

## **Furnace Community Council Meeting Notes – Zoom Meeting held 19.30hrs Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021**

**Present:** Lynda Syed (Chair), Councillor Sandy Taylor, Mark Boston, John Campbell, Sharon MacInnes, Phil Whale, Martin Wilson.

**Apologies for Absence:** Ruth Tott, Dougie Philand.

### **Matters Arising:**

Correction to minutes of previous meeting: LS pointed out that the reference to the Forestry Commission undertaking timber harvesting adjacent to the Leacainn walk was incorrect. It is Scottish Woodland who have been carrying out these works.

Notes from Breedon meeting had been circulated as agreed. However a subsequent incident involving the throwing of earth at one of the quarry vehicles as it entered the village had been brought to the attention of the CC as this could have had serious consequences. MW advised that the Police had followed up and the youths involved had been spoken to and warned that should a similar event occur in future then charges would be made.

Damaged Rev Roddy McLeod tree plaque – SM advised that a replacement plaque is being sourced via Karen Baird (SCIO) who is awaiting the shop that manufactured the original unit to re-open.

Village Hall defibrillator - there is still some doubt over the status of the power supply to this unit. LS will arrange for electrician; Andy Craven to check out the electrical supply.

Environmental – PW advised the meeting that £111.36 had been spent on clean-up equipment for the Village. The items purchased included; litter pickers, gloves & bin bags. Anyone requiring equipment to allow them to litter pick in the village should speak to Phil.

Green Gym – LS has written to ACHA requesting that they partner with the CC in working to reclaim & adopt the area of unused land adjacent to the two derelict asbestos garages. Removal & disposal of these garages being part of these works.

### **Treasurers Report:**

PW advised that CC funds currently total £2,308.56. This sum includes £536.27 of grant money remaining from Foundation Scotland to spend on Covid 19 alleviation actions.

LS queried the status of small grant monies and PW confirmed that 4 x grants each with a value of £250.00 had been made. Beneficiaries were: Boccia (donation toward disabled sports event) - J. Gillies, Bowls Club – (note: award subsequently re-allocated to Furnace School due to the Bowls Club failing to present the cheque in a timely manner), Furnace Craft Club & Lynda Syed (actual allocation tbc.) Post Meeting Note: This years (Windfarm) small grant money has not as yet been allocated due to the impact of Covid 19 restrictions. The small grant money awarded to LS was used to part fund Tia Chi lessons.

### **Police Report:**

MW updated the meeting re the Breedon lorry incident – see comment under Matters Arising (above) and also reminded everyone that whilst Covid 19 travel restrictions in Scotland had now

been lifted allowing people to travel, however overnight stops/stays are not allowed until Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April.

#### **Roads:**

Fantastic news that two local roads (Main Street & Queen Elizabeth) within the village have been allocated funding for repair & resurfacing works. LS thanked Councillor Sandy Taylor for his help & assistance in escalating this matter.

A83 major trunk road – MB highlighted the fact that despite previous assurances having been received from Bear Scotland that improved 40MPH signage would be installed nothing seems to have been done. Some road users continue to significantly exceed the speed limit on this road with PW commenting that he had witnessed two motorcyclists travelling at high speed only today. MB said that he would attempt to follow-up with Bear Scotland/Transport Scotland to see what could be done.

#### **Environmental:**

MW pointed out that the play park benches had deteriorated and were in need of re-painting to prevent further degradation. He requested that materials (principally paint) be purchased and then he would arrange for said benches to be maintained. MW to provide a list of requirements to PW so that materials can be obtained.

SM advised that the benches by the football pitch are also in poor condition and that she is trying to get someone to repair them.

Village parking (opposite the Shop) – LS highlighted the problem & potential dangers created by lorries parking on the footpath when visiting the village shop. Such parking sometimes making it impossible for pedestrians to pass on the footpath and requiring them to step out on to the road which is hazardous. SM said that she would approach David & Cindy to ask if they would put a sign up in the shop asking drivers to park carefully keeping the footpaths open for pedestrians.

Village Clean-up – LS suggested that we should again conduct a village litter clear up & wondered whether the school would like be involved. SM agreed to speak with Leslie at the school to see if they are interested.

#### **Information/Correspondence:**

LS advised that as a CC Convenor she had been invited along with other Convenors to participate in an on-line meeting with the Lochgilphead Medical Practice next Tuesday (27<sup>th</sup>) at 1600hrs. It was agreed that the only question that the CC wanted the Medical Practice to answer was when will medical services re-open again in Furnace.

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April LS will represent the Furnace CC in a Community Planning Partnership meeting. After an in-depth discussion over the aims, objectives & benefits of these meetings ST suggested that we re-run the local survey questionnaire every 2 years in order to see whether overall things have improved.

#### **Any Other Business:**

Secretary position is still open so if anyone knows of a suitable candidate let the CC know – RT has agreed to continue to act as scribe until a replacement can be found.

JC queried whether Scottish Woodlands would be erecting fences between the recently de-forested areas adjacent to the Leacainn walk & the main A83 road. LS stated that fences are only being installed to protect the newly planted Norwegian Spruce trees from Deer who like to eat this particular variety.

Dog walkers are asked to take extra care when exercising their dogs on the Leacainn walk as now that the woodland has been taken away a startled, or distracted animal could soon run from the walk and onto the road.

Date of next Meeting: Thur 27<sup>th</sup> May @ 7.30PM