

MARYBURGH AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES

26TH NOVEMBER 2014 7.30pm

Present: Jenny Maclennan, Eilidh Green, Tom Thomas, Andrew Steel, Rhiannon Elder, Liz Sinclair Morris Colven

Cllr Paterson and Angus Whyte

Apologies: Jamie Dunsmore Cllr Mackenzie, Cllr Mackinnon, Cllr Maclean, Sgt Eddie Mackenzie

BUSINESS

Previous minutes approved by Tom and Jenny

Matters Arising:

1.

- Tom and Liz approached the Community Payback Services last week and they are agreeable to painting the outside of the doors and the steel container at the Hall and to tidy the flower bed at Breac an Ord and the shrubbery area beside the Post Box. Tom and Liz are willing to organise the paint required. Amenities will be required to pay the cost of the paint Community Services will provide brushes.
Action Liz and Tom will meet again with them on 3rd December and report back.
- Smiley faces speed signs. No further update as to when they will be fitted.
At this point in the meeting discussion took place around the efficacy of the Safer routes to school and the hazards it is causing on Proby Street to residents and road users.
Mr Whyte raised his concerns about a particular incident caused by a speeding motorist outside his home. He complained about the site of the chicane on Proby Street that has caused great difficulty in the residents being able to park safely. The chicane's position is forcing residents and visitors to park nearer driveways and thus obstructing views and not enabling residents to turn into their driveways in both directions. Mr Whyte has expressed a wish that the chicane be removed. The discussion continued about the rest of the route. Previously the only evaluation the CC are aware of the route is speed monitoring of the road and the average speed was 34mph.
Action Hugh Logan HC to be invited to next CC meeting to discuss this matter.
- Stuarthill play park. No further response.
Action. HC to be emailed again
- New computer for CC. Possible source of funding identified with Digital Scotland. Information passed onto Youth Club and Forever Young Club and MAC Board.
Action. Eilidh to complete application.

2. Ben Wyvis Report update

Members of both communities have received a report from the Council in response to our requests for information about the final costs of the school. Three letters of complaint have gone to the Highland Council about the delay in providing this info from Conon CC members. The final report included an update from Caledonian Economics of their original option appraisal.

Jenny informed the group what was requested was the evidence that it saved the taxpayer money by closing a school, and that Maryburgh's preferred option, to retain two schools, was not best value for the community.

Caledonian Economics used the same weightings which were qualitative to support their conclusion.

Caledonian Economics report concluded that even if the new school had been budgeted for the actual build cost it would still have represented best value.

Part of their argument was the increased size/floor area of the school. 50% of this appears to be corridor.

To date the Highland Council have still not provided figures for the capital cost of the loan to build the school.

It should be noted that the members who met with the HC are in agreement that the "Lessons Learned" are followed through by the HC for future communities that are faced with losing a school and /or amalgamation .

Members of both communities have met subsequently and formulated a plan of action regarding this matter which will be circulated to the MCC.

3. Former Pescanova Site, Conon Bridge

Email received and circulated to MCC requesting a meeting with Wilson and Gunn Architects. Their proposal outlined is for 72 housing units and 470sqm of commercial space.

Two different meeting dates given for MCC and CBCC. After discussion it was proposed by Jenny that we ask to meet at the same time as CBCC (17/12/14) rather than the 14/01/15. Everyone agreed as this would facilitate better communication between both CCS's about the proposal.

4. Mac Ltd

Update given by Jenny.

Mac Board meeting took place on the 30/10/14

Nick Thornton has stepped down as Chair.

Ian Fraser has taken up the Chair. Jane Menzies -Treasurer, Mrs Meinertz- Minute Secretary.

They also welcomed two new members Bill Mackenzie and Tommy Menzies.

The Board have to the end of May to present a robust business proposal to the Asset Board ,HC.

The MFG group are still waiting on the final report from HRI architects.

Rhiannon informed the group that a number of kids from the Youth club are interested in the development and wanted to write a letter outlining their hope and wishes. She was advised to contact Ian Fraser.

All quarterly reports to Di Agnew are up to date.

5. Community Police report

Report read out by Jenny, Sgt Mackenzie is on annual leave.

Introduction of lowered drink drive limit in conjunction with annual festive drink/drive campaign begins. Over the last period 62 incidents were reported to the beat area, with only 13 pertaining to the Maryburgh.

1 incident was reported to the Fiscal in relation to an assault.

Theft of 8 chickens from within the village.

Of the remaining incidents 7 related to medical matters/concern for person calls which were dealt with by the Police and partner agencies.

1 silent/hoax call from the public call box

Report of an abandoned vehicle which was later found to be broken down and 1 found property. Patrols and checks continue to be made to address antisocial driving and speeding.

6. Bicentennial Update.

Ian and Siobhan Fraser have updated the Maryburgh Heritage film.

Disappointingly no other volunteers have been identified at this time.

After short discussion the group were in favour of holding a Burns Supper. MCC will co-ordinate the event and make an application for funding to Ward Discretionary Fund.

Press release of the Bicentennial celebrations will be issued in January.

7. Finance

Email received from Jamie. Balance remains unchanged.

Eilidh informed the group that Cllr Mackinnon requested that his concerns were minuted at the lack of a financial report available at the September meeting. The verbal report passed on was that the balance remained unchanged. The group duly noted his concerns and Jenny gave assurances that this would be provided at the next meeting.

8. Correspondence

- Community Service Budget. Email received from Carolyn Wilson. Copy of today's press release and the Independent Group's motion. The Community is to be encouraged to comment individually to their Councillors about Budget cuts.
- Letter and poster received SSE Beaully to Loch Buidhe OverHead Reinforcement Engagement Event.
This takes place in Dingwall 27/11/14 in Dingwall Town Hall 2-7pm.
Poster was displayed.
- Tracy Shaw RCOP co-ordinator. Men's Shed proposed in The Lodge at Sellar PI, Conon.
Meeting to be held 02/12/14 in Fernintosh Church Hall. Poster will be displayed and information available on the website.
- Information received from the Scottish Government. As part of their work to enhance the role of Community Councils, a Community Council Website has been developed. The link is available on the website.

9. AOCB

Flower tubs are ready for replanting next week.

Tom and Eilidh will conduct a survey and report any faults of the grit bins at the same time.

Dog Fouling was noted to be a problem again on Proby Street. Eilidh will contact the Dog Warden.

Meeting concluded at 9.15pm

Date of next meeting 28th Jan 2015 7.30pm