

Auldearn Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on 10th October 2019, Dunbar Hall, Auldearn

Present: Roger Milton
Peter McGillivray
Diane Mitchell
Dot Wright
Cllr Liz Macdonald
Ian Sikora

Members of the public

1. Apologies: Kyle Mackintosh
Cllr Tom Heggie
David Brownless

2. Correspondence:

The Community Council is to hold upcoming elections in line with regulations that the council must be dissolved and re-elected every four years. There is potential for up to 8 members, with the initial deadline for nominations being Tuesday 8th October. Due to slow response for nominations in other parts of the Highland region, this has now been extended with deadline for nominations 12 noon on Tuesday 29th October and election due on Wednesday 4th November. The elections will move to a postal ballot if there are more than 8 nominations.

Long term serving member of the Community Council, David Brownless, will be leaving the area and no longer able to serve. The Chair thanked David for all his hardwork, both with the Community Council and many other community activities.

A letter was received from the Auldearn Toddler Group requesting capital for purchase of equipment. The board were informed of the function of the group by member Ian Sikora. A Grant for £350 was proposed by the Chair, and seconded by Mr Auger.

A letter was received from Mrs Ross of Montrose Avenue raising two points:

Point one asked when the missing glass panels from the village bus shelter were going to be replaced. Cllr Macdonald stated she had approached the Highland Council for more information on their programme for repair and pointed out the work. As such there has been no follow up so Cllr Macdonald will follow up again with Highland Council.

Point two expressed concern for speeding vehicles passing through the village. Mrs Ross presented a petition with 52 signatures for action to be taken (presented to Cllr Macdonald). The proposal was for either speed humps or a flashing 'smiley face' type sign indicating the drivers speed. The Chair gave examples of nearby communities petitioning for speed humps only to then petition to remove them due to the disruption through noise. The group seemed happy that the smiley face signs were a more suitable solution.

There was discussion around the overall increase in traffic through the village, especially HGV's and the pressure from the Cawdor road acting as a bypass to Nairn.

The signs have been costed for purchase at around £1500. Cllr Macdonald assured that she would pursue Highland Council for their policy on funding or assisting with these signs and get back to the Community Council in the next two weeks. If there is no progress, the Community Council will begin procurement of the sign by the next meeting.

Forres Post Office are now in a position to begin the twice weekly 'pop-up' Post Office at Lethen Hall. All regular Post Office services will be available on Mondays and Thursdays, 1330 – 1530. Posters have been displayed and village Facebook updated but the importance of notifying older members of the community who may not see social media or the notice board of this service was raised.

A letter was received asking for the provision of a bench at the play park at the rear of George Wilson Road. The Chair stated work is underway to provide one.

3. Minutes of last meeting:

Proposed : Cllr Liz Macdonald

Seconded: Roger Milton (Chair)

4. School development Plans:

Auldearn Primary School has a roll of 176 pupils, which takes it almost to capacity in most class ages. The school and H.R.C. have been investigating a development to increase space and create spare rooms within the school to accommodate the growing population. The Chair passed around artist impressions of the proposed extension, which will be a modular based building to be sited on the playground to the east of the main school site.

Mr Auger asked for plans and details on the proximity of the proposed building to his property. The group discussed catchment areas and the increase to school capacity and subsequent knock-on to village traffic. The Chair stated that further details will follow, the building is scheduled to be installed and in use by August 2020.

The Chair also reminded the group of the school community café held in Dunbar hall on the first Monday of each month and asked for village support.

5 Village Projects:

Review of the Food & Flowers event – seen as a great success with over 100 villagers turning out on the day to support and help along with great support from local businesses.

Greens Nursery have offered some suitable winter bedding plants to fill the planters over the winter months, a second day is to be arranged. The Chair mentioned the importance not to saturate peoples goodwill, suggesting a total of three days per year in future running similar events. The overall feedback was very positive with a number of smaller 'follow on' jobs taking place. Future plans will be communicated as they take shape.

6. Co-opt of Community Council Members:

Due to the month delay in electing new members to the Community Council, Ian Sikora was put forward as a co-opted member until elections have taken place:

Proposed: Diane Mitchell

Seconded: Dot Wright

7. Financial report & AGM

The treasurer submitted the annual financial report and details were reported to the group by the Chair. As part of the AGM, office bearers were proposed and elected at the meeting:

Chairman (Roger Milton):	Proposed: Peter	Seconded: Diane Mitchell
Treasurer (Kyle Mackintosh):	Proposed: Roger Milton	Seconded: Peter
Secretary (Ian Sikora):	Proposed: Roger Milton	Seconded: Dot Wright

Presidents report stated the Food & Flowers event had demonstrated the goodwill and community spirit in the village with a definite need to continue with this kind of event. It also stated the belief that Community Councils are best placed to deal with 'immediate effect' matters and concentrating on these kind of matters can help keep the community spirit growing.

6 A.O.C.B

Dog Fouling – Mrs Ross

No other business, meeting closed at 2040