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| **MINUTES**  **Online Zoom Meeting**  **Tuesday 17th August 2021**  **at 7.00 pm** | |  |
| **Present**: James Adams (Chair)  Ken Watt (Planning Secretary)  Alison Wymes (Minute Secretary)  John Anderson  Norma Craven  Helena Gilbert  Sylvia Harper  Ashley Mackie  Dionne Whyte  Debra Campbell (Community Planning Officer)    **Councillors**: Councillor Charles Buchan  Councillor Doreen Mair  Councillor Brian Topping | | |
| **1.** | **Apologies & Declaration of Interest** | |
|  | Kenny Harper (to join later), Seamus Logan, Angela Keith, Andy Kille, Fiona May, Ron Morrice, Mary Regan | |
| **2.** | **Minutes of last meeting to be approved – Tuesday 15th June 2021** | |
|  | Proposed – Sylvia Harper, Seconded – John Anderson | |
| **3.** | **Matters Arising** | |
|  | * Outdoor Gym – Survey Results   **H.G** It was going to be too expensive to see all the results from the Survey Monkey, but there were a lot of comments made about what the people would like to see happening in the town, so H.G suggested taking the comments from the Survey Monkey and the Brochers FB page and set up a discussion group (not just the CC) to see what people in the town do want. A few comments were made about the state of the play park at the beach – what is the update on the Beach Regeneration? D.M – following a public consultation pre-Covid, Alistair Rhind sent her the details of what was discussed and this could be relayed to the CC. It may need updated slightly, but it is still going ahead. There is to be a Regeneration Meeting shortly.  Doreen to send the results of the Beach Regeneration Consultation to the CC. She will also put the subject of feeding back to the public on the Beach Regeneration on the agenda of the next Regeneration Meeting.   * Transport Scotland Update   **J.Adams** has written to Transport Scotland, as employers of Bear Scotland, about their decision to refuse permission to plant wild flowers on the Tesco roundabout. He has not had any response, so will email them again.  James to email Transport Scotland again.   * Lighthouse Buoys   **J.Adams** He received a reply from Linda McGuigan, manager at the Lighthouse Museum – there is a rolling programme to deal with the buoys in the car park and on the coastal path - 3 of the buoys have been painted, 2 are in the hands of the Northern Lighthouse Board who are helping with this project – it is also carrying out a survey of the buoys – some will be disposed of and others will be painted in due time, but at present, there is no surplus funding to carry this out. If the CC has any available funding, this would speed things up for them. C.B said the Lighthouse Museum has suffered greatly from the lack of tourists due to Covid, especially those from Germany. The N.L.B has been very supportive of the museum during the pandemic and have ensured that the employees are still being paid. H.G asked if the buoys had to be professionally painted or could groups volunteer to paint them? J.Adams thought they would need to be professionally done to come under conservation rules, but he would get confirmation of this.  James to email Linda McGuigan again to ask for the cost of painting the buoys and whether they had to be done professionally. | |
| **4.** | **Police Scotland/Community Warden Reports** | |
|  | Police Scotland Community Wardens  None received  With reference to members of the public taking photos of incidents occurring in the town, this was the statement received from Ewan Simpson ‘We are aware of anti-social behaviour in the town and try and do what we can to combat it. When it comes to taking photos or videos of the youths in a public place or on your own property, it is not an offence to do this - however I would always urge people to do this carefully. In the past I have seen people targeted for doing this or for chasing after youths responsible. Ultimately, if it is something that has occurred in the town centre then it would probably be captured on the public space CCTV anyway.’ | |
| **5.** | **Urgent Items of Business** | |
|  | **None** | |
| **6.** | **Treasurer’s Report** | |
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| **7.** | **Sub-Committees** | |
|  | * **Resilience**   **J.Anderson** The Food Larder has 61 members and 5 on the waiting list. It is supporting 107 adults and 62 children. There are 16 volunteers who work the 2 shifts and there are 5 on the reserve list, should volunteers not manage to attend. They have spent approx. £3000 on training, equipment, fridge and freezer, shelving and cleaning equipment – this also includes approx. £800 on meat, which is draining the funds. They are still looking at funding sources. There is approx. £2000 in the CC account, but they are trying not to dip into that account in case of emergency. Any donations of money are going into petty cash and purchases of meat etc. are made from that. John and Karen attended a course about getting food from Tesco and Asda, so that is going ahead – any surplus food they have can be allocated to the Food Larder on a Monday (Tesco) or Thursday (Asda) if there is someone available to pick it up when a text comes through. They also visited the Food Pantry in Peterhead and exchanged ideas. Peterhead also have a Food Market which is run by the same lady – FFL may be able to get cheaper fruit and veg from there. They acquired a freezer which was surplus to Peterhead’s need**.**  B.TAt the Area Committee meeting that day, the members supported the application for funding to repair the roof of the building used by the Food Larder. However the AIF cannot be used for food, but another source of area funding will be recommended.  