



## Minutes of Caithness Community Council 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 via MS Teams.

**Present:** Jillian Bundy (Chair Person), Patricia Groves (Secretary), David Craig, Donald Omand, Matthew Reiss (Councillor Highland Council).

1. **Apologies:** Heather Thompson, George MacDougall, Craig Sutherland (Police representative).
2. **Adoption of Minutes**  
With the amendment of the name Ian to Eann, David proposed and Jillian seconded the minutes.
3. **Correspondence**  
Nothing significant
4. **Police Matters**  
Nothing to report  
David had emailed the Police about an incident on the NC500 but had not received a response. Matthew asked David to forward the email to him and he will take it to the local inspector.  
Craig Sutherland was unable to meet with Heather and the Council representative, who looked at possible sightings for the “smiley face” signs. He also informed her that no Data cables were installed in the village. Residents in Forss would also like “Smiley face” signs but the national speed limit applies there. Matthew has tried various options but with no success. Police camera van could be deployed where there might be an accident but it doesn’t fit the criteria for a sign, as rural areas are not the same as built up areas.  
John Ross from Forss has tried to raise the speeding issue with the Road Safety Officers but there are Government constraints.  
Roads issues could be raised at the next Association of Community Councils meeting.
5. **Planning and Licensing Updates**  
Nothing to report, but wind farm developments would be kept an eye on.
6. **Treasurer’s Report**  
£6217.65 in the Account. The Grant was paid in and £500 was applied for from the Village Officer Scheme.
7. **Village Officer**  
There is approximately £1000 from the central fund. James McAdie has not been contacted yet. Jamie is also happy to do work. The path along the side

of the Golf Club is overgrown. The footpath in Forss from the houses to the Hotel also requires attention. Jillian will contact John Ross from Forss.

#### **8. Renewables Developments**

The enquiry for the Drum Hollistan appeal is to be held at the end of September. Jillian has written a statement. People are allowed to attend in person at the Weigh Inn.

The Limekiln Variation has a closing date for the 14<sup>th</sup> September for any comments. The Community Council will send in a statement.

Fiona Milligan has been written to about the log lorries speeding.

#### **9. Dounreay Stakeholders Group**

David sent out an update (see email dated 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021)). Senior staff from the MOD are now attending. There will be an NDA announcement later this month about Dounreay. The next meeting will be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021.

#### **10. Association of Community Councils' Update**

Minutes have been forwarded but the date of the next meeting is unknown.

#### **11. Actions from previous meeting**

There has only been one estimate given for the brown Tourist Sign. It is £927.62 but does not include delivery.

Forss Wind Farm might be a possible contact for funding.

The noticeboard has been ordered and awaiting delivery.

The Community Shop: After a meeting with Jillian, Heather, Pat and Rebecca Munro, Pat visited Yvonne Hendry of Caithness Voluntary Group who recommended the Plunkett Foundation as a reference. Rebecca set up a Facebook page, a survey monkey for the questionnaire and a Gmail account, also for the questionnaire. Caithness Print solutions in Wick photocopied 130 questionnaires for £10.00. Pat and Rebecca will deliver these to households in Reay. The date for them to be completed is the 18<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **AOB**

Matthew reported that the road's budget had been tripled and many of the roads had been surface dressed but not all the roads would be repaired. He also said that the ward population was expected to drop by 9% over the next 10 years. This had implications for the schools etc. 15 babies were born in Caithness General last year and there were issues about the midwives becoming deskilled due to the small numbers.

David reported that the sign for the harbour is ongoing and it might be possible to ask Dounreay Tri for funding.

A report about the cut-out policeman appeared in the John O' Groat Journal.

#### **12. Date of next meeting**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021, 7.30 at Reay Golf Club

#### **Actions**

Matthew to contact the police inspector about David's incident

Jillian to contact John Ross, Forss, about groundwork requiring to be done at Forss.

David to pursue renewal of sign at the harbour

Pat to source funding for the brown tourist sign  
Heather to continue with the erection of the speed signs