

## **Maryburgh Community Council**

*Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 at 7.30pm*

Present: - Morris Colven (MC) Jenny MacLennan (JM) Tom Thomas (TT) Liz Sinclair (LS), Andrew Steel (AS) John Linley (JL) and Cllr A. Maclean (AM)

Also present: - Mhairi Mackenzie (RCHS/Public)

Apologies for non attendance were tendered by Andrew Matheson, Jamie Dunsmore, Cllr A. Mackinnon, Cllr G Mackenzie, Cllr M. Paterson, Sgt Martin Turner (Police Scotland) and Fiona Macintosh (Conon CC Rep).

### **1. Chairperson's Remarks.**

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcomed all present and accepted apologies on behalf of those unable to attend.

### **2. Minutes of the previous meeting.**

Subject to an amendment to item 5(iv) regarding the 'votes' in respect of the Participatory Budget Meeting on Sat 11<sup>th</sup> March, Cllr MacLean clarified that each 'bidding group representative' would have 5 votes to use as thought fit towards other worthy causes. This being noted, the minutes of the previous meeting were duly confirmed and adopted. Proposed by MC, seconded by JL.

### **3. Matters Arising**

#### **a) Maryburgh Roundabout (Newsletter).**

LS updated the meeting regarding the Roundabout (March - Edition 2) newsletter which will be distributed to all households. Advertising revenue has raised £290 for the forthcoming edition and with publishing costs of £180 per 600 copies, it would appear that should this trend continue then the newsletter will be self-financing. All advertisers will be contacted outlining future advertising costs and for those with outstanding bills, for payment to be met. Future advertisements are to be paid for in advance of any publication.

#### **b) Hall energy consumption**

AS notified the meeting that the energy monitor had broken but has subsequently been replaced. Energy consumption appears 'good' however with the hall being used more, it is impossible to do a like for like monthly comparison with the previous year's usage but with spring approaching this means the heating will soon be off completely.

#### **c) Website**

Work on making access to hall bookings easier is still ongoing. TT asked how many more booking were being made in comparison to the previous year. The period to December saw 55 bookings this year compared to 12 for the same period to last year so a vast increase has been attained in this respect.

#### **d) MAC update**

The business plan has been finalised by the consultant, sadly too late to be presented to the council before the February Asset Board meeting. Jamie is under too much pressure at work at the moment to progress both this and deal with the board work as well. Hopefully we will be able to finalise a submission to the council and the SLF at the end of April. We have 'til June to satisfy the council's requirements. As we recall, the SLF would not accept an application for funding without a clear indication from the council that they would accept our proposal. The council would not agree anything without seeing and approving the business plan. Now it seems the council have said they will not agree in principle the transfer without the funding being in place from the SLF. This is apparently due to the new Community Empowerment Act which has moved the goalposts yet again.

#### **e) Grow Your Own Cinema (GYOC)**

LS informed the meeting that a screening of 'The BFG' would take place on 4<sup>th</sup> March. The first venture of 'Flicks In The Sticks' cost approximately £150 for equipment hire in order to screen, which is financially unsustainable, due to 'revenue' not meeting cost incurred.

In March a projector and screen will be used instead, lowering the cost to £70. MC proposed, seconded by JM, that this amount be transferred from the MCC account to GYOC in order to fund the forthcoming event. Alternative funding sources will be sought for the long term future of the project.

### **4. Financial Report.**

JD was unable to attend due to work commitments.

He reported that we are currently covering our forecasted expenses. The roundabout seems to be self-sustaining now thanks to Liz's efforts and should not be a drain on our resources. Jamie will be standing down as MCC treasurer due to his work commitments after this year's accounts are finalised.

Outstanding payments compost to Tom and share of IT costs to RCHS.

### **5. Correspondence**

Three items of correspondence were received by the Secretary, all of which were further distributed to members prior to this meeting.

- i) Participatory Budget Meeting
- ii) Fire Brigade Home Safety Inspections and CPR Classes
- iii) Planning Consultation – Involvement of Community Councils

**Item (i)** MAC intended to bid for new floor exercise mats for use by groups utilising the Amenities Centre facility. TT intended to bid for paint/wood preservative for fence maintenance in the community garden at Wrightfield Park and LS (representing GYOC) intended to bid for funding for a projector and screen to be used mainly by GYOC, but also for use by any other supervised groups utilising the Amenities Centre.

**Item (ii)** - Posters giving notification of the Home Safety inspections and CPR classes were placed on the Amenities Centre notice boards.

**Item (iii)** was self explanatory and no immediate action is required in respect of the content.

## **6. Police Report.**

Sgt Martyn Turner was unable to attend due to exigencies of the service – working late on custody related duties in Inverness – but had sent a report regarding local policing matters, a précis of which is below;  
A total of 9 incidents required a police response/action in the Maryburgh area during the last month, most of which were traffic related, with nuisance telephone calls making up the total. No serious offences and no further calls which would have a local community impact had occurred. In the same time frame, but out with the immediate Maryburgh area, a number of reports concerning vehicles having been entered resulting in thefts from them in the North Kessock, Avoch and Muir of Ord area had been recorded. Media releases have been issued reminding the public to ensure that they secure their vehicles and to report anything suspicious to the police. In order to deter and combat this recent spate, increased police patrols are being carried out during the hours of darkness.

## **7. New/Old Business.**

**a)** No formal letter of the offer of £47,000 made by Highland Council had yet been received and although given a verbal promise that it would be honoured without time limitations, the community council had no ‘evidence’ to substantiate that we did indeed ‘have’ this money to enhance the chances of receiving ‘match funding’ from other sources. Cllr Maclean will follow this matter up in order to resolve the issue.

**b)** The request for a crash barrier at the Dunglass Road/Back Road junction still awaits update. Cllr Maclean will liaise with Cllr Mackenzie regarding this.

**c)** The stile crossing/right of way, whereby gated access as opposed to a stile should be in place at the pedestrian rail crossing at the bottom of Stuarthill Drive still awaits an update. Again, Cllr Maclean will liaise with Cllr Mackenzie who was also dealing with this matter, regarding any progress made by him and Scotrail regarding the issue.

**d)** The MAC car park had benefited from repairs undertaken by Highland Council. Cllr Maclean was thanked for her assistance in bringing this to fruition.

**e)** AS informed the meeting that a recent bid for funding from the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) had been unsuccessful as the full criteria was not met.

**f)** The next Leanaig Centre Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April, where a place is ‘reserved’ for any MCC member available and wishing to attend.

## **8. AOCB.**

**a)** Mhairi Mackenzie representing Ross & Cromarty Heritage Society (RCHS) advised everyone present that their website was not quite finished yet. There were still a few little glitches to be sorted out regarding linking etc. No time

frame was given as to when these issues would be resolved, however it is hopefully sooner rather than later, to enable the public to fully access the wealth of local information contained therein.

**b)** Maryburgh Gala Day is being held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June. As usual, the week preceding the gala day event will have various other events running throughout that week. Details are yet to be finalised in this respect, but with all our new notice boards in the Maryburgh area, the public will be fully informed as to exactly what/where and when anything is due to take place.

**9. Date of next meeting.**

Wednesday **29<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.30 pm** in the Portacabin