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| **MINUTES**  **Online Zoom Meeting**  **Tuesday 18th January 2022**  **at 7.00 pm** | |  |
| **Present**: James Adams (Chair)  Ashley Mackie (Social Secretary)  Ken Watt (Planning Secretary)  Alison Wymes (Minute Secretary)    John Anderson  Helena Gilbert  Sylvia Harper  Kenny Harper  Fiona May  Mary Regan  Dionne Whyte      **Councillors**: Councillor Charles Buchan  Councillor Doreen Mair  Councillor Brian Topping | | |
| **1.** | **Apologies & Declaration of Interest** | |
|  | Angela Keith, Andy Kille, Seamus Logan, Ron Morrice, Community Wardens | |
| **2.** | **Minutes of last meeting** | |
|  | Updated Minutes from October Meeting  Proposed – John Anderson Seconded – James Adams  Minutes of November Meeting to be approved at February Meeting, as they were only sent out earlier today | |
| **3.** | **Matters Arising and Action Sheet Updates** | |
|  | **J.Adams** Received an email from Irene Sharp (HT at Academy) saying she would talk to pupils about joining the FCC. Some of them are in the throes of prelims, so she will get back to the CC after the exams. He had emailed PCC about how they recruited young people for their CC. but has had no reply.  **D.M** She had contacted Michael Murray for details of the new chairman of Kessock Park, but he didn’t know who that was yet. She had also enquired about signage at the skip site – new signs had been ordered, but hadn’t arrived yet. **H.G** has been to the skip and spoken to David Webster (Assistant Manager) – he thought the signs were too small and tended to fade within a short space of time – he was looking for bigger and better signs. | |
| **4.** | **Police Scotland/Community Warden Reports** | |
|  | Police Scotland Community Wardens  None received None received | |
| **5.** | **Urgent Items of Business** | |
|  | **None** | |
| **6.** | **Treasurer’s Report** | |
|  | **R.M** has sent his apologies – he has been ill recently. The CC hopes he gets better soon. He is hoping to work on the spreadsheet to have it ready for February meeting, but has said there is a healthy bank balance of £12,546.67 | |
| **7.** | **Sub-Committees** | |
|  | * **Resilience**   **J.Anderson –** The Food Larder has 70 members, supporting 115 adults and 59 children. It had a successful Christmas period and made up 70 hampers with money and food donated by the public – great response! One lady made 70 Christmas puddings to give to each member– Terry’s Chocolate Oranges with knitted covers in individual gift bags. It can now hand out Covid LFT kits and to date, 74 have been handed out. The group are still actively looking for new premises, as the site the Food Larder is in just now, is earmarked for a fish factory in the long-term Harbour Masterplan.  During Storm Arwen, it was decided by the Resilience team, along with Craig Trail of the Sea Cadets, to open up the Sea Cadets’ premises in Commerce Street for anyone who needed help. The Resilience Group and all Emergency Services were put on standby and the Emergency Planning Dept of Aberdeenshire was informed. 1 person from Aberdeen was brought in by police, as he couldn’t get back to the city, because of fallen trees blocking the roads – the Emergency Planning Dept arranged for him to be given accommodation at Wetherspoons.  The Snow Wardens are still waiting on clarification from Aberdeenshire Council as to who calls them out, where they’re asked to clear snow and who supplies the grit and how do they access it.  **C.B** Is there a plan in place if the whole town lost power?  J.Anderson No. There are no premises large enough in the Broch to hold a large amount of people. It would be senseless taking people out of their warm homes to a building with no lights, heat or tea-making facilities. The group does have 1 generator and 2 lights, but that wouldn’t be enough for that situation.  **D.M** Has shared info on funding from Foundation Scotland Scottish Whisky Action Plan who have up to £25,000 for community projects. She is a Harbour Commissioner and said the Harbour Masterplan wouldn’t be coming into fruition for at least a couple of years, so the Food Larder would be safe in the premises it’s in for the foreseeable future. She also asked if the Sea Cadets’ building in Commerce Street would be suitable for the Food Larder?  **J.Anderson** No, as the downstairs rooms are to be used as offices and for the Sea Cadets meetings. The upstairs rooms are quite small and some of the F.L members have limited mobility, so would be unable to tackle the stairs.  **H.G** What about the ‘old’ AOG Hall?  **K.W** A decision has not been made by the AOG members yet, as to what will happen to the old hall – sell or keep or lease.  **B.T** When the plans were put in place for the new AOG to be built, he had asked what they would do with the old hall and at the time, someone said it would be sold.  **K.W** Repeated that that decision has not yet been made till the new hall is up and running. But there has been a proposal to sell the building if it is not required.   * **Flower Fairies**   **S.H.** Due to bad weather, and a very small window, not all bulbs acquired from Elizabeth Stanyer, the Greenspace officer, were planted, so have been stored for use next year. A member of the public informed us that some bulbs had been removed from the planters in the Broadgate, so she replanted what she could.  