|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **FRASERBURGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL****Minute****Learning Room 2, Fraserburgh Community & Sports Centre (Zoom Meeting, due to weather)****Tuesday 17 January 2023 at 7pm** | A drawing of a cartoon character  Description automatically generated |
| **PRESENT:** |
| Dionne Whyte | Chair |
| Helena Gilbert  | Vice Chair |
| Ken Watt  | Planning Secretary |
| Ken Harper  | Treasurer |
| John Anderson | Community Councillor |
| Michael McDonald | Community Councillor |
| Sylvia Harper | Community Councillor |
| Mary Regan | Community Councillor |
| Councillor Ann Bell | Ward 3 Elected Member |
| Councillor Doreen Mair | Ward 3 Elected Member |
| Councillor Seamus Logan | Ward 3 Elected Member |
| Angela Keith  | Banff and Buchan Area Manager (Aberdeenshire Council) |
| **APOLOGIES:** |
| Alison Wymes | Minute Secretary |
| Arthur Bowie  | Community Councillor |
| Fiona May  | Community Councillor |
| Steven Rollo | Community Councillor |
| Councillor James Adams | Ward 3 Elected Member |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1** | **Apologies & Declaration(s) of Interest** |
|  | The above apologies were noted. There were no declarations of interest. |
| **2** | **Minute of last meeting – Tuesday 15 November 2022** |
|  | The Minute was approved as a true record by Ken Harper and seconded by Helena Gilbert. The October Minute is still not available, and advice was given by Angela Keith to carry them forward to next month. The CC agreed to present at the next meeting in the hope that they are ready. |
| **3** | **Matters Arising & Action Sheet** |
|  | * **Waste Management Review of bins** **on Denmark Street** – the bins at the beach and Harbour Street have been flagged up to the Service and awaiting an update. Michael has also contacted the Council about the bottle recycling issue on Denmark Street also highlighting that other locations in the town haven’t been serviced. Michael will send the details of the correspondence to Angela to pick up.

Michael also mentioned that there are issues in the residents of Gladstone and Murison complaining about bins on coastline and overfilling. There is also a lot of dog mess on that path, and around the Castle too. A particular hot spot is the bin (past Jimmy Smith’s old fish shop) which is used for everything and takes weeks to get emptied, especially around summer. A map pointing out the “hot spots” will be sent to Angela to pick up with the Waste Service.* **Letter of support for Fraserburgh railway** – this hasn’t been achieved as yet but Dionne will aim to get the letter drafted.
* **Community Resilience Insurance** – Ken H explained that he and John had a meeting with Angela Keith and Sandie Cummings (PA) to discuss what would need to be insured. Ken then contacted a representative at Zurich Insurance. John has sent away all the prices for equipment including addresses where items are kept. Zurich have yet to respond but they will also get some information to John about public liability and volunteer insurances.
* **PayPal** – the transfer has not been completed as yet but Angela will follow this up.
* **Access to website** – after email exchange with Ashley, Dionne’s name will be the contact for the generic email address but can be changed. Ashley said that she will meet up with whoever takes this on, to provide some training. Dionne will follow up.
* **High Visibility Vests for Flower Fairies** – an email was sent to the CC detailing the company that the Council order these vests from (it was following a request for wet floor signage), the company is [Arco](https://www.arco.co.uk/login?gads=test&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIy_PN-9ia_QIVgrrtCh0h_AwcEAAYASAAEgKrn_D_BwE). Angela also reminded the CC that the Area Initiative Fund is open until the end of March and that Jan Emery, the Area Project Officer from the Team, could help with the application.

Helena mentioned that she has vests from the litter picking so this wouldn’t be needed and Buchan Chemicals was suggested for the purchase of gloves. Sylvia and Ken to take this forward.* **Transfer of money** - £319.77 has been successfully transferred from the Resilience Group to the CC (insurance money).
* **War Memorial** – Dionne has sent photos of this to Jan Emery, and she will be in touch in due course. This item was highlighted following the laying of the Remembrance wreaths (the lettering and dates have become faint and need touching up). Jan is undertaking the same work in Banff and is currently exploring funding options.
