|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **MINUTES**  **Online Zoom Meeting**  **Tuesday 15th March 2022**  **at 7.00 pm** | |  |
| **Present**: James Adams (Chair)  Seamus Logan (Vice-Chair)  Ashley Mackie (Social Secretary)  Ken Watt (Planning Secretary)  Alison Wymes (Minute Secretary)    John Anderson  Helena Gilbert  Sylvia Harper  Kenny Harper  Fiona May  Dionne Whyte    **Councillors**: Councillor Charles Buchan  Councillor Andy Kille  Councillor Doreen Mair    Alan McDonald (Dept. of Works & Pensions) | | |
| **1.** | **Apologies & Declaration of Interest** | |
|  | Angela Keith, Mary Regan, Community Wardens | |
| **2.** | **Minutes of last meeting** | |
|  | Updated Minutes from January Meeting  Proposed – Seamus Logan Seconded – Helena Gilbert  February Minutes  Proposed – Sylvia Harper Seconded – Ken Watt | |
| **3.** | **Matters Arising and Action Sheet Updates** | |
|  | **Action Updates**  1. Library Opening Hours – no update from **A.Kille**  Application Form for defibrillators not received by **J.Anderson** from **J.Emery**  6. Treasurer’s Report – J**.Adams** in the process of contacting **R.M**, **S.L** & **K.H** re getting  signatures for cheques  9. **J.Adams** to meet with **Duncan Leece** regarding the work he is doing with CCs.  **C.Buchan** spoke to Landscape Services about the play park in Buchan Road/Blantyre  Crescent – a piece of equipment was damaged & they don’t intend replacing it. **K H** has  spoken to Ken Regan and he is going to find out about it. A.Kille suggested that Landscape  Services may not reinstate it, as the Scottish Government is providing money to upgrade  play parks, so the Council may wait till that money is made available.  **J.Adams** still to share the cleaning plan of the gullies to the CC.  12. **H.G** still to organise a group to visit Elgin Youth Club  **S.L** to share any details to A.Keith about the proposed Community Garden behind Robertson  Road Centre. He said he didn’t have any details, only someone had approached the Rotary  Club to see if they could use its bank account details for any monies received etc. The Rotary  Club had said no.  **H.G** This new Community Garden Project was being led by Jan Emery. The site behind  Robertson Road Centre was no longer available, but Jan Emery is asking if there are any  other areas in the Broch that could be used. | |
| **4.** | **Police Scotland/Community Warden Reports** | |
|  | Police Scotland Community Wardens    **S.L** Thanked the Police and Community Wardens for having more of a presence in the Broadsea area, as anti-social behaviour seemed to be less of an issue this past month. | |
| **5.** | **Urgent Items of Business** | |
|  | **None** | |
| **6.** | **Treasurer’s Report** | |
|  | As of today, there is £14,805.45 in the accounts, most of it is for the Resilience Group/Food Larder | |
| **7.** | **Alan McDonald (DWP)** | |
|  | Introduced himself – he is from the DWP and is representing the Broch Job Centre. He works in Aberdeen as a Disability Employment Advisor and one of his remits is to help adults with disabilities enter education, training and go on to get a job if required. The Broch Job Centre is one of a select network of Health Model Offices and it has been allocated extra money to make its office more accessible for people with various disabilities – it is working towards an accreditation as an autism-friendly office. He is promoting a Well-Being Fair at Fraserburgh Leisure Centre on 23rd March from 9am -1.30pm. There will be various services there from NESCOL, local charities etc. All the customers of the Broch Job Centre have been invited, but he would also like to invite the wider community to attend. He will share a flyer with J.Adams about it - it’s for Age Group 16+.  J.Adams to advertise it on FCC webpage and FB page.  A.M to promote it through all the local FB sites and Shirley’s Space.  David Duguid MP joined the meeting. He has been asked to open the Well-Being Fair.  J.Adams thanked Alan McDonald for attending FCC meeting to promote the event. Alan left the meeting. | |
| **8.** | **David Duguid MP** | |
|  | He wasn’t sure what he was invited to talk about, but is willing to answer any questions from the CC members. Before doing that, he wanted to let the CC know of the ‘Homes for Ukraine’ Scheme which had been agreed by the Scottish Govt. the previous day. The website is now open for families to apply to the scheme to accommodate refugees fleeing from war-torn Ukraine.  **K.W** Asked if funds being given by the UK Govt. could be given to local areas and could they be applied for by local councils and/or local CCs, as they are the people who know best about what local areas need?  **D.D** Most definitely – there are a number of funds available for organisations and businesses to apply for, but they have to compete with many other groups, so they need to do the research first, before putting in a bid. There is £100 million available which is the UK Seafood Fund, which is a new fund, which can be applied for without going through the Scottish Govt. or local councils. The stipulation for this money is that £65 million is used for Infrastructure, £10 million is used for Skills and Training and £35 million is used for Science and Innovation. This fund opens towards the end of March. There is also £14.5 million available from the Maritime Fund Scotland which has been in place since last April.  **S.L** Asked about the ‘Homes for Ukraine‘ Scheme – does David know what the £10,500 per person allocated to local councils is to be spent on? He also asked how many of the 100,000 applications will be allocated to Scotland?  **D.D** If local areas are to provide educational support, promote employment etc. this money will be used as a back-up to provide what is required when the refugees enter the local area to live and work. An extra £350 will be allocated to host families. As far as the numbers being allocated to Scotland is concerned, he said the Scottish and the Welsh Govts. will work with the UK Govt. on this, but both the FMs of Scotland and Wales have agreed to take 3,000 refugees, although this may be increased, depending on the need. The new Refugees Minister has only been in the job for 3 days, so there are a lot of decisions still to be made! It is a scheme which is a matter of urgency, but there have to be checks done on those entering the country, that they don’t pose a risk to British people, but also on host families to make sure they are suitable hosts and have suitable homes to accommodate the families.  **A.M** Asked about the rise in the cost of living – fuel, food etc. She has been speaking to local businesses who are struggling to keep up with the rise e.g. a local restaurant having to put up its prices with the possibility of losing their customers?  **D.D** Different countries are recovering from Covid at different rates – money was poured in during it (UK – £400 million), but of course now with everything costing more and with the sanctions being put on Russia, which affects everyone globally, there is not the extra money to support businesses etc. Food production is being hard hit in all aspects – supermarkets will have to try to keep their costs manageable and the Govt. needs to prevent blatant profiteering.  **C.B** Is delighted to hear that David had chosen to support the bid for the Levelling-up Fund from the Banff/Macduff and Fraserburgh areas, rather than the Peterhead area and not just all of Aberdeenshire. Aberdeenshire is a relatively rich authority, but North Aberdeenshire has many deprived areas. He is on the Board of the Scottish Seafood for Excellence and asked how realistic was the bid for the Levelling-up Fund?  **D.D** Answered by saying he couldn’t pre-judge on any levelling-up bid, but since he represents the Banff/Buchan area, he feels he should listen to what the councillors and residents need for their area.  **J.Adams** thanked David for giving up his time to attend the FCC meeting to answer questions.  **David Duguid** left the meeting.  **Brian Topping** joined the meeting and gave his apologies for joining so late. | |
| **9.** | **Sub-Committees** | |
|  | * **Resilience**   The Food Larder has received notification that it now has to pay £100 a year to CFine to receive food. A secretary is still required for the Food Larder.  The Resilience Group are looking to upgrade equipment by applying for a grant from SSE – generator, lights, cables etc.   * **Flower Fairies**   Our two new planters are on a lorry just now on their way to Fraserburgh Depot. We have spoken with Ken Regan and Alex Kemper and all arrangements are in place.  We met with Alistair Millar at the Broadgate on Friday 4th March to discuss the positioning of the new planters and it was decided the hexagonal ones would mirror one another on each side of the street, one being at Boots between the seats and the other on the Shoebox side. The two new planters will replace two old ones. He was fairly flexible about the positioning of planters with just a few common sense rules to be observed.  We spoke about the lack of maintenance budget for the centre and Alistair explained that Landscape and Roads have argued over their responsibilities for some time now with little being done. At the Environmental Planning Meeting this afternoon, Jan Emery said she would contact both departments re this issue. He also said that Gray and Adams had been offering to supply seating to groups but we had not heard of this as we would have definitely taken them up on their offer. Jan Emery offered to help us apply to the AIF if we wanted to replace some of the seating.  He went back to the office and found out answers to a few questions we had asked  The 2 trees located at the church have been disposed of!  The new masonry planters at the church have a seating function built into them and physically they face the church. That was the agreed design that got planning consent. It would be difficult to change now with the foundations down. However, there is also a proposal to refurbish a couple of benches for the space in front of the mausoleum.  I received an email yesterday from Elizabeth (Greenspace Officer) concerning perennial plants that we had been offered saying that they will arrive in Macduff this week. We did say initially that we would only order plants for summer flowering as the Public Realm work was ongoing till at least April and that we had bulbs in the planters. We hope these plants come in pots so that we can at least maintain them until we are able to plant them or we are in trouble! I also received an email from Elizabeth this morning to say that the wild flower seeds will be planted in the planters on top of the wall at the Dalrymple Hall at the end of April.  **A.Kille** – Asda eventually got in touch to say they would be willing to help out with providing a donation or shrubs/plants for the north entrance to the town.  **J.Anderson** suggested putting planters on certain street corners to prevent lorries/cars parking on pavements. **D.M** Stated that Bear Scotland own the pavements. **C.Buchan** suggested contacting Alistair Miller (Roads Dept.) – he meets quarterly with Bear Scotland to discuss various issues,  Flower Fairies to contact Alistair Miller re placing planters on pavements at junctions.   * **Community Awards**   **A.M** The Community Awards would ideally take place on Thursday 21st April at 6pm - where?  **A.Kille** suggested the Faithlie Centre. How many people would it hold? Approx 30 – 40. The event would be put on Eventbrite for people to book a ticket. Would we charge for a ticket? No, since it’s a Community event. Would we provide refreshments? A local restaurant could be asked to provide refreshments at a later date. Could Fiona take photographs on the evening? Yes. The panel of judges will be James Adams (FCC Chair), George Watt (Surf Club), Alison Hamer (M3W Ltd), Ashley Mackie (Talented Marketing) & Fiona Weir (Shirley’s Space). The Academy has not replied yet regarding nominees for Young Hero Award.  **D.M** Suggested the 3 young ‘groms’ from the Broch Surf Club who represented Fraserburgh at the surfing event in Newquay could be nominated for the Young Hero Award.  **F.M** said she would contact the Academy through her husband who works there.  **A.M** to contact Jan Emery about booking the Faithlie Centre  **A.M** to send the info about the Young Hero Award to F.M who will then contact the Academy. Send the info to D.W as well, so she can get it put on the Primary HTs’ website  **A.M** also mentioned that the Broch Soup would take place in the Davron Hotel on Tuesday 10th May. There will be samples of cake from a local baker. Several groups will pitch their bid for funding from the ticket takings.   * **Litter-Picking Group**   **H.G** The group had a successful Litter-Pick and Tree-Planting event on Sunday 20th March in James Ramsey Park. There was a good turnout of PSYV, Guides and Brownies and their parents. The Greenspace Officer and Ranger Services were there and brought over 200 trees to plant, to replace some of the ones blown down by Storm Arwen. Aberdeenshire Ranger Services have produced a video guide about tree-planting and have used some of the photos which Fiona took, with permission, in their video.  The Broch Surf club also did a Litter-Pick at the beach – they borrowed the CC equipment. There is a group called ‘Fraserburgh Fishing for Litter’ which had a project from 2017 – 2021 to encourage skippers to bring litter which they catch in their nets ashore. Fraserburgh Harbour Board are also involved in this project. **C.Buchan** is on the Board of KIMO which runs ‘Fishing for Litter’ – he said the person to contact for information is Mr Ian Hay of East Grampian Coastal Partnership. | |
| **10.** | **Questions for Aberdeenshire Councillors** | |
|  | **J.Adams** When is the new vaccination centre opening? **C.Buchan** It was supposed to be opening in April, but hadn’t received a definite date.  **F.M** There is a tree damaged in Alexandra Terrace – who should she contact? Ken Regan (Landscape Services)  **A.W** Is there an update on the old Barbour’s Garage site? When is the building ever going to be started? All agreed it was an eyesore – so much litter, some of the barriers blown down following Storm Arwen, seagulls have begun nesting again.  **D.M** Grampian Housing Association own the site – there has been a delay in the project, as they lost their contractor, so it will be a while yet till they get started. She contacted them last week regarding the barriers being down and they have promised to keep an eye on the site regularly. **B.T** has also been in touch with them on behalf of local residents.  **FCC** to contact Grampian Housing Association regarding this issue – start date?  **J.Anderson** What’s happening with the Public Realm Works? Work seems to have stopped!  **D.M** Obviously there was a delay due to Covid and now there is a shortage of supplies.  Both **J.Anderson** and **K.H** said that if a job is started, they should have all the materials available and the project should go smoothly till it’s completed, not start & stop while it’s going on! Surely someone from the Council should have been chasing them up?!  **D.M** It would be Cheryl Roberts who’s in charge of the project.  Doreen to ask Cheryl Roberts for an update on the Public Realm work  **A.M** Asked about the Skull Mural on the corner of Barrasgate Road and Park Street – it is on the way to the Lighthouse Museum and not very tasteful for that area. Did the owner get planning permission to have it painted?  **C.B** The owner did approach the Council and since it’s not a listed building and not in the conservation area, it doesn’t need planning permission. He approached the Police and the Inspector said the police could not do anything about it, as it is not a ‘hate crime.’  **D.M** The gentleman went through all the correct channels and paid out a lot of money to have an artist paint it. Most of the comments on Social Media were favourable. Street Art should be encouraged.  **H.G** It’s supposed to be the face of Storm Arwen – that’s the owner’s take on it. When she first joined the CC, Helena did some research on the Nuart Street Art in Aberdeen, as she thought it would be something that could enhance the town, but the CC at the time didn’t follow it through.  **A.M** thought it was quite offensive.  **A.K** – He didn’t think it was offensive - it is a subjective piece of art - the mural is not to everyone’s taste. The CC should not make any comments on FB.  **S.L** Has lived in Ireland for 40 years and there are lots of murals there – the Belfast murals are world famous and a great tourist attraction. He encouraged Helena to resurrect her idea for murals in the town.  **H.G** If the CC had taken the initiative 3 years ago when this was first suggested, the CC would’ve been looked on favourably for introducing murals in the town. Now it will look as if the CC are playing catch-up and copying other people’s ideas, as other towns have done similar projects. That’s why we’ve been pushing for the Doric Boards to get done and in position. Still waiting to meet the person from the College in charge of this project and have a face-to-face meeting with him. **J.Adams** – He is aware we’re wanting this done ASAP. He had to take time off for personal reasons, he was also working from home and until recently, his students weren’t attending college for face-to-face tutorials.  **F.M** Maybe the CC should congratulate the gentleman, as the mural has been well done!  **B.T** The mural is on his own property. It’s been done, it didn’t need planning permission, so just let it be and move on!  **A.Kille** Will expand on a couple of points that David Duguid mentioned earlier.  **S.L** asked about the £10,500 which is being allocated to the local councils to support the refugees coming from Ukraine. This has always been announced first by the Scottish Govt. or the UK Govt. What it’s going to be specifically used for usually comes a few days later! But on the UK website, it mentions benefits, sport etc.  **K.W** mentioned the Levelling-up Fund. There is a local Working Party dealing with this and the chairperson of that group is Doreen Mair.  **K.W** also mentioned asking the community what the money should be spent on and in his Budget speech last week, Andy Kille announced that 1 ½% of the budget would go on Participatory Budgeting i.e. putting the onus on the community to give its opinion on what it should be spent on. | |
| **11.** | **Questions from Members of the Public** | |
|  | None | |
| **12.** | **Correspondence** | |
|  | None | |
| **13.** | **Planning Applications** | |
|  | **J.Adams** thanked **K.W** for continuing to send out the planning applications | |
| **14.** | **AOB** | |
|  | * **3rd Lighthouse at Tesco Entrance Project Update**   **S.L** The Rotary Club have received 3 quotes for this project. They are Cairnhill Developments - £11,190 + VAT; Lovie Constuction - £10,472 + VAT; Andrew May Builders - £11,520 incl of VAT. There would also be an additional cost for the top of the lighthouse, as it would be a fabricated aluminium roof that is required. There have been 2 quotes for that £880 and £985. He feels that all these quotes are for a high-spec structure and wonders if a cheaper option would be available. Will the CC agree to ask for a 4th quote? All agreed.  Seamus Logan to get a 4th quote for the proposed 3rd Lighthouse near the Tesco roundabout.  **D.W** It would be interesting to find out how much the previous 2 lighthouses cost?  **J.Anderson** Obviously they would’ve been lower, as they’ve been in position now for 10 – 12 years.  **S.L** Once the 4th quote is in, both FCC and the Rotary Club will have to decide whether to go ahead with the project. There was backing for it when it was first proposed, but is the momentum still there? It would be a shame to go forward with applying for planning permission and perhaps getting hassle from Bear Scotland if the will to proceed is not there.   * **Coastal Path from from Cairnbulg and Inverallochy to Fraserburgh.**   **J.Adams** Invercairn CC have put in their planning application for the above coastal path which FCC backed last year. The plans are on the Aberdeenshire website and FCC will be sharing them on its website and FB page. Invercairn CC have asked if FCC could share it and encourage other people to support it and for individual members to write letters of support if they so wish.  **S.L** The Golf Club has given their approval for the plan to go aheadand have sent a letter of support, with a couple of caveats concerning safety.  **F.M** How do we go about writing a letter of support? J.Adams will send the link and it’s a case of filling up a form online.  **C.Buchan** Inverallochy CC who are behind the Coastal Path Project have employed a marketing consultant to do all the grant searching – it will be a very expensive project, so he is pleased that FCC is backing it.  **J.Anderson** Are the members aware of a grant which is available for coastal work e.g. arts and things to do with the coastal routes? It came out in an email today. The grants range from £2,000 - £25,000.  **D.M** A.Keith has asked for the Beach Regeneration to go on the Agenda for the next CC meeting. Alistair Rhind would come to a meeting to update the CC if it was face-to-face. There have been a few comments on the FB page regarding this and people have expressed a wish to be involved in the project. Perhaps those people would come along to a face-to-face meeting to maybe set up a sub-group with the consultant?  James to send the link to CC members for writing a letter of support to Invercairn CC. | |
| **14.** | **Date & Time of Next Meeting** | |
|  | **Tuesday 19th April 2022 at 7pm (venue to be confirmed) (Hybrid to allow CC members to meet face-to-face or join on Zoom)** | |