

Community Council Meeting
Monday 4 December 2017
Aberlemno Church meeting room
7.00pm

In attendance:

T Samson (Chair); J Hair; Cllr. Myles, Cllr Nicol; C Fenton; M Howe; I Davies; P Duncan; S Cormie; David McGovern (part of meeting).

1 **Welcome and apologies**

TS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from: Lorna and Mark Hooghiemstra, Lynda Bruce.

2 **Update on viewfinder for Aberlemno Hill**

DMcG outlined his interest in being involved in the project to install a viewfinder on Aberlemno Hill. His idea would be to have a 50mm slate top with a rounded edge on a dry stone cairn or a 40mm cladding on block. DMcG tabled a picture of his proposal with a carving in the centre of the front face. He expected the cost to be in the region of £1,800. Discussion took place about who could make the plinth and it was felt that local people should be involved and that the plinth should be stone clad as it would be easier to repair if the need arose. In the past Bill Jackson had offered to be involved.

DMcG was asked to price building a plinth with a slate viewfinder and to quote for materials separately because TS said he has some stone that could be used.

DMcG agreed to supply a budgetary quote. PD suggested that the quote be for the entire work.

The issue of the potential theft of the carving and DMcG confirmed that it would be firmly secured.

The viewfinder will show an exaggerated horizon and the names of the most significant hills towards the Glens.

There was general agreement that it would be ideal to have the carved front showing a replica of one of the symbols on the stones at Aberlemno.

Discussion took place about the potential funding for the project and Cllr Nicol suggested looking at the Community Choices Fund for opportunities. It was noted that LEADER is still open for funding.

3 **Minutes of the last meeting for approval**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved subject to the following amendment in 10.5 Cllr Myles informed the meeting that the Harley Davidson riders were considering not riding through Aberlemno and past Netherton cottage in future.

4 **Matters arising**

The road signs at Balgavies crossroads have now been moved and anyone using the crossroads with a tractor should check that there is now an improvement and report back to the next meeting.

Action: check the placement of the signs for safety improvement.

All

SC reported that the Drive Safely road signs at Netherton in the Forfar to Brechin direction are behind a tree and therefore not easily seen.

There was another accident on a frosty morning, which makes the total now four in two years. SC noted that in the past the accidents haven't been logged.

Action: write to the Council to move the signs.

TS

Discussion took place about the new methods of repairing roads and the general view was that it wasn't particularly good.

5 **Aberlemno graveyard**

Slow progress is being made. SEPA are involved and will need to report prior to planning

permission being sought for change of use.

6 **Treasurer's report**

There has been no movement on the account so the balance remains at £2,157.44.

7 **Update from the Angus Council/Community Councils meeting**

Clr Myles reported that there was good feedback from the meeting and the aim is to meet every six months.

In essence, considerable savings need to be made and the Council needs to do things differently; there is a need to be more innovative. The Council is still paying off debt from 1992.

8 **Update on Aberlemno Community Hall**

Angus Environment Trust awarded the hall around £9,000 for electrical works which have nearly been completed. Funding wasn't forthcoming for a new kitchen but the hall committee is seeking a revised quote for the works.

The Harvest Hootenanny in September made a small profit. ID thanked everyone who helped to make it happen. The craft fair in November made a £550 profit but it wasn't as busy as the previous year but the stallholders want to come again next year. A darts and dominoes night is scheduled for December.

ID reported that the Federation of Community Halls is experiencing issues with young people between 16-18 having parties because of the issues of their being able to get home. ID discussed the awning for the frame, which covers the BBQ area and which belongs to the community of Aberlemno, and which needs to be replaced. Montrose Rope and Sail have quoted £254 + VAT. It was agreed that the Community Council will pay for the new awning.

The gardening club have planted daffodils in Aberlemno.

9 **AOCB**

1. PD reported that he'd seen a group of people with metal detectors in the nearby field; if anything is found 50% of the value goes to the landowner and 50% goes to charity. PD reported that next time the group will hire the hall which will help raise funds.

2. CF expressed her gratitude and thanked LH in absentia for her efficient forwarding of all emails to the Community Councillors during her holiday.

3. Cllr Nicol reported on the Barclay Report and its recommendations.
(For information) <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00523643.pdf>

Discussion took place about the changes to the system, which includes an extra 1250 people now to pay rates because shooting is now rateable. Rebates are possible if applied for on valuations less than £15k but here are 6500 appeals have been made. The Report recommended that all properties be rated but that exemptions are in place. (See the report for more information.)

4. MH reported that the police have said that the case of the thefts earlier in the year is now closed, and not resolved.

5. There remains a problem of hare coursing in Angus and the problem of retribution if the perpetrators are reported to the police.

10. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on the 5 March 2018 at 7.00 pm in the Aberlemno Church meeting room.