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| **FRASERBURGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  **Minute**  **Learning Room 2, Fraserburgh Community & Sports Centre**  **Tuesday 15th April 2025 at 6.30pm** | A drawing of a cartoon character  Description automatically generated |

**Present:**

Helena Gilbert - Community Councillor - Chair

Julie Rowe - Community Councillor - Secretary

Fiona Duthie - Minutes Secretary (volunteer)

Ken Harper - Treasurer (volunteer)

Mike McDonald - Community Councillor

John Anderson - Community Councillor

Jodie Summers - Community Councillor

Kelly Thomson - Community Councillor

Jane May - Community Councillor

Doreen Mair - Ward 3 Elected Member

Iain Sutherland - Ward 3 Elected member

Lexi Smith - Senior Pupil Fraserburgh Academy

Imogen Bellany - Senior Pupil Fraserburgh Academy

Peter Ovenstone - member of the public

**Apologies:**

Dionne Whyte - Community Councillor - Vice Chair

Denise Taylor - Community Councillor

James Adams - Ward 3 Elected Member

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| **1** | **Apologies & Declaration(s) of Interest** |
|  | The above apologies were noted. |
| **2** | **Minutes of last meeting – Tuesday 18th March** |
|  | Error noted in minutes – to be amended. James Ramsey Park to be changed to Running track. Once this amended made –  Approved – Jodie Summers  Seconded – Jane May |