* **Recording of vice of Minutes** – ongoing.
 |
| **4** | **Police Scotland Report/Community Wardens’ Report** |
|  | Dionne circulated two reports (bi-monthly and August to October) to the CC and was pleased to see that discussions with Academy pupils about being on the roof, has proved successful. |
| **5** | **Elizabeth Stanyer – Greenspace Projects Officer** **Jodie Rhodes – Aberdeenshire Ranger Service** |
|  | This item has been deferred to the face to face February meeting. James Ramsay Park will also be discussed in this item. |
| **6** | **Items of Business** |
|  | **Community Awards Expenses** –Ken updated the CC that there had been a slight discrepancy with the receipts – the Council paid 80% totaling £230 from the Area Initiative Fund, the grand total was £288.79 which leaves £58.79 to be agreed by the CC, to be paid. The discrepancy was an illegible item so it was confirmed that even though there was an issue, the Council will only pay 80%. Angela recommended that the CC correspond with Ashley and explain this agreement and request that any reusable items are returned to the CC for future events (which includes the pop up the banner and glass carafes). Ken confirmed that Helena had picked up items on the night which included plastic glasses and non-alcoholic Prosecco.The CC agreed with this action. Ken confirmed that he will make out 2 cheques of £230 and £58.79. |
| **Kirk Brae** – Michael raised that at the top of Kirk Brae (where refurbishment has been taking place), the lintels between old Kirk and Council Chambers, have put it in and the weight of the cars have snapped them, causing a trip hazard to pedestrians. Councillor Mair was emailed about it and the Council had fixed it. This has been placed on the snagging list for the area and should be completed in due course. |
| **Gulley Cleaning** – John highlighted that every corner seems to be flooded in the town including Queens Road, Dennyduff Road, the Hexagon, Albert Street & Mid Street and Mid Street & School Street, High Street, Aberdeen side of roundabout at Tesco, etc. Councillor Mair confirmed that the Council are responsible for *cleaning* the gullies, but the drains are the responsibility of Scottish Water. It was agreed that the capacity of the drains is an issue and are not fit for purpose. She also explained that discussions are in place with [Amey](https://www.amey.co.uk/about-us/) (the new contractors for Transport Scotland) on the flooding of the A90. The CC agreed that the gullies are completely full in places and need addressing.Councillor Logan highlighted that you can report online for a blocked gulley and the response time is very quick - [Road Fault Reporting (aberdeenshire.gov.uk)](https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/apps/roadfaults/). He has asked for an updated list of a gulley cleaning schedule and is still awaiting a response. This will be shared with the Chair when received. Angela also highlighted that gullies should be reported as and when and not to wait for a complete list, therefore helping the Service deal with the current issue at the time. Parked cars can also be a problem when gulley cleaning takes place, the cleaning is being missed but will be returned to when and where possible. Councillor Mair advised everyone to download the [MyAberdeenshire](https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/my/mobile-app/) app which is also helpful to report these, and any other issues too.Angela will follow up the gulley schedule list and any highlighted areas of flooding from Michael and John. (NB – there is only one gulley cleaner per area in Aberdeenshire). |
| **Sub Committee Members** –the Chair requested that CC members email their preference for which subgroup they are on, or wish to join. |
| **7** | **Treasurer’s Report** |
|  | Ken H read out a statement as follows:*“At the end of the last meeting, Sylvia and myself resigned mainly due to the email that was circulated and issues related to the Award Event. However, Angela invited us to meet and discuss our concerns and we reconsidered.  Can I emphasise that it is not me personally withholding Award payment but the decision of Aberdeenshire Council until all issues are resolved. I felt I made the lack of funds clear in emails and at the meetings prior to the event, that we were in an uncertain position money wise and that until the accounts were resolved, we could not spend. Can I now ask that all spending is discussed beforehand as Angela has emphasised and all receipts kept and produced so that we do not end up in the same position again.”*The balance for the CC stands at £2893.61 with a payment outstanding for the wreath for Dionne (£42.40) and Ashley’s award money. The Food Larder’s balance stands at £23,331.53.Ken H will confirm to Heather McKay in the Area Manager’s Team that the GDPR payment of £35.00 has been completed.Angela suggested that once the subgroups come together and identify any focused projects, a nominal figure should be agreed to support the delivery of any project and then at every meeting, the subgroups would then update on progress and any real costs associated. Then funding will follow thereafter.In relation to the bank card, the problem arose due to email confusion and Ken H will pass the relevant documentation to Alison. |
| **8** | **Sub Committees** |
|  | **Resilience Group:*** the report was circulated to all members and John added that 28 thank you letters were sent to sponsors and donators over Christmas**.** Christmas hampers were sent out with great support from the public.