A.WThe opening hours of the Food Larder need to be updated on Waves Radio, as they are still advertising the original times.   * **Flower Fairies**   **S.H** Following on from discussions from the June meeting regarding the general state of the town/centre, Alison, Helena, Mary, Kenny and myself had a 5hr meeting with Principal Landscape Services Officer Ken Regan on 6th July and then thanks to Councillor Andy Kille who organised with Alan Wood, Director of Infrastructure Services to come down two days later, we toured the area raising similar issues. Ken was interested in the landscaping issues and Alan’s remit included roads. Both were disappointed at the state of the town, more so Alan Wood who agreed Fraserburgh had been let down somewhat by Aberdeenshire Council.  Points raised:  • Entrance to town - Asda site –Ken to find out who owns certain strips of land there. He suggested moving the planters into the town centre and alternative entrance options were discussed.  • The Market Cross – blocks insecure, Cross needs cleaning, weeds alongside it  • Seagull mess/seagulls on buildings/spikes on lampposts are a possibility  • State of lampposts - paint peeling  • Braeheads - both men were shocked at the state of weeds there. Alan Wood also assisted a woman by putting rubbish that had been left there into a bin  • Broadgate seating. – Backs of seats are loose – a safety issue. Ken Regan said the seats should be cordoned off for insurance purposes. 5 weeks later nothing has been done and seats are in continual use. Alan Wood suggested the rotten wood be replaced with granite tops similar to one of the seats outside the URC. We thought this a good idea  • Ongoing weed problem – Ken Regan gave some background of Covid restrictions last year. Council was instructed to stop all grass cutting etc. Not a Council decision. Also had to acquire 40 extra trucks so that men could travel alone as per Scottish Govt. Rules. So it has been a catch up since then but obviously more attention needs to be given to prioritising jobs  • Looked at the raised planters at Dalrymple Hall and instead of removing them, we have agreed to try a wild flower mix for next year to see if that is a success. Alan would supply the labour to tidy the planters  • The layout of the Dalrymple Hall car park and the noticeboard were also mentioned  Alan said that there is a certain amount of money that could be sourced and he would go back to the office and work on an action plan. He also offered to come back again in 6 months and meet with us again re progress made. He was to meet Angela Keith on 26th July to discuss the above points.  C.B has had an email from A.Keith to say she has met with Alan Wood and is now going to lead a group to set up an action plan to address these issues. The CC will be invited to join this group. A meeting will take place after 30th August. Debra Campbell will answer any further questions.  B.T thanked the Flower Fairies and Cllr Kille for bringing these issues to the notice of Council Officials. He had emailed and had a Skype meeting with the Chief Executive of Aberdeenshire Council, Jim Savage, about the state of the town – weeds, play parks, beach area and cemetery! Covid over the past year etc. was the excuse for things not being done for safety reasons, but it cannot be used as an excuse now. He agreed the local community deserves to get a proper service. So there needs to be action, not just a promise to look into the issues! Why was the town allowed to get into such a mess in the first place?! Lots of money is being spent on regeneration of the town, yet it is surrounded by weeds etc.  D.M A member of the Men’s Shed had offered to help, so she had suggested they could form a group e.g. Friends of the Cemetery or Saltoun Place Gdns, but she hadn’t heard any more from them. She also suggested there could be a collaboration between the CC and the Men’s Shed. She had also spoken to Community Payback Services and as of 9th August, they can now meet in a larger group to carry out jobs. They have since cleared the Crown Lane of weeds. She also mentioned she has an envelope in her possession which she thinks contains the donation from the guys who vandalised one of the Broadgate planters earlier on this year – she will pass it on to the FF.  J.Anderson How is the money allocated to the different towns? Is it by the size of the town or is it per capite of population? Had been in Ballater, Aboyne and Banchory recently and the difference in these towns and Fraserburgh is phenomenal!! Grass was cut and lifted, flower baskets all over the towns are beautiful etc. Who authorises the money being spent in the different towns in the area? He also notified D.M that the bin which should have been put at the hammerhead area in Links Road is still in the wrong place! Who looks after the school grounds? The Academy grounds and the area behind St Andrew’s School Infant Dept. are a complete mess, just like the rest of the town! C.B The Education Committee pays the cost, but they contract the work to the Roads Dept. or Landscape Services. D.M forwarded photos which had been on social media to the Director of Education that morning.  Doreen to contact Waste Officer to move the bin to the hammerhead area of Links Road.  Doreen to pass on the envelope she was given to the Flower Fairies.  (Kenny Harper joined the meeting)  D.C. Gave an update – A.Keith and A.Wood and other officers to form an Action Plan to address the above issues and to work more collaboratively with local groups. They will set up a meeting after 30th August to which the CC will be invited.  