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| **MINUTES**  **Online Zoom Meeting**  **Tuesday 19th October 2021**  **at 7.00 pm** | |  |
| **Present**: James Adams (Chair)  Ron Morrice (Treasurer)  Alison Wymes (Minute Secretary)    John Anderson  Helena Gilbert  Fiona May    Angela Keith (Banff & Buchan Area Manager)  Cheryl Roberts (taken over from Ross McLeary from the Public Realm)    **Councillors**: Councillor Charles Buchan  Councillor Doreen Mair  Councillor Brian Topping | | |
| **1.** | **Apologies & Declaration of Interest** | |
|  | Sylvia & Kenny Harper, Seamus Logan, Ashley Mackie, Mary Regan, Steven Rollo, Ken Watt, Dionne Whyte, Cllr Andy Kille, Community Wardens (Alia Gatt & Alex Scrimgeour) | |
| **2.** | **Minutes of last meeting to be approved – Tuesday 21st September 2021** | |
|  | On the condition that 2 amendments were made, the minutes were  Proposed – John Anderson, Seconded – James Adams   1. The Litter-Picking group received £350 from Ness Energy, not £250 2. Derek Murray is not Angela Keith’s line manager   The Amended September Minutes will be sent out with the October Minutes | |
| **3.** | **Matters Arising** | |
|  | Cheryl Roberts was introduced – She works for Aberdeenshire Council and has taken over from Ross McLeary who was the project co-ordinator for the Fraserburgh 20/21 Regeneration Project.  She gave an update on the Public Realm work to be done round the Kirk Brae development. The Project is to be scaled back, due to rising costs of materials and a larger work force having to be put in place because of the timescale of when the project has to be completed by. The area round the OPC and down Kirk Brae will still be done, but the open area and pathway leading to beside Iceland will not be done. If future funding was made available, this area could be looked at again with view to completing the original plan. The contract has been awarded to Hunter Construction, an Aberdeenshire based company. They are due to be onsite by the start of November and the project to be completed by the end of December, though this may have to be extended. The Temperance Fountain is to be installed across the road where the Fish statue is at present. The groundwork for this has to be completed by the 11th December, so that the area is clear for the town Xmas events to go ahead. The Fountain is to be put in place by Spring 2022.  **J..Anderson** Surely if the money was put aside when the original plan was set up, then the whole project should be completed?!  **B.T** All 4 councillors have always supported new projects in the town, but with Covid and Brexit, the price of all materials has risen, not just for the council, but it’s right across the board. The people of Fraserburgh have started to see where money is being spent in the town with various projects being highlighted on social media.  **A.Keith** The Council are very much committed to seeing the Kirk Brae development being completed.  **C.B** The council is being squeezed from both sides – rising costs of materials and the deadline of the project by funders, which has to be completed by Spring 2022.  **F.M** What is happening to the Mausoleum and are the contractors going to be using local employees?  **C. Roberts** There will be interpretation boards put in place with information about the Mausoleum and some history of the town. A little extra funding has been made available to limewash the interior of the Mausoleum, so it is brighter for people to see into it. She is unsure if it will actually be open to the public. The funding for this is from Public Contract Scotland, so they have to keep to that body’s rules for employing people to carry out the work.  **A.W** Asked for confirmation that the Fountain will have running water. Yes, there will be taps in place.  **J. Anderson** Can C. Roberts provide an updated plan for the CC to see or can they provide the original plan with areas of what will be done/not done highlighted?  **C.Roberts** She will ask the Fraserburgh Regeneration Group to highlight the changes to the Kirk Brae Development on their FB page. She also mentioned the Granite blocks on the wall round the Market Cross which had been highlighted by the FF on a walkabout with both Ken Regan and Alan Wood earlier on in the year and had been reported to the Historic Asset Management Project. The post for manager of this project is vacant at present, but she will have a look at them and get back to the CC as to the timeline for sorting these. She also brought up about the proposed siting of the Xmas Tree and Grotto in the Market Cross area, due to its usual siting near the OPC being unavailable this year, because of the proposed Kirk Brae development. She had been in touch with John Bruce at FDT about this, as permission would need to be applied to Historic Scotland, as it is a listed monument. Another option would be for the Xmas Tree and Grotto to go in the area where the fish statue was, if that area was cleared by the 11th December – would that be too late to fit in with Xmas events in the town?  **D.M** The Xmas Tree and Grotto are usually in place for the Late night Shopping Event which takes place the last weekend in November. She also wondered if Zander Rogers who’s in charge of the Xmas Tree/Grotto appreciated that things weren’t always as easy as they appeared to be, so he would need to apply for planning permission for these to be sited round the Market Cross.  **J.Anderson** The Rotary are planning on having a collapsible Xmas Tree put in place on top of the grotto. They have acquired a lamp post which will be the stem of the tree with a net being raised/lowered for the branches of the tree. One of the problems siting it somewhere else would be the lack of power to light up the tree and grotto. He said that a metal cage on a concrete block would be the means of securing the tree to the ground – there would be no drilling to the area round the Market Cross or pavements. He would get back to John Bruce about this.  Cheryl Roberts to send an updated plan for the Kirk Brae Development to the CC.  Cheryl Roberts to have a look at the granite blocks round the Market Cross and get back to the CC  John Anderson to contact John Bruce about the siting of the Xmas Tree/Grotto – permission required by Historic Scotland etc. | |
| **4.** | **Police Scotland/Community Warden Reports** | |
|  | Police Scotland Community Wardens  None received | |
| **5.** | **Urgent Items of Business** | |
|  | **A.W** Gave her apologies for the delay in sending out the Action Sheet from the August meeting. If she doesn’t receive updates from people assigned to certain actions, they have to go on Outstanding Actions! Please could members let her know when actions have been completed or are still ongoing, in order that she can complete the Action Sheet accurately? She will try to get the minutes out sooner, but she has a very busy life!! | |
| **6.** | **Treasurer’s Report** | |
|  | **R.M** Sent out the most recent information to all CC members. There have been no questions regarding the latest information.  **F.M** Asked about sending an email for purchases to Ron and also about donations to the Litter-Picking Group.  **A.Keith** For transparency purposes, this should be minuted.  **F.M** A donation of £30 was given from her father-in-law under the name of his boat Quest FR17. This was used to buy snacks and drinks for the Litter-Picking Autumn Event.  **H.G** A donation of £34 was handed to her by the 4th and 5th Anchor boys at their litter-picking event – she would keep it as petty cash for any future small purchases. She also had an outstanding invoice to send from Buchan Chemicals.  **A.W** D.Whyte was to send Ron screenshots of purchases made from Amazon for the Litter-Picking Group. | |
| **7.** | **Sub-Committees** | |
|  | * **Resilience**   **J.Anderson** There is little change with the Food Larder from last month, as it is an ongoing facility. They have raised their membership to 70 members. John did a presentation about the Food Larder at the OPC Harvest Service and the Harvest Collection from members of the church was donated to the Food Larder. A total of £1,386.90 was donated. The West Church Sunday School had visited the Food larder and donated items of food and a donation of £60 was found in an envelope amongst the food. The Food Larder committee has decided not to go ahead with the repair to the roof at the premises, as it is too expensive £11,000. At the moment, the roof is watertight. He has notified the Council of their decision. The F.L Committee is looking for a secretary, as the person who was doing it has gone back to his permanent job and also has returned to his voluntary work, now that groups are starting up after Covid, so he has not the time required to do this post as well.  He is waiting to hear back from Nathan, the Co-ordinator of the Snow Wardens regarding the questions asked at the September meeting.   * **Flower Fairies**   **A.W** This month has been a relatively quiet period in the Flower Fairies calendar! They have started to remove the bedding planters from the town planters in readiness for planting bulbs. Unfortunately the weather has prevented this from being completed, so they are hoping to get all the plants out this week and next.  