



Minute of meeting held in Port Erroll School on Monday February 2nd 2009

Present: Hugh McIntyre, Peter Abenheimer, George Stroud, Billy Collie, Kathleen Morrison, Stephen Smith, Margie Davidson, Rosemary Pittendreigh, Sonya Stapleton

Apologies: George Hall, Gordon MacKay

The meeting welcomed Sonya to her first CBCA meeting.

John and Mary Garden Fund

Fund is reducing due to reduced rates as a result of current financial crisis. Rosemary asked if it were not time to utilise the fund while it was still of higher value. It was agreed to investigate this further.

Hugh to contact financial advisors and gain their professional opinion on the merits of this idea. Ongoing.

Castle : Nothing new to report. Ongoing

Hall Funding

£3k recently received from Banff and Buchan council. This brings current existing plus 'promisory' funding to about £6k. It was mooted that we could possibly free up that money by using some John and Mary garden fund money, basically to underwrite it as a loan. This would require an Extraordinary General Meeting but may be the way forward. Margie stated that Dawn Brodie is keen to help with this project and that money is available for us. It was agreed after discussion that the best way forward is to use available money to pay for a full survey of requirements and use this report as the basis of a funding application. Peter to get this moving. Billy and Margie will help him with the loan application. Hugh and Rosemary to monitor the J&MGF issue.

Ladies Bridge : Margie arranged for Stephen to meet up with Billy and Boris a few days ago to view the various projects which are currently ongoing;

i.e. the bridge renewal and replacement - the resiting of the concrete blocks on the north beach - the access paths to the north beach - and the clean up of the net winch etc. from the north beach. Margie wished to record our thanks for Stephen taking the trouble to do this with us and the committee was happy to agree. So thanks to Stephen are duly recorded.

Replacement : Billy met with Debbie Burroughs (Planning and Environmental Services), Malcolm Taberner (Engineering) and Emily Hastings of East Grampian Coastal Partnership on Tuesday January 13th. A summary of the meeting was sent by Debbie and distributed to the committee a few days later. It was agreed that the project was feasible and should be community led. We will begin to organise an awareness campaign with a view to a public consultation meeting around Easter time. Billy to lead alongside Margie and Boris (George Stroud).

Renovation ; Boris has very kindly arranged sponsorship from Aberdeen Tool Rental for kit to enable us to blast and properly clean, repair and paint the bridge. Additionally Boris has donated 2000 man hours of labour from his own company (Marin SubSea Ltd.) to do the actual work. This fits in absolutely perfectly with the plan from our January meeting, which is for the bridge to have a final 'makeover' which will see it through to it's final replacement, with a target date of 2-5 years. At current levels of erosion, we need to be looking nearer 2-3 than 5 years. Marjie is at the final stages of applying for some renovation money from East Grampian Coastal Partnership, with whom she has been negotiating ; furthering our already good partnership relationship with EGCP.

Hugh to enquire and pass details to Billy with regard to what the Community service people have done with our paint; as the meeting agreed that there was no point in wasting any more time pursuing this particular avenue.

Brickworks ; Ongoing; No further developments.

Harbour Beach Clean-Up : Stephen had arranged for council staff to look out for the harbour beach rubble but due to a misunderstanding, i.e. Billy's poor directions, they failed to find it. The rubble is actually the old net winch and associated bumpf on what I suppose is technically the north beach and not the harbour beach. Doh! Anyway, Stephen advised that there would probably be a council charge to remove this. However, Boris has this on his radar and we are hoping to organise a crane to remove this stuff. For the record, the 'harbour' clean-up is now the North Beach clean-up.

Harbour : Hugh gave an update on the Harbour. Boris needs a reply soon on the fendering and other goodies he has offered to the Harbour Committee. Hugh to pursue as a matter of urgency.

Christmas Lights etc. : Peter reported that 9 lights failed largely due to Lamp Post power failures. Our Xmas success means we are now struggling to cope with the same small band of heroes. Next year we need to start earlier ; November say; and get a 'Xmas project team' set up and trawl for more community help. We liked the idea of expanding our current event to a Xmas Fair Day utilising the Hall all day.

Serald St/Old School: Ongoing: Stephen reported on current situation. The right of way needs to be reinstated by current Serald St. developer but with the complication of the nearby school development, we need to monitor both projects in tandem carefully. We always have our secret weapon of a Boris Health and Safety inspection audit up our sleeve.

Sandy Brae :- Looking Better - Ongoing

Litter : Ali; Aberdeenshire Litter Initiative

Hugh had some literature about this. We can link it into our own plans for litter clean-ups perhaps; e.g. Errolston Woods possibly and also I think there is a link to the National Spring Clean 2009. Billy is a member and will contact them to see what help they can offer us.

Notice Board at Ladies Bridge : Margie now has the key!

Street Sports etc. Ongoing. George to report next meeting.

Beach Monitoring : Hugh has information to supply to Margie.

Recycling : Messy over holiday period. Ongoing

Website : *Gordon to report at next meeting*

AOB

Historic Postcards : Some opportunities arising soon to promote these...

Mike the Postie : Presentation evening arranged for the Red House on Wednesday the 12th February. Posters being arranged.

Park Committee : AGM on Wednesday 18th February

Sonya to consider taking over duties of Harbour Committee treasurer. Hugh to progress this.

Boris will send an email synopsis of his proposals for helping with the beach etc.

(Secy. Note - this has been received).

The trees overhanging Main St. need trimmed.

Drainage at top of Bussy Brae is inadequate.

Stephen to pursue.

The next meeting will be held in the schooll on Monday March 2nd at 7.30pm.