Debra to inform the CC about the date of meeting between A.Keith, A.Wood and others  K.W had received a phone call from one of the Council Officers to say they were investigating the issue of spray painting in the harbour area – how is the investigation going?  D.C It was reported by David Maclennan to the HSE after the June meeting. Environmental Services had contacted the HSE who had been in touch with the Harbour Commission who have a code of practice for spray-painting. Every company who does spray-painting has accepted liability for spraying. The car owners should approach the company who is spraying the boats about the damage done to their vehicles. More detail would be required about the frequency of this, so that Environmental Health could get involved and maybe liaise with SEPA too.  D.M. The Harbour Board will be discussing the issues and will be tightening up the rules. There is a meeting of the Harbour Commission next week and this is on the agenda. Incidents should be reported to the Harbour Commission, who will then give details of the company involved in spray painting that day. The companies are very much aware of the code of practice – they just have to adhere to it!  N.C. There are areas in the town which definitely need landscaped, but there are other areas which should be left un-landscaped e.g. in school grounds – to encourage biodiversity, wildlife and to broaden the children’s education. She also asked about the issue about seagulls, to which D.M said there is a report coming out from ISC? in September.  Debra to send out information to the CC about ‘un-landscaped’ areas.  C.BThe Council and Landscape Services are very interested in not landscaping areas, not only for biodiversity, but it saves on fuel, picking up and composting the grass or putting it to landfill. Some members of the public don’t appreciate these areas of ‘wild meadows’, but others do appreciate the areas, such as in James Ramsey Park.  D.M There is a strong push to have areas of wild flower areas, as she and the FF saw when they visited Inverurie a couple of years ago, so they are working with the Greenspace Officer to ensure these areas are managed properly so they look good and not just left to be overrun with weeds. Irene Sharp (HT at Fraserburgh Academy) is keen to work with pupils in areas of the Academy grounds to plant trees, shrubs and wild flowers. Due to Covid, of course this was delayed, but hopefully this project can now be continued.  She also assured the CC that there was a paper being prepared by Council Officers about the seagulls, but it would probably have to go to the Scottish Govt. for approval, due to the level of protection the seagulls have, making it extremely difficult to do anything about them.  B.T Brought up several points – people commenting on the likes of FB should voice their concerns to the appropriate body concerned e.g. approach the HT about the Academy grounds. As elected officers, the councillors are not allowed to get involved in the operational side of when work is carried out, but the Council Officers, who are well paid, should be producing a month to month schedule of work to be carried out, rather than waiting till lots of people complain. There should be routine maintenance put in place. He has also got the Council to remove graffiti from the rocks at Broadsea on a couple of occasions. He also gave some information to those present about how the Council had dealt with seagulls in the past, then read out a letter which he had submitted to the Area Committee after doing some research with other officers. Hopefully when the full Council Committee next meets on 23rd September, they will back this.  N.C The protection of all species of seagulls is a real issue, because one species is actually adding to the decline of 2 other species.  H.G. Noticed in one of the planning applications which came in today, was to ask for seagull netting to be fitted on the flat roof at Anderson House. Would that be something that individual businesses apply for and do they pay for that themselves? Would it be worthwhile encouraging other businesses to do that and foot the bill themselves? It was presumed so.   * **Phoenix Group**   **A.M.** Is uncertain whether the painted murals will go ahead this month, as planned, as the painter seems to have gone silent!! ShopFraserburgh launched Doric Month in August to coincide with the Doric boards going up in the town. Doric Month has been very successful with 10 pieces of media coverage and has even been mentioned in the Scottish Parliament by Karen Adams and Liam Kerr (MSPs) to encourage the use of the Doric language. There have been musicians, authors and many other good things happening in the town. The local businesses are keen to promote themselves on social media etc., but they too are concerned that not everyone is taking responsibility for keeping the area tidy in front of their businesses etc. There have been a lot of tourists in the area, especially on the Light the North Trail and visitors to the town are also remarking on the state of the town! This is certainly no way to promote the town. Is there any way we can encourage all businesses to keep their shop or business fronts tidy? A letter perhaps? Doric Month lasts till the end of August, then in September, it will be Wedding Month.  (Brian Topping left the meeting)  Wedding Month is looking to promote businesses in the bus station area – Gavin’s Kilt Hire, Fascinations for You, Pink Petal etc. There is a list of the activities planned on BBT FB page. Bride of the Year is to be brought back – this was initiated back in the 1990s by Fraserburgh Herald. It has been a positive period in the town, but sadly, visitors are being let down at the minute with various issues about the state of the town.  J.Anderson Agrees with Ashley about the shop windows, some of which are certainly not helping with keeping their shop fronts tidy etc. There was a right carry-on about one business having to remove shutters which had been put up without planning permission, yet there are a couple of shops in High Street which have ‘temporary boards’ on their windows, but they’ve been there for at least a couple of years! Who gave them permission to put up these boards and why are the Heritage people not clamping down on them – they are unsightly.  D.M Asked John which shops he was speaking about.  The Tanning Salon and the Grocer’s Shop opposite. The Tanning Salon had shutters originally, but they have taken out their windows now and fixed permanent boards to their shop front! The Grocer’s Shop has had ugly looking yellow boards put up for over 3 years! There are often lorries unloading pallets there and the pallets are often left lying on the pavement or leaning up against the shutters all day, causing congestion – a health and safety issue. D.M has been in to the Grocer’s Shop about the shutters, but they say they don’t understand English! J.Anderson suggested they receive a letter in their own language!! S.H. said they do understand English, as she taught their daughter and they can speak English fluently!  D.C Will speak to the Fraserburgh 2021 Officers about these premises, also the old Pink Petal shop in the Broadgate, which A.M also mentioned was in rather a mess.  John and Ashley to send details of these premises to Debra.   * **Community Awards**   **A.M** There has been quite a good response with a few nominations and sponsorship. George Watt Surf School will sponsor the Young Hero Award. A couple of accountancy businesses are willing to sponsor another category. She is hoping to get one of the big supermarkets involved, so that they can be seen to be supporting the local community. She needs to contact K.W soon to finalise plans. There is a closing date of 1st November for all the submissions to be in by and also for the allocation of a judging panel. She is also hoping to get the local schools involved, so will be emailing them shortly.  (D.M. Wished A.M all the best on her recent news, as did all the CC.)   * Litter Picking Group   **H.G** There are now 69 people who have joined the Litter-Picking FB page – they would like to get to 100. The group has handed out bags and pickers to various people who have volunteered to do a certain area. The group is going to produce a map of the area so that people can choose to litter-pick in a certain area. They joined some of the staff from Asda and a couple who live in one of the cottages who regularly litter-pick in that area to do a litter-pick on the Broch/Sandhaven Road. The couple often pick up full bottles of spirits, McDonald’s, KFC (Peterhead) etc. containers and more worryingly, bags of discarded PPE! So the group has suggested getting a bin put in place near Glenbuchty Cottage. The group will also be organising a Broch Autumn Litter-Pick, similar to the one Doreen organised in the Spring. They have not heard back yet whether their application for funding from NESS has been approved. They have approached James about the Football Club doing a litter-pick. He has mentioned it to the Chairman and it is being discussed!  Doreen to organise with Waste Officers to get a bin installed outside Glenbuchty Cottage on the Sandhaven Road. | |
| **8.** | **Questions for Aberdeenshire Councillors** | |
|  | **C.B** Just a reminder to the Flower Fairies, that if the CC want to get free trees from the Woodland Trust or for the Queen’s Green Canopy, they should get their application in asap, as there is a lot of interest in this. If they want help in filling up the form, let Charles know. | |
| **9.** | **Questions from Members of the Public** | |
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| **10.** | **Correspondence** | |
|  | None | |
| **11.** | **Planning Applications** | |
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| **12.** | **AOB** | |
|  | * Working with the BBT and Rotary   **J.Adams** On talking with BBT and the Rotary on the Phoenix Initiative, both Ainsley Dyga and Bob Watt felt it would be beneficial to the town to continue working together after the Phoenix fund has finished in December. Better together than all groups doing their own thing. Perhaps to get together every 3 months to discuss ongoing projects, funding etc., then each group to play their part in getting things done. What are the views of the CC?  J.Adams felt it would be a good thing to continue working together for the benefit of the town and all members and councillors present seemed to be in agreement. A suggestion is to invite Ainsley and Bob along to one of the CC meetings and allocate a slot on the agenda to discuss the way going forward into 2022 and beyond.   * Dog Signage   **S.H** Would like to bring up the issue of signage about dogs being on a lead in play parks, following a couple of incidents with their grandchildren in recent weeks at Burns Crescent Play park and the Beach.  