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| **MINUTES**  **Online Zoom Meeting**  **Tuesday 15th June 2021**  **at 7.00 pm** | |  |
| **Present**: James Adams (Chair)  Ron Morrice (Treasurer)  Ken Watt (Planning Secretary)  Alison Wymes (Minute Secretary)  John Anderson  Norma Craven  Helena Gilbert  Kenny Harper  Sylvia Harper  Seamus Logan  Ashley Mackie  Fiona May  Mary Regan  Steven Rollo  Dionne Whyte  Debra Campbell (Community Planning Officer)  David Maclennan (Acting Area Manager)  Alistair Millar (Roads Dept, Aberdeenshire Council)  **Councillors**: Councillor Charles Buchan  Councillor Andy Kille  Councillor Doreen Mair  Councillor Brian Topping | | |
| **1.** | **Apologies & Declaration of Interest** | |
|  | None | |
| **2.** | **Minutes of last meeting to be approved – Tuesday 18th May 2021** | |
|  | Proposed – Mary Regan, Seconded – Sylvia Harper | |
| **3.** | **Matters Arising** | |
|  | **H.G** – Town Centre and Vandalism  Brought up about the increase of incidents of vandalism in the town centre and elsewhere. What is being done about it? This issue was discussed among the members present. **D.M** stated that 2 people had been charged in relation to the break-in at Nielson’s Coaches. The people responsible for the damage to the flower planter outside Cheers in the Broadgate had owned up to it after reading posts on FB about their behaviour, had messaged **D.M** who advised them to  contact the police, which they did, as she had already reported it to them. They have offered a donation to the Flower Fairies to cover the cost of the damage. In both these incidents, CCTV has played an important role in catching those responsible. Should members see any other anti-social behaviour or vandalism taking place in the town, they should contact the police, even if there is no CCTV. The more incidents reported, the more something may be done. The police are aware of areas in the town where anti-social behaviour is taking place and various letters have been sent to individuals and their parents. **S.L** said there was quite a lot of this kind of behaviour taking place in Broadsea, where there are a lot of elderly people. He has reported incidents in the past and has been told by the police to take photos of the culprits/incidents as evidence. **K.W** suggested FCC should get in touch with the police to ask for a written statement about the legality of taking photos of kids without parental consent.  **J.Adams to contact Ewan Simpson to get a written statement from the police about the legal position of the public taking photos of kids** **during incidents**  **J.Adams** asked **Alistair Millar** (Roads Dept – Aberdeenshire Council) to give an update on a potential school crossing at the Academy entrance in Alexandra Terrace.  **A.Millar**  There has been no safety audit taken on Alexandra Terrace in the past. He sat outside the Academy on Alexandra Terrace one morning from 8-9am and counted 180 vehicles, either parking or passing through the area and 125 children crossing. Using the old method (PB squared) of calculating the criteria, it does not meet the criteria for a crossing. He had spoken to **D.Mair** who had informed him of a new primary and nursery school going to be built in the grounds of the Academy in the future, so once these schools are built, the figures would probably increase and then the numbers could warrant a crossing being put in place on Alexandra Terrace. There are no accident stats. He was a bit concerned with the number of children accessing the school through the old swimming pool car park, where there were a few vehicles parked/dropping off children.  **A.M** – A query on FB from a member of the public as to why there is a crossing on Boothby Road near Findlay’s Restaurant, but not further down near the entrance to Greenbank Village. **A.Millar** said that it all depended on the number of houses built at the time, but there had been a push by members for a crossing beside Findlay’s and it had been passed. The Roads Dept are much stricter now on installing crossings – they have to meet the criteria and it usually depends on the long-term number of houses to be built in new developments – this will also apply to the Kirkton Heights development on the Boothby Road/Memsie Road.  **A.Millar to send details of PB squared criteria for installing crossings to J.Adams.**  **C.B** – The Alexandra Terrace entrance to the Academy is the main entrance from the south end of the town – would that not have any influence on the decision to install a crossing? The gate from the old swimming pool used to be locked, but since the extension was added, the builders tended to park in that car park, so it should really be locked again by the janitors.  **A.Kille** At the Area Committee that morning, members were discussing putting a crossing further down Boothby Road and also at Kirkton Heights development.  **J.Anderson** asked for confirmation of the flow of traffic on Kirk Brae after the Regeneration outside the OPC on the Broadgate has been completed. **A.Millar** said it would remain a 2-way flow, for safety and congestion reasons.  **N.C** asked about the area near the Bus Station – there are no road markings and it is difficult to know which side of the road one should be on, as it’s a 3-road junction – coming off High Street onto Caroline Place/Manse Street/School Street.  **A.Millar to look at this area and get back to J.Adams**  **J.Adams** thanked **A.Millar** for attending the meeting, giving an update on the Alexandra Terrace entrance to the Academy and answering other questions to do with roads in the town.  **A.Millar** then left the meeting.  **J.Adams** welcomed back **Cllr Brian Topping** – it was good to see him after his recent health scare and stay in hospital. | |
| **4.** | **Police Scotland/Community Warden Reports** | |
|  | Police Scotland Community Wardens  None Received | |
| **5.** | **Urgent Items of Business** | |
|  | **None** | |
| **6.** | **Treasurer’s Report** | |
|  | **R.M** stated there was **£14,454.51** available in the account. **£681.50** is in the general account, the remainder is committed to the various sub-groups. | |
| **7.** | **Sub-Committees** | |
|  | * **Resilience**   **J.Anderson** gave an updateon the Food Larder**.** The membership has been raised to **60** members. There are **20** volunteers and **4** on the reserve list. The more popular day is a Thursday. There has been a problem with the roof leaking – Ian Buchan from Buchan Builders has sorted it free of charge, but has suggested getting the roof sealed. No price for that as yet, but the premises are owned by the Harbour Board & rented out to Jack’s, and neither would want to spend any money on the roof! The Resilience Group hasn’t got the funds for that kind of work. He also thanked the Secret Garden and Flower Fairies for supplying the 2 Hanging Baskets outside the Food Larder.   * **Flower Fairies**   **S.H** Firstly, a roundup of our busiest time of the year. Lorna, Alison, Helena, Mary and myself lifted and dried all the Spring bulbs. We eventually managed to meet with Beth James (Technical Officer for Banff & Buchan) on a very wet miserable Friday and walked round the Broadgate discussing where best to place the planters that had to be moved due to the Regeneration. Situations agreed, we stressed the urgency of the move as we had plants arriving from our supplier and also if schools were to be involved then the planters had to be repositioned quickly. However, 2 weeks went by and no word from Beth, so we approached the Landscape Squad who had received no notification from her to move planters! To give Jim Buchan and his team their due, they moved them that week with us helping by going to Aden and picking up compost.  We then got schools on board with St Andrews, The North, Lochpots and Westfield agreeing to participate. They planted the tubs in the Broadgate and Cross Street and the Rugby Club Mini Micros planted their self-funded plants at the library in the week 6th – 11th June.  While working around the town, we were acutely aware of the dreadful state of the town centre.  The photos lead on from John’s presentation at last meeting, highlighting the fact that if we want to attract people to the town, we are not doing a great job. We were clearing and planting up planters surrounded by weeds!! There are weeds that have been growing around the tree bases for years. They can’t have weed killer because of the tree roots and it took Kenny a morning to clear one tree. Our plan would be to plant wild flowers in the base in the Autumn.  The weeds in North Braeheads are disgusting! It is like a jungle!! The spraying of weeds stops at the entrance to Braeheads, just across from the Faithlie Centre!!??  The seats have been in the same state since we brought them to the CC’s attention 3 years ago. They require painting and the back of at least one is loose. These seats were in constant use when we were there and they are waiting for an accident to happen if people get their fingers jammed between the back and the actual seat!  Lampposts have flaking paint, again this was raised 3 years ago.  Granite blocks have been knocked off the small wall at the Market Cross for at least a year and are lying on the ground. The Market Cross is in dire need of a clean to remove all the algae on it.  And that leads onto the seagull mess. Each year, we have been told that It was being attended to and that a member of the council was working on it, but nothing ever comes to fruition. Members of the public frequently speak to us about the mess on pavements. Eateries are bombarded by the bird mess. This is not hygienic, is a health hazard and puts people off from using the establishment. According to rumour, there was a machine removing a couple of nests from the Library roof on 6th June – if they can remove nests from there, why not in the town centre and elsewhere?!  