

Furnace Community Council

Monthly Meeting

27/07/2023

Minutes

1: Present:

Mark Boston, Martin Wilson (Chair), Peter Hogbin (Treasurer), Sharon McInnes, Kenneth MacKellar, Louise MacKellar, Ruth Tott, Andy Henderson, Dougie Philand, Sarah Nixon.

Apologies:

Ann and Ronnie Dodd.

2: Adoption of minutes from previous meeting – Proposed by Sharon MacInnes, seconded by Mark Boston.

3: Matters arising. N/A

4: Treasurers report.

Peter reported that there was no change in the finances since last month. The issue of access to the money in the Virgin account remains unresolved, but all parties have agreed that the documents that need signatures will be signed by Linda and Phil. This will allow the transfer of around £99 from the Virgin money account to the Royal Bank of Scotland account.

Balance as of last month was: £3649.19

5: Police report.

PC Matt Shaw reported to MB that the report for June 2023 showed that there were 41 calls for service in May, and a further 33 calls in June. The top three demands were listed as road traffic incidents, abandoned 999 calls and calls reporting concern for a member of the public. There were 10 crimes reported in May and 8 in June.

Incidents reported in the press were related to possession of a controlled substance, and two reports of threatening/abusive behaviour. All incidents reported in the press took place in Invererary.

Martin Wilson advised the council that there had been multiple reports of peddlers in the mid Argyll area. These reports lead to the arrest of three individuals in Lochgilphead who were said to have been behaving in a threatening/abusive manner. MW reports that the door-to-door selling was a pretext for the individuals involved to “scope out” people's property and gardens.

MW advised that he will be delivering a talk/presentation about cyber-crime, fraud and cold calling. This will be a one-hour session and the date, time and venue will be announced in due course. The meeting will be open to all and will advise attendees on how to avoid/reduce the risk of these types of crime.

MB spoke about the call management devices that are available for individuals to screen their calls. These are reportedly very effective at reducing the number of unwanted and nuisance calls. The cost of these devices is around £120 which could be prohibitive for some more vulnerable members of our community and there was some discussion on whether funding could be made available for this.

MW stated that he will approach ACHA and Fyne Homes who may be able to assist.

6: Roads update

There is still no update on when the new signage for the village will be in place.

MB advised that Police Scotland had been in touch to say that they are pro-actively carrying out speed checks in the area. MB would like to find out at what times these checks can be carried out – the preferred times being around 6-7:30 am and in the afternoons. MW said that due to staff changeover times, early morning speed checks could not be facilitated.

MW went on to advise the council that there is an initiative to encourage community participation in speed monitoring. The community speed watch group will provide training and equipment for the monitoring of traffic by the local community. MW said that he would be happy to support setting up such a group if there was sufficient interest in the village.

MB advised that illuminated speed signs could be purchased and that these had proved to be effective in other locations nearby such as Lochgair. It was pointed out that permission would be needed from the relevant landowner, and that any equipment would need to be tamper proof.

7: Micro grant applications

All parties have approved the application for a grant to the SCIO for the purpose of purchasing new display boards for the village. PH advised that he was just waiting for the bank details of the SCIO as all payments are now made by bank transfer.

The point was raised again about the application form for the micro grants being perceived as prohibitive due to the language used, and requirements related to sharing of financial information. It was agreed that this part of the form would be removed.

MW suggested an application for funds to place display points on lamp posts around the village - it was agreed that MW would email Dougie Philand about this as previous emails to Jim Smith had not been answered.

8: Furnace surgery update.

Following the meeting which took place on the 19/06/2023, MB has emailed Evan Beswick and the practice partners for an update.

As a result of feedback from the meeting, MB has been put in contact with Charlotte Craig who is responsible for ensuring that communities and individuals voices are heard and considered in relation to the delivery of health care in the area. MB is to arrange a video call with Charlotte.

MW questioned the funding that was previously in place to provide a service in Furnace. It was thought that this was around £80k per year and MW wonders whether this is still the case. MB stated that the allocation of money is managed differently now so this is probably no longer relevant.

It was the general feeling that that the local health and social care partnership are not currently meeting the varying needs of our community. Dougie Philand agreed that he would raise the issue at the locality planning group.

9: Environmental – N/A

10: Correspondence.

No new planning applications received this month.

Consultation regarding the introduction of visitor levy charging. Concerned members of the community are encouraged to contact the community council should they wish to be involved in the consultation.

11: AOCB

Livestock – there have been two calls made to the police in the last month regarding livestock. Police Scotland advised that while officers do not physically attend the incidents, they immediately contact the relevant landowner/farmer in these circumstances, and that the issue is usually resolved quickly in this manner.

Blocked footpath near surgery – this has been reported to A&B council.

It was agreed that the community council would provide a wreath to be placed at the war memorial in the village.

Emails – PH asked about setting up an individual email account for the CC treasurer. MW agreed that he would show PH how to access the group email.

Next meeting: 31/08/2023 @ 6:30pm Village Hall