* A response has yet to be received from the Landlord to get clarification on the lease (and duration thereof). John has emailed to ask if the building was insured, and that maintenance is included.
* Have applied to the Just Transition Fund for £15,000 to purchase 6 portable power stations, 2 solar panels, 1 spare battery and bags to carry them. This would be for any power cuts and to power up a researching centre or for any other CC area/private dwellings. Unfortunately, funding wasn’t granted and generators will have to be purchased.
 |
|  | **Flower Fairies** –the risk assessment has been drafted and circulated to the subgroup and the CC. |
| **Litter Picking Group** – no update. |
| **Events Group** – still needs to be established but Dionne will email the CC asking for reps. This will include any funding applications that are to be made. (Projects *and* events will fall under this one group).If there are any issues with any funding application process, Angela highlighted that CC members should get in touch with the Council for assistance. |
| **9** | **Questions for Elected Members** |
|  | * Ken raised the **road works** at Mintlaw and asked if it was easy to postpone until the A90 is repaired as there are a lot of potholes.

Councillor Mair explained that these works will be going on for a long time, but that Amey are putting in place a permanent repairs programme which could also take a while. Councillor Logan added that he has also been in touch with Amey to draw attention to potholes (at Cortes junction) but has also highlighted to the Roads Manager, issues on the A935 so hopefully there will be improvements made when the weather allows.* Michael raised assets (historical) in Fraserburgh and noted his disappointment that **tourists** visiting the Heritage Centre, the Castle and the Scottish Lighthouse Museum, they have to first pass through some derelict areas in the Denmark Street area. There are dead seagulls at times and debris in these streets. Helena confirmed that the discussion has already happened and suggested collaborative working with other groups. It was suggested to avoid tourists experiencing the derelict areas, that a leaflet stand be erected in The Faithlie Centre. An approach would be made to the Lighthouse Museum to discuss this.

Councillor Mair highlighted that a lot of the land is not under Council ownership, so it is difficult to get private owners to take responsibility. She also mentioned that budgets are stretched in the Council and that partnership working would be a good idea.The CC agreed that organisations with younger people in, would be a good option. Councillor Bell mentioned that Bob Watt, the Secretary from the Rotary would welcome applications from the CC for bulb planting or any related project. Councillor Mair highlighted that a local Skipper had approached her about Four Corners and has since found that it is built on Scottish Water ground. They have confirmed that they don’t have a huge amount of funds for whole project but if there is community “buy in”, they would be willing to help to stabilise it. The Heras fencing at the Lighthouse was also mentioned as a health and safety concern, but Angela confirmed that this was addressed when the Duke of Gloucester visited and as it is on private land, it couldn’t be moved even though the Owner had been contacted.Access to the beach area/seashore area by Broadsea was raised at a previous meeting and Councillor Logan will be undertaking a site visit with Landscape Services in the next few weeks and an update will be given at a future meeting. |
| **10** | **Questions from Members of the Public** |
|  | No questions have been submitted. |
| **11** | **Correspondence** |
|  | **Fraserburgh Regeneration Development Partnership** – Pamela Neri had been in touch with Dionne to request a representative to attend meetings on a Tuesday afternoon that occur 3-4 times a year. This representative will contribute to the Development Action Plan. Helena volunteered herself and Dionne with confirm to Pamela, with her details. |
| **12** | **Planning Applications** |
|  | Ken W stated that there are no applications for Fraserburgh presently but requested that the CC members reply to Ken when it is circulated.Angela suggested that for transparency for future Agendas that the planning application numbers and descriptions, are documented and for the Minute, that it is noted that the CC have responded with/without comments. |
| **13** | **AOB** |
|  | * **Resignation of James Grieve** - Ken H and Sylvia had been handed James’ resignation (due to ill health) and this will be scanned and sent to the Chair. A letter acknowledging and thanking his 22 years of service on the CC, will be drafted and sent.

