

**Tap O Noth Community Council Meeting
Minutes of Remote meeting (Webex meetings)
Monday 20th December 2021 at 7.30pm**

Present: Paul Manning (Chairman), George Beverly (Vice Chairman), Janice Smith (Secretary/Treasurer), Peter Johnston, David Grant, Tony Smith, Sharon Stoneman, James Grant, Morven Muirden, Vicky Briggs.

In Attendance: Cllr Petrie

Apologies: Diane Ord, Cllr Latham

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Approved: David Grant; Seconded: George Beverly.

Welcome to Donald Boyd of Huntly and District Development Trust

Donald kindly attended the meeting but due to internet issues was unable to give his presentation. We hope he will be able to attend a future meeting.

Matters Arising:

Insurance

Further discussion regarding additional insurance cover for the Community Council. After discussion it was felt that the existing cover was adequate but should events necessitate the need for a solicitor then this could be arranged at the appropriate time.

Tap O'Noth Community Council Website and Facebook/Social Media

Tap O Noth Community Council Website

Vicky is progressing the website. She has contacted Aberdeenshire Council and there is little guidance regarding what should go on the website. The expectation is that the basic minimum of meeting dates, approved minutes and agendas should be provided.

Rhynie Football Pitch/Community Orchard

The planting event was postponed due to the bad weather. No further news available.

Rhynie Youth Club Startup

Sharon gave an update. Everything is going well and funds have been raised (£293). There are currently 28 children and young people attending. The next meeting will be in January-date tbc.

Clatt Kirkyard Wall

Vicky to provide photos and Janice to contact Aberdeenshire Council once these have been received.

Kennethmont Distillery Footpath Update

No further update although Cllr Latham will reportedly email any new information.

Kennethmont School Benches

James provided an update. The slabs and sand have been ordered and it is hoped that the work will be done over the Christmas holidays.

Village Noticeboards

This is work in progress. George will make contact with area Community Councillors and see if the existing noticeboards should be refurbished or if new ones are needed. Update for the next meeting.

Community Council Connectivity and Communication Pilot

No further update regarding the specific Community Council pilot. Aberdeenshire Council have completed their hybrid meetings pilot, their findings to be reported in January. However it appears that their findings may not be directly applicable to Community Council operations.

Cllr Petrie reported that HDDT is carrying out a separate trial applicable to smaller meetings. If this is successful the intention is that the equipment would be available for loan to CCs. Janice to make contact with HDDT for updates.

Gartly School Future Plans

No further update. Cllr Petrie advised that an extension to the consultation period had been requested in order to ensure due thought be given to the situation. It is hoped that there might be community use for the school and associated grounds.

Kennethmont speed flashing lights

Janice to progress this as no further information available.

Foundation Scotland/Community Council Updates

Ratification of the new documents. Proposed: George; Seconded: Paul

Gartly road repairs between the Rhynie Road and the bridge

Paul to progress this. No face to face meetings with the Roads Dept due to Covid.

Aberdeenshire Council Contact for safe disposal of discarded syringes

Contact the Waste Dept 03456 081207. Vicky to create a poster and send to George so it can be laminated and put on the noticeboards.

Queen's Jubilee Medals/Coins for local schools

Further discussion needed and numbers required for the next meeting.

Planning Application APP/2021/2259 Application under Section 42 for Formation of Quarry for Extraction and Processing of Hard Rock Including Formation of Bund and Access Without Compliance with Conditions 3 (Noise) and 8 (Blasting) of Planning Permission Reference APP/2018/2678

An email was sent to the Planning Dept along with several emails raising concerns by local residents. Cllr Latham acknowledged receipt of these. Cllr Petrie advised that it was likely to be discussed at the first meeting in January.

Correspondence

Email regarding concerns about the poor state of the Tap O Noth footpath

George is progressing with this and is looking into costs. The Community Council has no obligation as such but would like to help resolve these issues for community benefit.

Planning Applications: N/A

Individual Area Reports:

Clatt: Vicky and Morven and the Hall Committee are hoping to get more young people and adults involved in making good use of the hall. They are also hoping the library will open once more. A meeting will be arranged in January to take this further.

Morven raised the question of the adequate provision of winter gritting. Certain roads have been left in a very icy dangerous state and these are bus routes. Janice to contact Aberdeenshire Council to get an update on the prioritisation of the gritting services.

Numerous complaints have been made about the school buses in the Clatt area. Paul has spoken to the Transport Dept and this will be reported down to Stagecoach buses who are running the school transport. Any further complaints should be reported to the school as they are also dealing with the situation.

Gartly: Nothing to report but Peter wished everyone a Happy Christmas when it comes.

Kennethmont: Nothing to report.

Rhynie: Fire Service concerns were raised during the recent loss of water due to the last storm. Paul contacted the Fire Service and this is all in hand.

Reports have all been made to the appropriate departments of Aberdeenshire Council regarding Rhynie School car park fence, Rhynie graveyard tap and the potholes on Richmond Avenue. Janice will progress these.

Concerns over the lack of buses have been made. In particular the 231 service which was discontinued some time ago. Residents affected by this are advised to contact Aberdeenshire Council directly with these concerns.

Land on Richmond Avenue is overgrown and there are also bottles, cans and dog mess. Cllr Petrie will contact Environmental Health in this regard.

AOCB:

Bulbs have now been purchased and planted in the villages.

Comments were made by Community Councillors that the remote meeting held on this occasion was extremely trying. There were difficulties hearing and seeing, with screens frozen or videos turned off in order to be able to hear. A different platform may be trialled for future should the need arise.

Microgrants:

Microgrant award of £500 to Clatt Village Hall towards internet provision.

Next Meeting
Monday 31st January 2022 at 7.30pm
The Tin Hut, Gartly.