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| **3** | **Action Sheet & Matters Arising** |
|  | **Membership:** Kelly Thomson will become a full member of the Community Council at the end of April. (HG)  **James Ramsey Park Signs:** Photos have been taken of the erected signs and are to be posted to Social Media  **Bios on Website:** ongoing (DW)  **Litter Picking Hub:** By the time permission granted from Asda it was too late to take up the offer. If we are given offer again box to be positioned at ASDA beside Macdonalds.  **Broch Board:** the boards should be completed and installed next month. (Cllr JA)  **Town Centre Benches:** After inspection it has been decided benches need a professional to give them a first sand before members finish, then stain. Mike M volunteered to take ownership of this going forward.  Stain etc has been purchased. (MM)  **Planters:** HG asked for a volunteer to co ordinate town centre planters along with Broch Business Association. Jane May volunteered. We have budget of approx £870 for plants in total. There are 36 bags compost still at C & A West.  Suggested we take over planters in Kirk Brae – Dave Mundie to be emailed regarding this and also the removal of the planters at Dalrymple Hall.  Due to Health & Safety etc any hanging baskets will be at the sole responsibility of any business that want to hang them on their own property.  Plants to be purchased from C & A West in May. (JM)  **FCC Promotional Banners:** ongoing (DW)  **Town Centre Lamp post painting:** waiting for update (Cllr JA)  **James Ramsey Park Pitches:** This is being looked into. More than 1 group involved.  **Yellow Lines:** Cllr DM explained only a section of lines painted meantime due to priorities and funding.  **Overstaying 45 Min Parking:** Cllr DM has been assured by police that this will be a priority and there will be an increase in parking tickets issued.  **Silver Beetles Blue Plaque:** Cllr JA emailed CC to say there is already a plaque in place. |
| **4** | **Police Scotland Report/Community Warden Report** |
|  | * Attached |
| **5** | **Items of business** |
|  | **Harbour Master Plan – Cllr Doreen Mair**  A short video presentation was shown to the meeting outlining the plans for the future of Fraserburgh Harbour.   * Involves deepening and extending harbour to accommodate larger vessels & attract more business. Will include dry docks and ship lifts * Cllr DM explained that as Fraserburgh is a harbour “trust” any funding for these works has to be found using grants. Funding is not in place yet. * Cost will be approx. £300M. * If funding found geological investigations can start this summer. * A “wave expert” was employed to ensure there would be no detrimental effect on the coastline due to any of the works. * It will be “business as usual” for the harbour while works take place. * Exciting opportunity for Fraserburgh to secure the future of the town’s fishing industry and attract more business to Fraserburgh. * Can Community Council write a letter of support to the Harbour Board? ( HG will see to this.) |
| **6** | **Treasurer’s Report** |
|  | **General Account £4719.35**  To be paid: Zurich insurance - £90.70  Admin costs – JR - £50  **Beach fundraising - £2166.51**  £10087.19 was spent purchasing the 3 sand chairs. |
| **7** | **Sub Committee Reports** |
|  | * **Litter Picking**   Running club have offered to help  Fraserburgh Academy will do a litter pick on 26th April. They will concentrate on Academy grounds. School will submit photos for publicity.   * **Project Group**   There is a meeting at Fraserburgh Academy Monday 21 April at 7pm  Jane May to be added to Whatsapp group (JS)   * **Resilience Group**   Group will be conducting a survey of Fraserburgh as part of business plan etc. Can CC respond the survey links when available.  Another volunteer is need for the Food Larder to fill a vacancy. |
| **8** | **Questions for Councillors** |
|  | * **Why is Jim Savage still in his job after allowing Council to go into debt?**   Cllr DM responded. Mr Savage did not get the recent pay increase. Covid & Brexit were the most significant reasons for the loss. Aberdeenshire has an aging demographic, falling birth rates. Schools are a huge expense.  Cllr IS added that Aberdeenshire do not get a fair distribution of funds from Holyrood. If it was per capita Aberdeenshire would get £46M more.  Audit Scotland check spending   * **Why are we allowing immigrants to come into the area and supporting them when we can’t support locals?**   Cllr DM explained that its an International Convention that determines how many refugees are admitted to the UK. The funding comes from central government not Aberdeenshire.  Cllr DM feels that recent local social media posts about refugees have caused racism and the claims made on these posts are unfounded.  Concerns about overcrowding in local schools were made. Cllr DM explained that no schools will go above there already agreed capacities. Local QIO etc should be involved with the concerns of overcrowding in St Andrews Primary.   * **Councillers were asked about recent media coverage about closure of Shertered Housing in Fraserburgh & Inverallochy.**   Cllr DM explained there has been an ongoing review for last 3 years. She explained how the funding works and how these is currently a loss.  It was agreed recent consultations were not handled well.  Tenants will not be forced to move but there will be incentives to move into other accommodation.  Empty accommodation “may” be used to help the shortage of single person council housing locally.  Invercairn Court needs to be reviewed as local circumstances have changed with the opening of a locally pharmacy.  We were reminded that Sheltered Housing is “social housing - its not part of Social Care. |
| **9** | **Questions from members of the public** |
|  | none |
| **10** | **Correspondence** |
|  | **Scottish Water – 4 Corners.**  Email received to say a contractor is now in place. Benches can now be priced and chosen.  **Allotments**  Email received from member of public inquiring about allotments.  Jan emery to be contacted. (HG)  **Golf Club**  Invitation to public consultation at Faithlie Centre on 29th April reg building of a new course. CC were invited to meet before meeting. (HG)  **Sheltered Housing**  Email from Kate McDonald as follows:  Good afternoon, Aberdeenshire Council’s Housing Service is undertaking a comprehensive review of Sheltered Housing to assess potential changes to the current model across the region. As part of this, we’ve engaged with tenants and aimed to reach out to the wider public through drop-in sessions.  Unfortunately, attendance at these sessions in Fraserburgh was lower than expected, and we suspect this may be due to limited awareness or insufficient promotion locally.  To clarify, the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a ring-fenced budget that funds services solely for Aberdeenshire Council tenants. All rent and service charges collected must be used to benefit these tenants, and the HRA does not receive support from other funding sources.  Alongside this review, the Housing Service is also exploring development opportunities to support a long-term investment plan for modernising Sheltered Housing services.  We are keen to ensure the local community in Fraserburgh has the opportunity to take part in these discussions. We would therefore welcome your views on the best way to engage with the public — for example, would it be helpful for officers to attend a community council meeting, or should we arrange another drop-in session with more promotion? For the drop-in sessions would an evening or weekend session be better attended?  We appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to your response.  HG replied inviting Kate to tonight’s meeting and confirming that weekend and evening drop in sessions would be beneficial. |
| **11** | **Planning Applications** |
|  | None |
| **12** | **AOB** |
|  | **Secretary**  Julie Rowe intimated that she will be standing down as a Community Council Member and as Secretary.  A new secretary will need to found ASAP as this is a busy post and is too much for Chair to also take on this.  It was suggested we could advertise a “paid” position for this?  A call for new members is needed.  Permission was granted from Jane May to share her contact details with Area office. (JR) |
| **13** | **Date of next meeting** |
|  | **Tuesday 20 May** at **6.30pm**, in Learning Room 2 at the Fraserburgh Community and Sports Centre. |