The notice board outside the Dalrymple Hall is disintegrating. What will be done with the flower planters on top of the Dalrymple Hall car park wall? Obviously, the Council will not have the finances to fill all these planters with flowers.  **K.H** spoke to **Ken Regan** on 1st June about the mess the town was in. He said the Landscape Squad had been told they could start spraying the weeds, but not in their normal hours – they could apply for overtime to spray! Bird mess wasn’t his department’s responsibility – we could approach the Lighting Department to get spikes put on the lamp-posts or Environmental Health about the health hazard! The Council are not meeting us halfway to sort out all the problems we have brought to their attention over the last 3 years – they should be ashamed of themselves!!  **J.Adams** then showed the photographs which the Flower Fairies had sent for all to see – grids under the trees full of weeds in the Broadgate, the vandalised planter and the plants strewn about the road, the weeds in North Braeheads, the notice board outside Dalrymple Hall, bird mess all over the pavements, the granite blocks off the wall round the Market Cross and vans parking on the pavements there too.  A lot of heated discussion took place with members and councillors contributing suggestions as to what can be done. **J.Anderson** pointed out that this will be the 3rd time the Broadgate area has been regenerated and it will look good for a couple of years, but there will be no money put aside for maintenance and in a few years, the CC will be having the same discussion about the state of the town centre!! **A.Kille** suggested that the CC invite Ken Regan from Landscape Services and/or Derek Murray (Ken’s boss) to the next CC Meeting. **H.G** suggested that there should be a town centre walkabout with officers, so they can see for themselves the issues that are being raised, rather than coming to a Zoom meeting. **A.Kille** said he would try and get someone from higher up in the Council to come for a walkabout. **B.T** agreed with all that was being said and has said for a number of years that the Council should be committed to providing ongoing maintenance. **D.M** has been having meetings with the residents of North Braeheads and she has asked Andrew Mackie (Council Housing Dept) to have a meeting with residents about their concerns. **D.Campbell** has been talking to different officers about the issues brought up at the May meeting and **J.Anderson’s** presentation. Community Payback could paint the buoys, but ownership of the buoys and the ground they are on has to be determined first. The finger signs are due to be replaced and are waiting for the Roads Dept to start the job. The Leisure Centre ground is owned by the Feuars, so they need to be contacted about the footpaths round that area and find out whose responsibility it is to keep the area tidy. She will contact the CC when all the information comes in.  **A.Kille to contact someone high up in the Council to come for a walkabout the town centre**  **D.Mair to follow up on the North Braeheads residents’ concerns**  **D.Maclennan to contact someone from the Council to come and talk to the CC about the scheme for dealing with gulls etc. He will also see about getting the planters removed from the Banff Road entrance to the town, also the planters on top of the wall at Dalrymple Hall, as there will not be enough plants from the Council to fill these. He will also see about getting the granite blocks at the Market Cross put back on the wall and see what can be done about vans/lorries parking on the pavements in that area.**  **D.Campbell to get back to FCC when she has found out all the information as requested**  **J.Adams to send the photos to D.Maclennan**   * **Phoenix Group**   **J.Adams** said the group had heard back from the College to say there would be a group of students designing the Doric boards to put up in the Broadgate, hopefully in time for the Lighthouse Trail in August. They will show the group their designs for approval. The group has been continuing to work with the marketing consultant on promoting local businesses – some shops are taking part in the Fiver Fest, a national initiative, this week – they will advertise what they have to offer for £5 on FB and the website.  **M.R** is working with Ainsley Dyga on behalf of the Fraserburgh Art Group – there is to be another Art Trail from 8th – 25th July where different artists/photographers put some of their work on display in shops to encourage more footfall into the town centre. It proved to be very successful in 2020 **-** would the CC be willing to advertise this event on their FB page and website? Yes.  **M.Regan to contact A.Mackie with the relevant information for advertising the Art Trail**   * **Community Awards**   **K.Watt** gave an update on the progress of arranging the Community Awards as proposed by **A.Mackie** in her email of 18th May. They have narrowed down the proposal to have 4 categories – Young Hero (under 18), Exceptional Achievement, Community Business of the Year and Service with a Smile. The cost of the sponsorship for the awards is on the attachment she sent out on that date. **J.Adams** asked for a vote from the members to go ahead with the proposal and a majority agreed it should go ahead. **A.Mackie** proposed that they start putting out information on the FB page and on the website during June/July. The award ceremony would be held in January rather than November as first proposed, as Nov/Dec is a very busy time for most people. The Service with a Smile category would be voted for by the public. Once more information has gone out, **A.M** and **K.W** will set up a judging panel. This proposal will highlight the good things that are happening in the town and make people proud of being part of Fraserburgh. **J.Adams** thanked **A.M** and **K.W** for their input and told the new members that if they were wanting to be part of any of the sub-groups, to let him know. **F.M** asked how they would sort out the votes – would it be a free for all vote or would they narrow it down to so many contenders for each category. All the businesses/people would be put forward, then people could make comments which they would read, then whittle it down to 3 contenders for each category, then the panel would have a discussion and choose a winner. **F.M** offered to write a profile and take a photo of the 3 runners-up in each category to help the panel or public choose who the award should go to.   * **Outdoor Gym Proposal**   **H.G/A.M** – After reading the comments on the survey, it was clear people did not want an outdoor gym, but what they did want was better play parks. They wanted the existing play parks to be upgraded or a completely new one sited somewhere in the town. **A.M** said a lot of people had made comments on FB, but had not actually filled in the survey. Some groups were keen on the idea, such as the Rugby Club and other sports group pages. Do we want to extend the time limit on completing the survey and target specific groups who voiced an interest in the proposal? Another proposal would be to upgrade the existing play parks and add in a couple of pieces of equipment for adults to use?  The Scottish Govt are wanting community groups to get involved in putting forward ideas for projects at [deliberate@aberdeenshire.co.uk](mailto:deliberate@aberdeenshire.co.uk), so would the idea of combining a children’s play area with some adult gym equipment come under that? **D.Mcl** replied that the legislation for that hasn’t come through yet, but groups could apply to the AIF 2nd Tranche for funding. **D.M** had been reading a lot of the comments – some people were asking for a play park similar to the one at Aden Park, but it’s a shire-wide park and not really a local park. The Scottish Govt have announced recently that they are going to spend £60 million on play parks in Scotland, but not sure what the timeline for that is. **F.M** suggested that one of the poorest play parks in the town is the one in James Ramsey Park – bits of the equipment are missing, children don’t use the assault course, the wooden posts are either rotten or bits are broken off and there are sharp bits which are dangerous if children fall on them, the entrances seem to be a step down into the play area and often children are tripping over the rough ground to get in and of course, during wet weather, the entrances are filled with water!! **A.K** – one of the points about the play parks which was brought up earlier in the meeting was the subject of maintenance! There is an Open Spaces Strategy being discussed at present with the Council about play parks, but nothing has been decided yet – a suggestion is to have fewer play parks, but make them better and accessible to all. There is the AIF 2nd Tranche available, but the closing date for applications is 23rd July and because FCC has not got a CAP, only £5,000 would be available. **C.B** said that in the limited time till the applications are due in to the AIF, so much would need to be done – thus didn’t think it was a viable project for this year – maybe wait till next year? **N.C** suggested that the combined play park/gym equipment would be a good idea, so that it would be more family orientated, rather than stand-alone play parks for children. **J.Adams** said they should leave the survey up for a couple more weeks, then put up another post with a link to what the play park/adult gym equipment could look like.   * Litter Picking Group   **D.M** – the group received 30 litter pickers and 30 bag hoops from McDonalds. She has been out taking photos of the group. The group will source a map of the town to put on FB and volunteers can choose their own areas to do regular litter picks. The group has spoken to the QIO for Fraserburgh, Peterhead and Mintlaw and there will be a Litter Picking Initiative done through the schools. **D.W** will have input there, as she is a teacher in a local school. They hope to have a Litter Pick Launch. They are considering having 2 major events during the year – Spring and Autumn. **H.G** said the group had decided on a tagline ‘Let’s Get a Grip and Join a Litter Pick’!! They have applied to NESS Energy for funding of £350 for adult and kids’ hi-viz jackets, kids’ litter pickers, a first aid kit and compostable bags and gloves – they should hear by 18th June if they have been successful. **D.Mair** suggested the group could also be called the Brombles, a take on the Broch and Wombles!! If the children take part in a litter pick, they can be Brombles and get a badge or certificate to say they’ve taken part. Another suggestion was for children to make a piece of art, using some of the litter they picked up to make a sculpture, a collage or message board along the theme of the Environment etc. Keep Scotland Beautiful organises lots of competitions for schools, so that’s something the children could do and could maybe win a monetary gift towards their school. **D.Mair** said she does a litter pick every few weeks in the Maconochie Road area and while out, a gentleman who had noticed the damage done to the town centre planter, offered to water the plants at the Tesco roundabout, as he stays in Duthie Place. **A.W** said there are already volunteers who do the watering there, but thanked him for the offer. | |
| **8.** | **Questions for Aberdeenshire Councillors** | |
|  | **A.W** – have the councillors got any idea when the housing in Cross Street is going to start, as the area has been an eyesore for the last 2 years?  **A.K** – there is no update about that.  **K.W** – he works beside where the spray painters are and a number of his staff are getting their cars sprayed with paint, but the painters are not taking responsibility for washing these cars, like they used to. They are saying people should complain to the Harbour Commissioners. He thinks that they shouldn’t be spraying paint in that area, as it is a health hazard, damaging people’s cars and also their health - breathing in toxic fumes.  **A.K** – it shouldn’t be happening at all, as it seems to be an environmental issue. Spraying should be done in a sealed off area.  **D.Mair** - this is going to be discussed at the Harbour board tomorrow, Wednesday 16th June. The rules for spraying boats are quite strict from the Harbour Board. They installed a wind sock at the harbour and the paint sprayers are not supposed to spray when the wind is above a certain level or blowing in a certain direction. She has contacted the Environmental Health and someone from there said if it’s being sprayed on cars, it is not a health hazard!  **D.Maclennan to find out dates for when the Cross Street Development is to be started. He will also find out whether health and environmental concerns are being ignored by the spray painters and D.Mair to discuss the issue at the Harbour Board.**  **H.G –** Is there any update on the Men’s Shed and Sea Cadets premises?  **D.Maclennan** – there has been an application received and there is a consultation going on at present for an asset transfer to Grampian House. | |
| **9.** | **Questions from Members of the Public** | |
|  | **A.M** – A couple of questions from the public have been discussed earlier – the weeds in the town and the crossing on Boothby Road, so she will feedback to the members of public what was discussed. A Leo Harper had mentioned the state of the Basketball courts on Maconochie Road – he had brought this up before and was promised something would be done about it. He has heard nothing else.  **D.M** – these are the responsibility of the North Links Development Trust and he should contact Norman Reid by private message.  **A.M** - someone asked about the emptying of the bin at Cairnbulg Harbour.  **J.Adams** – that would come under the Invercairn CC – contact David Donn, the secretary  **A.M** – someone has complained about the funeral plots nearest the beach being in an awful mess with weeds!  **D.Maclennan to add that to his ever growing list to find out about!** | |
| **10.** | **Correspondence** | |
|  | None | |
| **11.** | **Planning Applications** | |
|  | **K.W** will send out the latest planning applications once he has the new members’ email addresses  **J.Adams to send the email addresses to K.W** | |
| **12.** | **AOB** | |
|  | **A.M** on behalf of the CC, wished **J.Adams** all the best for his wedding in July | |
| **13.** | **Date & Time of Next Meeting** | |
|  | **Tuesday 17th August 2021 at 7pm** | |