

Meeting of Banchory Community Council on 9th March 2020

Present; D. Milner(chair) J. Wills(minutes) A. Marshall, T. Tulett, M. Dornan, A. Murison, C. Luby, C. Milligan, M. Lennox, L.McPhee.
Councillors; R. Bruce, E. Durno, A.Ross.
Speaker; E. Garrett (Aberdeenshire Council CLD)

- 1. Welcome & Apologies;** the chair welcomed all and gave apologies for; D. Conroy, L. McNab, H. McNab, V. Kerridge.
- 2. Councillors' Report;** Cllr R. Bruce announced that the 1st stage of the Community Development Plan was heard by the full council. A public consultation meeting is to be held in Banchory Town Hall on 4th May. Council Tax is to be raised by 4.84%, which is 3% plus inflation. The Council's budget is to be set on 18th March. Cllr E. Durno informed the group that the James Hunter memorial which was knocked down by a car recently, is being considered for repair and that costs are being sought. It may not return to its former site as this is the second time it has been hit. The public's views will be considered. Aberdeenshire Council have not issued a statement on Coronavirus but suggest following the National guidelines.
Cllr A. Ross mentioned that Banchory Primary School has secured two school crossing patrollers, following quite a period without any. It is envisaged that a Zebra Crossing may be in place in the future. The Marr Area Committee meets on Tuesday 10th March. Cllr R. Bruce said the new learning plaza in the academy will open next week, w/c 16th March. Cllr A. Ross spoke of her efforts in a continued push for a new academy, even though the Council state that with the finance being spent on the academy, it will be many years before it becomes a priority for renewal. The chair spoke of the issue of potholes and the damage they can cause to vehicles, he stressed the importance of reporting them to the Council
- 3. Approval of February's minutes;** Approved, proposed by M. Dornan. Seconded by T. Tulett. The only matter arising from the February minutes was raised by T. Tulett that being the matter of the Aberdeen Incinerator, which he believes will emanate fumes that could be toxic. This matter to be placed on the next agenda. H. McNab to investigate.
- 4. Banchory Skate-park;** those involved in taking this forward have met a "brick wall" with the Council, there has been no contact allowed while a complaint is being dealt with.
Skate park representative to inform BCC of developments at a future date
- 5. Banchory Community Learning & Development;** E. Garrett from CLD spoke of a Profiling exercise to be held in Hill of Banchory, to gather views of the community. This item created some controversy among those present, with the majority view being that it should be the whole of Banchory that is consulted and not one area. A stall will be in attendance and manned at Banchory Sports Village on 17, 18 & 19th March. Concerns were raised that there had been little in the way of advertising this survey and that it might have been courteous to bring it before the Community Council in the first instance.
- 6. Planning;** Nothing contentious, three new houses to be built at Upper Lochton.
- 7. Correspondence;** Feughdee west Community Council is to split in two, one half to represent the south side of the river and the other to represent the north side of the river from the limit of our remit. On 11th March, a meeting was to be held at the Woodend Barn by the Climate Action Network. Also there is to be a meeting to be held in the Town Hall on 4th May on the Local Development Plan with an official from the Council present for questions.

On the question of the restoration project for Lochton of Leys, BCC would like a representative on this.

8. **Treasurers Report;** the question was raised as to whether we would be sponsoring the pipe band championships this year, cost would be around £200.00.

Following up on reinstating the Town Co-ordinator, Wind Farm monies cannot be used.

9. **Banchory Town Hall;** CM suggested using the Town Hall for our meetings, He contacted Janelle Clark, Area Manager for an opinion but she has not come back to him as of yet, A. Ross will speak with her. CM will speak to the caretaker regarding availability. L.McP said better advertising of meetings might attract members of the public. There was a suggestion that BCC minutes should be on Visit Banchory website.

10. **Coat of Arms;** Permission has been sought by Banchory Ternan East Church for a member of the congregation to create an embroidered wall hanging version of Banchory's Coat of Arms, other churches in the town may wish similar. ML proposed, seconded by L.McP that It would be best dealt with if an official letter from the church was submitted with the request giving exact detail of what was to be created.

11. **CC Reps;**

A] Police Liaison, No response as Sgt. Garry Garrow was not available. A robbery took place at Scotmid, where a member of the public withdrew money from the ATM and was beset by a thug and robbed.

b] Community Safety, Norma Makin resigned.

c] Transport, TT attended a meeting in Aberdeen at which Stagecoach informed those attending that in Deeside, the service 201 timetable has been simplified for customers and the route variations have been reduced. As a result of this, it is proposed that Banchory will welcome back a local daytime service connecting the most popular places in the town.

d] BDI, MD & AM have not attended any meetings since the AGM, they have spoken with J.Henretty who advised them that no Board meetings had taken place, and they asked if they are entitled to attend all meetings of BDI.

e] Wind Farms,- Glendye, KGV & Fetteresso, Another meeting is to be arranged to allow CC's to get involved.

f] Town Teams, No progress.

g] Community Engagement, CL informed the group that the use of the Twon Hall for meetings can only be a good thing for us. IT would increase our visibility to the wider community. Advertising of upcoming elections; we have access to local press, notice boards etc. Running a Coat of Arms fair biannually, use schools more to inform of our activities. Acquire Hi-Viz vests for events. Consider increasing our membership numbers.

12. **Date & place of next meeting;** 11th May 2020 in activity room 2, Banchory Academy.