We have brought up the Burns Crescent Play park as an incident occurred with our grandchildren while under our care on Saturday 7th August. It consists of a fenced off area with swings, a chute, a climbing frame and a merry-go-round, is open at two places but with a cattle style grid apparently to stop animals entering. However, out with the fencing is an additional piece of apparatus – a zip wire - surrounded by a raised wooded border. Our 8 year old twins ran from our car at the roadside within view, to the zip wire, our grandson getting there first when, all of a sudden, an unleashed dog bounded from the other side of the park and came at him at speed. He ran and fell over the raised wooden border, got up but by this time the dog was upon him. Kenny was running to help him as was the owner but the dog already had its paws on his shoulders and was face to face with him. I was grabbing our granddaughter as she ran back towards me. The owner got to the dog, a large Labrador, and brought it under control putting on the leash. Kenny told him in no uncertain terms that the dog should be on a lead in a play park where there are excited children and the owner agreed and apologised. My granddaughter, by this time had run back to the car and locked herself in very upset. When I took a hold of my grandson, I realised he had wet himself with the scare and needed changing. We had to return home. Luckily we had transport to do that. Not all parents in that situation would have had transport. I reported the incident to the police and to the dog warden who have both logged the incident but without the owner’s name, not much could be done. I then phoned Aberdeenshire Council and after a long wait, got through and checked who the play park belonged to - Aberdeenshire Council. The girl Hannah on the phone line agreed that signs could be put up for dogs to be put on leads in play areas, but a more senior person would get in touch with me. I am still waiting, a week on, to be contacted and have tried phoning several times, have also gone on a live chat but to no avail. This is not our first encounter with an out of control dog this year. The same happened at the beach when the children had climbed Tiger Hill - we were at the bottom and a dog again bounded up towards them. My granddaughter ran down at such a speed she fell and ended up with sand in her eyes and mouth. She was hysterical. Our grandson again was pinned at the top. There was no way we could get to them before the dog did. The owners in this case were unapologetic. This point has been raised before and also on social media. Why are dogs being given priority over children’s safety? Not all people like or feel comfortable around these animals. Some people have genuine allergies. The Beach Regeneration meeting was years ago now and this was raised then - that dogs could have an off leash area, a dog walk area has also been discussed but nothing meaningful ever comes from these discussions. Something needs to be done before a child is seriously injured.  Debra to follow up on the latest incident in Burns Crescent Play park. S.H gave the incident number provided by Hannah to her.  C.B said this was a very reasonable request to have signage installed in all play areas where dogs should be kept on a lead. Did S.H want dogs banned from Play areas? S.H had discussed this with the dog warden, but this could not be enforceable. C.B said some play parks, especially those in newer housing estates were not under the responsibility of the Council, but were under the factor’s responsibility. S.H said that was why she checked with the Council that it was a council play park. Debra had recently posted on social media about responsible dog ownership, so perhaps that should be highlighted again.  N.C Why would it not be enforceable in a Council play park where there are children running about? If it was a dog harrying e.g. a flock of sheep, the dog’s owner would be responsible for any damage done to the animals?!!  Debra to also find out why this would not be enforceable.  J.Adams suggested that once S.H hears back from the Council, the CC can write to them to get signage installed and run a social media awareness campaign about being a responsible dog owner.   * Mausoleum Sign.   **H.G** Is there going to be an information plaque put up outside the newly refurbished Mausoleum to explain the history of it? Many people (visitors and locals) go up and look inside it, but there’s nothing to give them any information! C.B agreed it was a very good idea to explain about the Mausoleum and perhaps the Fraser family.  D.M Would this be part of the public realm works?  Debra to bring this suggestion forward at the next Regeneration 2021 Meeting.   * Update on Public Realm Works   **C.B** and **D.M** said no update is available - this has been put back several times due to Covid, contractors not being able to start the work for whatever reason and probably now, there may be a shortage of building materials? S.H asked if the source of water in the re-allocated fountain will still be available if Ross McLeary is not involved now. D.M assured the CC that a tap will be integrated into the fountain itself.  K.H asked about an update on the guys who vandalised the planter in the Broadgate. This had been discussed earlier in the meeting when K.H was not present. Ewan Simpson (Police) had said he could not divulge the name of the culprits and D.M agreed with this.   * Scottish Govt.Consultation Bus Survey   **K.W** brought this up – there is an online bus survey from the Scottish Govt. which is available to see and take part in – it makes for interesting reading, but it is not providing an adequate service for disabled bus users! Apparently Fraserburgh buses meet the criteria! The survey closes at the end of August. | |
| **13.** | **Date & Time of Next Meeting** | |
|  | **Tuesday 21st September 2021 at 7pm** | |