present:**

Archie Peebles (Chair), Jane Summersgill (Treasurer), Colin Wood, Heather Watt, Alison Auld, John Sangster

**In Attendance:**

Cllr. Lesley Berry, Cllr. Judy Whyte, Cllr. Neil Baillie, Mark Robertson, Josh MacRae, Innes Simpson, Elizabeth Barrow, Aber Alhalabe, Derek Ritchie, Paul Davidson

**Apologies:**

John Smith (Secretary), John Sangster, Steve Russell, Fiona Peebles, Ron Reid, Rae Jardine, Martin Auld, Cllr. Marion Ewenson,

**Welcome:**

Mike agreed to act as minute secretary for the meeting.  Archie welcomed a Guest Speake, Phyllis Gordon from Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action who gave a presentation on Dementia Friendly Aberdeenshire. Phyllis distributed handouts and feedback forms. Funding for the project is due to end in the New Year.

Archie also welcomed Elizabeth Barrow and two of the New Scots to the meeting and issued an invitation for them to attend further meetings. One of them arrived later and did not sign in so her name is not noted above.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

Proposed by Jane Summersgill and Seconded by Alison Auld. Colin was thanked for producing a very detailed minute.

**Matters Arising:**

Martin Brae parking problems – Edinburgh City Council was asked for information about the street marking used in one of its school areas. This information was provided and circulated. Archie advised this will be discussed at the next ICC Meeting.

Visit to Market Place School – one ICC member asked for this and is the only one who has responded positively to the option of looking around the school, therefore it was agreed that no request will be made to visit the school.

Primary School Rezoning – Aberdeenshire Council has asked ICC to be involved. Colin and Steve attended a consultation event meeting this. Colin advised it was not well attended. Engagement has also taken place with the PTA. Aberdeenshire Council will consider the feedback provided so far and there will be further engagement about the rezoning.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Jane has paid the remaining ICC contribution to the Ury Riverside Project of £1,379.64. The Admin. Grant of £1,736.16 has been received from Aberdeenshire Council. There are outstanding commitments to the Heritage Walks, signs for Groupfest, St. Mary’s Hall rental and hi-vis vests. The current bank balance is £5,274.56. John Sangster reiterated his view that it is absurd ICC is sitting with this amount of money and not using it.

**Councillors’ Reports:**

Cllr. Whyte reported on attending the Garioch and North Marr Safety Group meeting and AGM. All Office Bearers were reappointed. There was a presentation for the Fire and Rescue Service updating on its transformation plans. Assurance was given that it will be able to deliver local services for local needs. There a post of Community Health and Safety Partnership Analyst, who plots all data and looks for trends, to influence resources required. The Group has supported a number of initiatives over the last year. It administers the Admin. Grant for both areas and has subsidised Pass Plus and Youth Drive Schemes. The latter is targeted at 14-17 year olds, who had a day at Alford Transport Museum, were given information about driving and a chance to practice driving in the arena. The next meeting of the group is on December 10th.

Cllr. Berry reported that will be Full Council Meeting this Thursday and the budget will be discussed. There will be a budget engagement plan to seek the views of the public on priorities. There is a projected shortfall of £12 – £20M. The A96 dualling will also be discussed.

Cllr. Baillie added that Garioch Area Committee had also discussed the A96 and he commented on the success of Groupfest and Inverurie Events gearing-up for the Christmas Events.

**Presentation of Certificate to Josh MacRae:** Archie presented a certificate to Josh in recognition of his service as a Community Councillor.

**Community Council Projects:**

Groupfest was held Saturday 3rd November.  32 groups participated and the event was well received. Groups took the opportunity to publicise themselves and network. Alison, Heather and Colin were out in Inverurie on the day to draw-in the public. It was agreed to hold the event again next year.

Twinning. Some members of the group attended an event in Stonehaven to mark the 200th anniversary of Alabama. Stonehaven is twinned with Athens, Alabama. Colin advised that there was contact from the Press and Journal asking if Inverurie intended to twin with Inveruno, Italy. Archie advised that there is no plan for this. Colin will update the Press and Journal accordingly.

Mike provided an update on the return of the Pictish Stones. They have been restored and approval has been given by Historic Environment Scotland for them to be housed in a glass case between the two Bass mounds.

The Heritage Walks work is progressing. The Garioch Area Initiatives Fund has agreed to the fund the remainder of the costs and Mike expressed thanks to the Local Councillors for their support with this. It is hoped that the booklet will be ready by the end of the financial year.

Alison raised the condition of the following; the information sign at the entry to the old cemetery, Don and Ury Walks being in poor condition, the Pictish Stones sign in the cemetery, the condition of Mary Elphinstone’s grave, the Long Stones and whether a sign was required for them, one of the lamp posts on the river walk, old cemetery side opposite the board with the bouy and Broominch Island, is broken, the information sign about the canal, on the Don Bridge, and the one on St James Place river walk need cleaning, the Royal Borough sign between the bus stop and the bridge, going from PE into town, has a mark top left. Mike advised that Mary Elphinstone’s grave was raised during the Pictish Stones Project and the Council Archaeologist expalined that Aberdeenshire Council had approximately 500 historical artefacts to care for and there was insufficient money for all. Cllr. Whyte suggested that the Garioch Area Initiatives Fund may be an option for funding work on the signs, however, Mike said that some of the information boards were installed at the time of the Inverurie Town Team and responsibility for them then fell to Aberdeenshire Council. It was agreed to writhe to the Area Manager to seek clarity about responsibility.