They have not received an order form from the council to select number and type of plants they would like for next summer. Ken Regan informed the group in July that there would be an allocation of 1500 plants for the whole of the Fraserburgh district. The order form should have been in by September! They found out from Craig Trail (Sea Cadets) that he had ordered 1000 plants for the village of Sandhaven. So where does that leave the FF? Alison has emailed Ken with regards to this issue and has asked for feedback ASAP. The FF want to continue brightening up the town and their remit seems to be growing year on year, so they definitely need the plants. They are formally asking the CC for a sum of money to put towards buying more plants for 2022. Could the CC please vote for this to be approved? They have ordered seeds to be grown again by Lorna Pirie. So this all needs to be paid for!  Sylvia and Alison met with Rob Gill, teacher at the Academy, on Monday 11th October. He works in the Hub with S1 and S2 children who require more input and support to allow them to develop and contribute to the community. He would like the FF to work alongside these children on various projects. He has some really good ideas to promote biodiversity and eco-friendly projects at the Academy. So far, trees were planted on the grass verges of the drive leading up to the Academy. Unfortunately, these were broken and vandalised which is a shame for the children who planted them! Since then, they have planted bulbs on the grassy island in the middle of the drive, so hopefully they will be left intact!!  The FF cannot take on too much more work, as they are all volunteers who have other commitments, however they have agreed that groups of S1 and S2 can help the FF plant bulbs in the town centre planters, probably the week starting 8th November.  **A.Keith** Said that the 1000 plants ordered by Sandhaven would have no direct impact on FCC applying for plants for Fraserburgh Ward 3 district. She suggested that the FF should look at having a Spend Profile, so that they know what their budget will be for the following year. Also the CC should perhaps allocate a certain amount to each of the sub-groups, so they would be assured of getting that money to purchase what was required. The Spend Profile would also help when applying to the likes of the AIF for bigger projects.  She would also take on board to find out about the allocation of plants  **H.G** Said that the Litter-Picking Group would not be spending so much money in future years, as they have bought all the necessary equipment required for them to do litter picks, whereas the Flower Fairies are having to spend a fair amount each year to supplement the allocation of plants from the Council.  **R.M** Stated that the FF have £1,500.34 in their fund at present, but **A.W** wasn’t sure as to where this amount came from, as they had spent a fair amount of money this year.  Alison to contact Ron Morrice for a breakdown in where the above sum has come from  Angela to chase up about the allocation of plants to FCC next year   * **Phoenix Group**   **J.Adams** He has been trying to get a hold of David Herd from the College, but as yet, he hasn’t heard back from him! It was with regards to a few members of the Phoenix Group meeting him in the town centre and discussing with him in person to find out if there has been any progress with the Doric Murals. He also hasn’t had a chance to speak to Ashleigh Mackie following the birth of her baby. He will hopefully be able to give a fuller update at the next meeting.   * **Community Awards**   **A. Mackie** was not present to give an update on how this is progressing, so hopefully, she will update the CC at the November meeting.   * **Litter-Picking Group**   **H.G** Thanked the CC members and members of the public who turned up for the Autumn Litter-Pick on Sunday 10th October, also to Craig Trail and some of the Sea Cadets, who collected 18 bags of litter between them! Tesco donated tubs of sweets and bottles of water for the litter-picks and as mentioned before, John and Lana May donated £30 which was used to buy snacks for the children. Fiona delivered some leaflets to the local businesses advertising the Litter-Pick, but this could be done on a bigger scale in the Spring when hopefully more people could get involved.  Community Learning and Development borrowed the equipment and did a litter-pick with S1 and S2 at the Academy – they had positive feedback and it was a good exercise to get the kids involved in the community and give them an insight into local issues e.g. littering.  The Group also did a litter-pick with the 4th and 5th Anchor Boys along the beach and the boys donated £34 to the group.  Doreen and Fiona did one with the North School and they managed to collect 8 bags of litter in 45 minutes!  She had noticed when at the skip site that a lot of the signage is faded, so it would be advantageous if these signs were replaced for clearer ones, so that the public know which items go in which skips.  With regards to the unlet garages that were spoken about at the last meeting, would it be possible for the Litter-Picking Group to share a garage with the Food Larder or the Resilience Group to store all the litter-picking equipment over the winter? Yes.  **D.M** Said congratulations should be given to the Litter-Picking Group for all the hard work they have done – sourcing funding, encouraging both children and adults to get involved, doing risk assessments etc. The group has been a real boon to the FCC. Well done to them all!  **J.Anderson** Asked if the bin had been moved to the hammer head at Links Road.  **D.M** has been chasing up Darren Frier to get that done, but had not heard back from him. She will keep on at him to do it.  **H.G** Asked if it was Darren Frier who she should contact re the faded signage on the recycling bins at the skip sites.  **D.M** No, but she would let **H.G** know who it was – she would email who was responsible for that.  Doreen to email the address of who’s responsible for the signage at the skip site to H.G | |
| **8.** | **Questions for Aberdeenshire Councillors** | |
|  | **A.W** There has been a post on FB in the last couple of weeks about the proposed new Primary School and Nursery in the Academy grounds. In previous plans, the Primary School was to be built near Dennyduff Road and the Nursery was to be where St Andrew’s Infant Department is at present. In recent proposals, the Nursery is to be built near Alexandra Terrace (where the old swimming pool used to be). Is this true? If so, does the Academy know of this plan? Rob Gill, who Sylvia and Alison met recently, said the Academy was expecting 70 trees to be delivered from Woodland Trust and they are planning on planting them at the top end of the Academy grounds near the proposed area for the Nursery School.  **C.B** That information is partly correct, but not 100%! There has been a lot of discussion recently over Nursery provision, especially with the extended hours, flexibility etc. The original plan was to have a new ‘Super Nursery’ in the area where St Andrew’s Infant School. It has not been passed yet as it has to go through more consultations with the 2 schools involved, the public, the FCC and various other bodies – this will take another year at least to get to this stage. And of course, there is the problem of finance for this project! 5 years ago it was to cost £12 million, the latest estimate is to be £18 million!!  **A.W** She brought up this question because if the Academy is going to take delivery of these trees, where are they going to plant them?  **C.B** The Academy will have been kept up to date with all these new proposals, so will make that decision accordingly.  A lot of discussion then took place with various members voicing their opinions, the main one being traffic congestion at opening and closing times of the schools in Dennyduff Road, Queens Road, The Hexagon, Alexandra Terrace and all the surrounding streets. If there is a proposal for basically 2 new schools in the Academy grounds, where is all the traffic supposed to go? Dennyduff Road is also the main thoroughfare for emergency vehicles to use in the case of an emergency – police, fire engines, ambulances and also at the starting time on a Wednesday morning, the refuse lorry is in Dennyduff Road with no room to overtake! It’s an accident waiting to happen!!  **D.M** Said there would be a rezoning exercise done at the same time, so some of the issues may be resolved. The bottom line is that the North School and St Andrew’s School pupils deserve a modern school fit for purpose and the council do not have any other areas in the centre of town where the demand is.  Further discussion took place with various ideas put forward. It was agreed that this subject could be put on a future agenda to be discussed in more detail.  **A.Keith** Also said there would be further public consultations where the general public would be able to put forward their views.  **A.W** Asked about another rumour? The second hand shop which was in the old Murison’s building in Cross Street/Frithside Street has vacated the premises, because the building has been sold. Is this true?  **D.M** Yes the building has been sold. She can’t divulge who has bought it, but whoever it is, has plans to refurbish it.  **J.Anderson** A few meetings ago, it was mentioned that a German retailer was trying to build a store in Fraserburgh. Is there an update on that?  **C.B** There are still ongoing discussions about the site and he hopes the proposal will still go ahead, but there is nothing definite at the moment. | |
| **9.** | **Questions from Members of the Public** | |
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| **10.** | **Correspondence** | |
|  | Email from David Duguid MP – can he attend a FCC meeting?  James to invite him to the November meeting. | |
| **11.** | **Planning Applications** | |
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| **12.** | **AOB** | |
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| **13.** | **Date & Time of Next Meeting** | |
|  | **Tuesday 18th January 2022 at 7pm** | |