

## Meeting of IGBCC September 25<sup>th</sup> 2024

Present:

Councillor Ann Ross and Yi-Pei Turvey

IGBCC : Paul Herrington; Chris Low; Andy Dickson; Ross Provan; Chris Bath; Sue Blow

For agenda item 9: Bill and Dorothy Crichton

### **Agenda item 1:** Welcome

Paul opened the meeting welcoming new members Chris Bath and Ross Provan.

### **Agenda item 2:** Approval of minutes of previous meetings and action review

The June 26<sup>th</sup> Minutes (AGM) approved by Chris Low

Bi-monthly minutes approved by Andy Dickson. Both are available on Google Drive.

Action review will be covered in later agenda items

### **Agenda item 3** Roles and responsibilities

Paul has compiled a table which shows both formal and informal responsibilities of Council members.

<i>Formal role</i> Chair	<i>Informal</i> Local Place Plan; Paths and Road safety; Windfarm and Pylons	PH
Vice chair	Broadband; Planning; Website; Kirkwood homes; Insurance; data protection (following accounts sign-off)	CL
Finance	Midhill Funding	CB
	Resilience	AD
Meeting Secretary	Environment and sustainability	SB
Correspondence secretary		RP

Summary of hanging actions:

- IT: **CL** will review the proposed Microsoft 365 upgrade
- Responsibility for discussions re: Kirkwood homes passes from PH to **CL**
- **PH** will continue Gail's search for a representative from Inchmarlo Retirement Village willing to join the IGBCC
- **Resilience Plan:** **CL** has passed comments on the resilience plan to Sylvia. There are still changes to be made and **Andy Dickson** will pick these up. CL asked if we need a resilience sub-group of the Community Council. AD will clarify situation with Sylvia

#### **Agenda item 4 Meeting formats**

Covid necessitated moving from in-person to virtual meetings. The group agreed that much was learnt regarding the benefits of virtual meetings but a great deal has also been lost.

The group discussed various options:

- Meet one in three, with Zoom as default
- Formal meetings on Zoom, informal in people's houses
- We need to be aware of the needs of younger people with families for whom Zoom is a boon, since they can participate without needing baby-sitters: a consideration if we are to attract younger – or less mobile – people to the Community Council. These are open meetings.
- **A model to try: 50:50.** We will alternate between fully Zoom, and in-person at the Village Hall, with Zoom access for those unable to be there in person.
  - *Action. **SB** to investigate evening Hall bookings*

#### **Agenda item 5 Secretary's report**

SB reported that the issue raised by a Retirement Home resident (Melissa Donaldson) regarding shortage of burial spaces locally was still outstanding. PH has followed this up and the matter is now with Banchory Community Council for discussion and action: there is provision in the Banchory development plan for an extension to the Cemetery. Melissa Donaldson has been informed.

#### **Agenda item 6: Treasurer's report**

Financial matters are being passed to **CB**. However, there are still some loose ends that need tying up with the bank before completion of the handover. The books will be approved by **Catherine Nicholson**.

#### **Agenda item 7 Councillors' reports**

Councillor Ann Ross is disappointed that as yet a formal reduced speed limit is not possible but a warning sign to slow down has been put up: currently this compromise seems to be the best that can be achieved under current standards. Scottish Council will review these but not until 2026/26. No interim reviews are possible and **PH** will push out deadlines for action back accordingly.

Bus stop improvements: Retirement Village

Councillor Ross will try to get funding for a safe footpath to both East and Westbound stops but currently there is ambiguity concerning land ownership. Until this is resolved, negotiations for land purchase is in limbo. *(See postscript for update)*

*Action: **PH** will continue to monitor this situation and pursue under the heading of Road Safety.*

Councillor Ross congratulated PH on his input to the meeting at Marr concerning the proposed wind farm at Hill of Fare. She reported that his contribution had been well received and had had a huge impact.

Councillor updated us on the perception that Banchory and mid Deeside are 'hugely wealthy'. She was clear that many are finding it hard to 'heat and eat' and updated us on current initiatives locally, including food distribution and 'not for profit' food distribution agencies. She will be continuing to pursue this and will be raising it at Full Council on Sept 27<sup>th</sup>

Councillor Yi-Pei Turvey summarised her research and activities to incorporate best practice and good ideas from abroad and elsewhere in Scotland to help to manage tight budgets effectively. Her work and ethos has a strong action focus, and she stressed the importance of staying positive in tough circumstances. She emphasised that not everything is doom and gloom and there is much good work and positive results being achieved.

**Agenda item 8** Planning application for house at Glassel: Bill Crichton.

Councillor Ross warned that neither councillor could advise, comment or participate in discussion of this agenda item. However, they were able to confirm that BC's emails had been received.

Bill was able to outline the current situation. The matter of planning acceptance or rejection is technical and depends in part on the precise location of the property; whether it sits within the accessible or remote rural planning area, and driving time from Aberdeen. The matter is ongoing and BC has been advised to go back to the chief of planning for further clarification.

**Agenda item 9** Local Place Plan

PH updated us on progress.

55 questionnaires were received from a total of 500 distributed...a return rate of 10% which is good.

All three Place Plan meetings were well attended, and the responses were positive.

*Action:* **PH** will continue to liaise with neighbouring areas regarding their PlacePlans and results and will continue to negotiate with other stakeholders. The status update document gives further details (*see website*).

In brief:

The lowest (worst) scores were for traffic and for lack of off-road routes for pedestrians and cyclists. Specific comments mentioned poor sight lines for minor roads joining the A93 and speeding.

The highest (best) scores were for open space; sense of identity and belonging; sense of community. We need to sustain these.

PH has also identified clear planning needs and paths on a colour coded map.

Next steps: PH will produce a short report based on the results of the questionnaires: *action: PH ongoing.*

#### **Agenda item 10** Kirkwood homes and pathways at Inchmarlo

CL has produced slides (*see website*)

The first phase is the construction of homes at East Mains

The second phase will be the hotel.

Planning permission was granted (2016) contingent on the construction of suitable pathways and infrastructure from Inchmarlo to the Home Farm road. No work has started yet. CL has contacted the local planning officer and considers that the Kirkwood Homes are in breach of the terms of their planning application.

PH commented on the mismatch between what is submitted and approved, and what gets lost or dropped as the building process progresses.

Discussions with the planning office indicate that they too are having difficulties. PH and CL will take up the matter with Paul McQuarry, head of planning, for clarification.

#### **Agenda item 11** Mid Hill windfarm funding

CL has taken over responsibility and once the Resilience plan has been approved, funding will be released.

The next deadline for applications is the end of October when approximately £16,000 will be available for disbursement.

#### **AOB**

- PH. The final meeting to discuss the planning application for the Hill of Fare windfarm is Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>. Peter Argyll will represent all 6 Community Councils
- CB and others have indicated that they would like to take advantage of the training offered by the Council to help us with our IGBC roles and responsibilities. However, we all need usernames and passwords to secure the on-line training.

Date of next meeting: November 6<sup>th</sup>

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm

The transcripts are available.

**Postscript:** Email from Cllr Ross 27/9 See agenda item 7

Following my update regarding the bus stops at the Inchmarlo Retirement Village I can confirm that the Council are working on upgrading access to both the east and west bound bus stops. The westbound is in addition to the original request. The project is currently looking at costings which will be used to secure funding for such projects for 25/26.