Sylvia offered her help to Dionne for any help with drafting letters. * **Resignation of Ashley Mackie** - Dionne read out the email from Ashley with her resignation.

“*Firstly, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year.**When I moved back to Fraserburgh one of my goals was helping change and improve the town and make it turn a corner in how it’s perceived by the locals and neighbouring towns.  Following years of having the opportunity in working with many local and global associations, organisations; and being involved in politics, business and education it was something that I would be able to contribute to and perhaps provide fresh insight and ideas to a town that I held so dear to my heart.**I was delighted to join Fraserburgh Community Council as it seemed like it was open to really work for the town and the residents following a troubled past on how it was perceived and ran.**It was a wonderful tenure and I have enjoyed seeing more and more locals engage with the community council through the website, publicity and social media which I led.  The Community Hero Awards was such a success and seeing locals being honoured was hugely important for me and I’m so glad that externally it was regarded by the public as a triumph.**I have managed many events in my time from places like Westminster to Oxford University but the awards was something more special as I wanted to award men and women who have contributed in such a positive way to the town.  Their smiles on the night were all the praise I needed - it was a wonderful occasion that sadly would get tainted in my memory due to events which followed.**I am a little heartbroken that I’ve had to resign but I couldn’t go on with the insight on how I feel I’ve been treated, spoken to and how things were handled.  I also wanted to take some time off in December to recharge but sadly my resignation was requested when I didn’t get that opportunity to disconnect and I opted to resign so I could concentrate on my family and not have continuous worry.**I’m currently working on the Women in Business course at RGU which is working alongside Aberdeenshire Council in nurturing new business so this potentially will be great for any future projects I work on.**I also will continue to work with the Enterprise Hub in educating local business people on marketing through the accelerator programme, and this has been so wonderfully received by the last intake of cohorts that I’ve been asked by the Aberdeen Hub to potentially work with its cohorts this year.**Thank you especially to those who provided kind words following the Awards, it was great that some of you fully understood the objectives and goals that were set from the start.  We really did honour our local heroes.**Take care, Ashley”*The Chair clarified that contrary to the statement above, that Ashley’s resignation was not *requested*, she was asked to convey her decision on what she wanted to do.The CC noted her resignation and as suggested by Angela, will draw a line under the circumstances and look forward to future plans for the CC. Dionne is progressing the information around the website.Angela suggested a call for new members for the CC and Dionne will advertise on Facebook. Angela will clarify the number of vacancies, and this will be tabled at the next meeting to encourage new members to come forward. Angela clarified that nominations can be received at any time and co-opted until the AGM in June. Michael enquired about putting members of the public forward for bigger nominations and Angela confirmed that Inspiring Aberdeenshire is the most formal platform for community endeavours. A report will be submitted to the Banff and Buchan Area Committee scoping out what happens where, for example [AVA](https://www.avashire.org.uk/awards.html) do recognise local awards too.Ken H asked if there was an email circulated about the voting for the CC awards event and Ken W confirmed that it was emailed around but accepted that the process can be improved. He thanked the CC for all their help. |
| **14** | **Date of next meeting** |
|  | **Tuesday 21 February** at **7pm**, in Learning Room 2 at the Fraserburgh Community and Sports Centre.Angela confirmed that future meeting locations should be in the FCSC and if the CC experience any issues with the letting process, to contact Heather in the Area Team. |