We have also been approached by Elizabeth to see if we would be interested in planting perennials in our planters this year, planting up to a maximum of 50 and we met as a group yesterday to plan out the plants that we felt would enhance displays. We feel perennials would be of a great benefit to us.  **K.H** We were later than we hoped in getting organised with the Phoenix money given to us, as we had considered buying new planters for the town centre, but we were waiting to see how the Public Realm works on the Broadgate would pan out before we ordered them. However, this work kept being delayed. We were also in the process of arranging to have the ones on the Banff Rd moved to the centre and had to consider the placing of them.  We have now ordered 2 black and gold trimmed rectangular planters to be ready in about 5 weeks – date given 16th Feb - at a cost of £1,140 with a possible charge of £191 for carriage if we cannot arrange transport ourselves. **K.H** will donate the £140 over the £1000 Phoenix money from his business and hopefully we will find money for carriage.  We also feel the time is right with the Public Realm work now starting, to press ahead and approach businesses for help with our funding. If we could get the go-ahead from the CC, could we get a letterhead from J.Adams, then we would draft out a letter and send to J.A for approval before sending them out. J.Adams said to go ahead with sending out letters.  J.Adams to send a CC letterhead to S & K Harper  **H.G** Would it be possible if the FF decide to go along with an Adopt a Planter idea, could it be posted on the website and FB in the Spring for individuals, groups, churches, schools etc. to take responsibility for planting, maintaining, weeding and watering a planter, to save the FF from doing them all. Yes.   * **Phoenix Group**   **J.Adams** The final cheque has been paid to the Photographic Society. Mike Chandler was delighted with the donation and announced that the Society would continue taking photos for the CC. The cheque for the Doric Murals to be done by College students will be handed over to David Herd (lecturer) by James, once he hears back from him. He had been working from home before Christmas. The Flower Fairies received £1000 which they have used to purchase 2 new planters for the town centre. **K.H** will be reimbursed for the payment of these. The CC will pay for the delivery of these if needed. The cheque for £1000 for the banners is to be presented to the FDT. **A.M** as the PR Marketing guru, set up the website and did a lot of tremendous work in the run-up to Christmas promoting the Late-Night Shopping Event, Switching on of Christmas Lights etc, but Storm Arwen put paid to all of that, as the event had to be cancelled! She has a couple of new banners, promoting shopfraserburgh.com and asked for suggestions as to where to put them. **A.W** suggested on the side of the Factory Shop. No other suggestions were given.  **J.Anderson** Updated the entrances to the town banner situation – the new frames were made and were to be placed in position, but it was deemed unsafe to use a ladder system. Then they discovered the fittings were too big for the bolts! Unfortunately storm Arwen arrived, so this is not yet resolved.  **A.M** Who uses the FDT building? Every time she passes it, it’s always closed. How is it funded and are they actively using the building?  **H.G** The Trussell Trust uses rooms at the back for their Foodbank on a Mon, Wed & Frid. The people to contact for information are John Bruce or Ian Watson.   * **Community Awards**   **A.Mackie** The sponsors are now in place for the Community Awards - George Watt Surf School, M3W Ltd, Shirley’s Space and Talented Marketing. The closing date for nominations is 31st March. Judging will take place in April and the Award Ceremony will take place in May. There will be 5 people on the judging panel – James Adams (as Chair of CC) & one other from the CC, and three other local people. Hopefully there will be a press release, interviews with sponsors and promotion on FB and the website. It is to be a feel-good event to thank the many people in the town who have volunteered their help in different ways over the last 12 – 18 months   * **Litter-Picking Group**   **F.M.** There is to be a litter-pick on Sunday 23rd January from 1.30pm at Fraserburgh Swimming Pool to clear a lot of the rubbish caused by Storm Arwen. Russell Cruickshank from the Surf Club has asked if they can share the group’s equipment, so they can try and keep the beach clean. Individuals have still been out and about picking up litter in their own areas - thanks to Arthur Bowie who has been collecting litter in Broadsea and around the Leisure Centre, also George Paterson for collecting litter on the bypass. There are now 20 people in the L-P group who are regularly picking up litter. The group will be organising a Big Spring Clean later in the year.  **J.Adams** asked if the FF had been contacted by anyone about planting trees for the Queen’s Jubilee. The FF had been contacted, but hadn’t as yet ordered trees from the Woodland Trust.  **C.B** said the best time to plant trees was before the middle of March. It’s certainly a worthwhile project. Invercairn CC received 2 lots of trees from the Woodland Trust for The Green Canopy Initiative, 100 the first time and 400 the second time. It was suggested trees could be planted in James Ramsey Park to replace a lot of the trees blown down by Storm Arwen. **F.M** asked if the Woodland Trust could give trees to schools for them to plant.  **AW/CB** The Academy has been given trees and **C.B** was helping plant them in the area of the old swimming pool recently. It was led by Ed Walton (Deputy Rector) along with 40 of the pupils. Perhaps Primary Schools could receive some to plant in their grounds?  James Adams to speak to Aberdeenshire Councillors about the possibility of trees going to local primary schools.  **D.M** brought up the subject of The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee on the weekend of 2nd – 5th June 2022. She had been speaking to Ainsley Dyga of BBT, who would like to organise some kind of family event in the town. Doreen reminded her it was the same weekend as 2 long-standing events in the town – The Vintage Car Rally and The Lifeboat Open Day. Beacons will be lit round the UK to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee and there is the Eden Project taking place. The CC should have a presence at the events to promote who they are/what they do. A suggestion was for the CC to work along with BBT and maybe the Rotary Club to organise a family picnic on the Sunday, where there could be games etc. People would bring their own picnic.  **K.W** If there were to be games at this event, there would need to be an insurance policy taken out. Also an entertainment licence. **D.M** seemed to think the Community Council’s own Liability insurance would cover it, but Angela Keith would advise the CC about that.  James Adams to contact Ainsley Dyga of BBT to say FCC would be willing to help organise a family event. | |
| **8.** | **Questions for Aberdeenshire Councillors** | |
|  | **J.Anderson** Speaking on behalf of Fraserburgh and District Safety Group Defibrillator Working Group, he read in the paper that Aberdeen City Council was putting out letters to schools about installing defibrillators. Is this being rolled out across the Shire? The group had already tried to install a defibrillator at South Park School, but was told that the Council would charge them £600 to install it! The group had an electrician who was willing to fit it free of charge and he actually does work for the Council and has the necessary certification. Why should this be the case for South Park School when all the other Council properties in the town which had a defibrillator fitted had it done free of charge?  **C.B** He doesn’t know, but will contact the Service Dept to find out.  J.Anderson said that after the defibrillator is fitted in the St Modan’s area of the town, no more defibrillators will be fitted, as there are approx.10 in place in the town. Why they chose South Park School was because the defibrillator there could be used on either a child or an adult.  Charles Buchan to contact Aberdeenshire Service Dept about this issue  **K.H** Can any of the councillors give the CC an update on what the Council proposes to do about the seagull problem in the town this year?  **D.M** The good news is they have finally decided to take the whole situation seriously, the bad news is it will take some time!! There is an Intra Structures Committee meeting on 20th January to discuss the issue and there is an Interim Paper coming up - they are working alongside other local authorities, other sources such as the RSPB, the Scottish Govt etc. to come up with a solution. There is another paper coming up in the March ISC meeting too. Moray Council are discussing it at their full council meeting, so Aberdeenshire Council Officers can contact Moray Council to see what they have come up with as far as mitigation measures this year.  **K.H.** What about cleaning the streets of the seagull mess in the town centre? What about putting spikes on the lamp-posts?  The problem is a temporary few months issue, the Broch is a fishing port, so it’s to be expected. A good shower of rain will wash away the mess – last year there was an extended period of dry weather, so the problem was worse. If the problem is tackled in town centres, the gulls then move to more residential areas of the town. Again, spiking the lamp-posts outside eateries, the gulls will just move elsewhere! It is not the fault of eateries, as most of them do have bins outside - it is more about educating the public not to drop food containers, papers etc. after coming out of local take-away eateries. Jan Emery is heading up an initiative of speaking to children at schools about littering etc.  **B.T**. read out a motion which he sent to the full council a number of months ago about the problem and to approve the motion be put forward to the Scottish Govt, SEPA etc. about the restrictions put on local councils on cleaning the seagull mess from pavements.  Further discussion took place about netting on buildings to prevent gulls from nesting on the roofs, sometimes birds get stuck in the netting and the RSPB come out and cut the netting, so is it not a bit pointless putting netting on buildings? There have been a number of people and pets being attacked by the gulls, some needing hospital treatment, especially after the baby gulls are born, when the parent birds can become very aggressive to protect their offspring. **D.W** mentioned that the children from St Andrews School had to eat their play pieces inside, as so many of them were being attacked by the gulls!  **H.G** She saw on the planning applications an application for an external temporary ramp at the Dalrymple Hall and alterations to granite coping stones – is this to do with the Vaccination Centre which is to be moved from the Swimming Pool in the future?  **J. Adams** expressed a declaration of interest in this to make the CC members aware.  **D.M** She presumes it is to do with the Vaccination Centre, which will be in the downstairs part of the building and it will be to make sure there is accessible access for all.  **C.B** The Dalrymple Hall will be closed for approx. 10 weeks, due to new heating being installed and various other repairs, but will be available for use by different groups when the work is complete. The Vaccination Centre downstairs may be a permanent fixture, depending what the NHS Grampian decides – it will be used for all vaccinations. | |