Alison also asked asked if there was any update about the Battle of Inverurie cairn sign to which the ICC minute from August refers, as the ICC was going to reply to the letter about this.

Ury Riverside Park. There is Tree Planting at the Ury Riverside Park on the 1st of December. Volunteers are required. Details are on the website and Facebook page.

**Planning and Licensing:**

Colin advised that there was nothing new to report.

**Sub-committee Reports:**

**Inverurie Events:**

Heather provided an update for Sunday’s St. Andrew’s Day Parade and Christmas Lights Switch-on.  Marshalls and bucket collectors are required for a 2.45pm start and should give their names to Heather. Judy, Lesley, Alison and John Smith have already volunteered.

Derek Ritchie, BID Manger, gave an update on the Christmas programme. From the 1st to the 9th December there will be an Ice Rink behind the Town Hall. It will be opened at 11am on the 1st by Hannah Miley. On the same day, there will also be the Big Sing (youngsters signing as one choir) in front of the Town Hall from 11am – 12.30pm. There will be stalls on the 1st and 2nd in Station Road. Santa’s Grotto is on the same days. The Round Table Santa’s Sleigh will be in the Square on the 8th and 9th December. The Santa Run is on the 9th. On the 9th and 16th there is a Breakfast with Santa at the Garioch Indoor Bowling Club. The 9th is for St. Andrew’s School and the 16th is an open session.

**Election of Vice Chair:**

John Sangster was elected Vice Chair. Proposed by Colin and Seconded by Mike.

**A96 Public Consultation:**

Colin and Archie attended an event with Amey Arup/Transport Scotland about the A96 dualling. Colin provided the following update.

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| 1-The Road will be around 26m wide, the lines on the exhibition layouts are 80m wide. 2-The Road will not have any sections steeper than 1 in 25, that’s a 4% grade. 3-Any intrusion on a flood plain (that cannot be designed out completely) will be designed and tested to ensure that flooding after construction will be no worse than before. 4-The AWPR Goval junction was not designed or built for connection to a dual carriageway whereas Craibstone was. 5-The recently built Inveramsay bridge will remain in place as a local route, in all Option proposals. 6-The existing road from Tavelty at Kintore to Craibstone at Dyce will be upgraded to improve safety and journey time. 7-More than 1500 people attended the October exhibition in Inverurie Town Hall. 8-The project team will try to respond in a meaningful way to every written comment or question they receive. 9-Amey Arup will continue to develop designs for junctions and structures over the next 12 months. 10-A preferred route option will be identified by the end of 2019. 11-The detailed design of the preferred alignment will take a further 2 years. 12-Amey Arup will continue to engage with communities after the consultation deadline of 22-November. The local perspective on risks and opportunities is vital, the project team want to hear any information you may have on the local area.  Contact the project team by email on a96dualling@transport.gov.scot or find out more details at [www.transportscotland.gov.uk/a96dualling](http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/a96dualling)We have an additional local contact based at Thainstone who can be contacted at the details below:Billy Gordon, Landowners and Communities ManagerTelephone: 01467 672516Billy.gordon@amey.co.ukAmeyArup, Office 7, Thainstone Business Centre, Inverurie AB51 5TB |

Innes Simpson from the Keithhall and Bourtie A96 Action Group provided feedback from the groups letter to Transport Minister, who advised that option Q is not going ahead as it would have to go through an area unspoilt by a dual carriageway Innes commented that the whole road will do this anyway. Innes also expressed concern about the possible impact on the flood plain. Mark Robertson from the Daviot Action Group is concerned about the impact in his area.

Jane is part of a No to the A96 Orange Route Action Group and is concerned on the impact on the Polinar area. This group has a Facebook page.

The Garioch Area Committee has recommended dualling the existing A96 and passed this opinion to the Infrastructure and Services Committee, where the A96 will be discussed futher.

Trransport Scotland had promised its presentation would be emailed to ICC for showing tonight, however, it did not arrive. If the presentation does arrive, it will be emailed to Innes and Mark.

Cllr. Berry asked if ICC was going to put forward a view. Archie explained ICC is trying to ensure everyone is fully informed and consulted and has been presented and has been given views that object to every proposed route. ICC will write to Transport Scotland stating a wish to continue to be consulted and Colin will draft a letter to be sent

**Police Report:**

Archie advised this was received yesterday and will be emailed with the Minute.

**AOCB:**

The absence of the press was noted.

Short Life Working Groups. Colin circulated the list of volunteers for each group, which is attached to the Minute.

At the end of the meeting Cllr Baillie volunteered to support Groups B and E.

Archie commented that the Constitution Committee, now called ‘the Procedures Committee’ has still review the effectiveness of the Constitution and draft Standing Orders. It was hoped Martin and Ron would still be involved, along with Archie and Mike. Cllr. Berry suggested that Alison Cumming would be worth consulting about the Constitution and Standing Orders.

**Next Meeting – Monday 17th December 7.00pm at St Mary’s Centre**