| **9.** | **Questions from Members of the Public** | |
|  | None | |
| **10.** | **Correspondence** | |
|  | None | |
| **11.** | **Planning Applications** | |
|  | **J.Adams** thanked **K.W** for continuing to send out the planning lists  **J.Anderson** What is the new blue building behind the old Toolies building?  **J.Adams** Thinks it’s the new auto workshop for Gray & Adams. | |
| **12.** | **AOB** | |
|  | **A.M** Since the FCC website was set up, it is proving to be valuable resource. Over the past 30 days, there have been 1,149 visits from Fraserburgh and Aberdeenshire. The website is due to be renewed in February at a cost of £140.88 – are members willing to renew it for another year? The FCC still needs to share more stories/news etc. to show the local people that it has a presence in the town and a lot of positive things are happening, despite some comments on FB being quite negative about what the CC does! The aim would be to have a page for the Photography Society to showcase the photos they have been taking throughout the year. There will be more stories about the Litter-pick in a few days, the Community Awards, the Resilience Food Larder etc. The members agreed to renew the website for another year.  **K.W** Would it be cheaper in the long run to take out a 5 year fixed term?  **A.M** Yes – she thinks the price would reduce the payment by about 20% over the 5 years.  Ashley to research costing for a 5 year fixed term  Alison or James to send an updated list of members to Ashley  (**B.T** has left the meeting)  **H.G** (J.Adams showed photos onscreen which Helena had taken) She had been walking in Fraserburgh and came across the structures on the path leading from the Leisure Centre car park to the hammerhead at the top of the path leading down to the beach. What do the structures represent? There is no signage, there are lights, but of course they don’t work! A few comments were made about what they represented – a whale bone, ribs of a boat etc. but no-one knew for definite. This is a piece of social history and could be a project for groups to tidy them up, find out the history and design signage so that both locals and tourists know what they are supposed to be.  **D.M** Once the Regeneration Plan work is completed, the aim is to have a Growth Plan rather than regeneration and this area would come under the Beach Masterplan which is being drawn up at present.  James Adams to contact Brian Topping to see if he can shed light on the structures and what they represent.  **K.W** Speaking about social history, what is happening about the Heritage Centre?  **J.Adams** Following Storm Arwen, there was an article on TV about the damage to the centre and setting up a fundraiser to remove all the artefacts to a safe place, make the building secure and eventually renovate it and hopefully re-open in 2024.  **D.M** Has suggested that any funds raised at the Queen’s Jubilee weekend should go to the refurbishment of the Heritage Centre.  **H.G** Asked about the Scottish law to have interlinked fire alarms installed in every house by the end of January. What is Aberdeenshire Council’s policy on compliance of this law and who will monitor non-compliance? A lot of discussion followed about insurance companies’ policies, especially if they are companies based in England – some won’t have heard about the new Scottish law, cost of the new alarm system etc. All Aberdeenshire properties have been fitted with the new fire alarms & heat sensors, but for the general public, it is being left up to the responsibility of citizens to fit them. The fire brigade used to do home visits to the elderly & vulnerable and fitted the original smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms.  **D.M** Most vulnerable people and people on certain benefits would qualify for these to be fitted through the usual channels via Social Work Dept. Obviously local businesses may be overcharging for fitting these, so it’s good to shop around. Prices are ranging from £109 to £408!! She also gave her views on the country going all-electric.  **J.Adams** Town Improvement Plan. A meeting of the Fraserburgh Environmental Improvement Group was held this afternoon and various points were discussed – Town Centre Benches, Shop Fronts, Beach Regeneration/Masterplan, Coastal Path – Invercairn CC heading this, Path at Watermill Road which was a right of way is actually on private land, Playgrounds – Scottish Govt has given £5 million pounds to upgrade and form new play parks, £250,000 has been allocated to Aberdeenshire Council in the next financial year, someone is looking at the usage of James Ramsey Park to perhaps set up a group to improve the area for sports, Castle Terrace Buoys which need to be painted/repaired – these are on land still to be determined who owns it, Saltoun Place Gardens – future planting areas. The next meeting of this group will take place in 8 weeks. | |
| **13.** | **Date & Time of Next Meeting** | |
|  | **The November Minutes will be carried forward to the next meeting on Tuesday 15th February 2022 at 7pm on Zoom** | |