

Minutes of Meeting of Dufftown District Community Council

Date: 20th February 2018

Time: 7pm

Venue: Royal British Legion Dufftown

Chair: Jim Nicol

Attendees: Sarah Anderson, Angus Anderson, Joan Nicol, Ally MacDonald, Anne Hodge, Cllr Louise Laing.

Zoe Bremner (part time)

Apologies: Cllr Derek Ross

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1. **Police Update** - Nothing to report. However it was mentioned that in an email from CSP a telephone scam had been reported. This involved people phoning and posing as the bank. It was felt this should be put in the Speirins.
2. **Minutes of last meeting** - The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed Joan, Seconded Angus.
3. **Matters Arising – Post Office-** Angus had spoken to a contact at the Royal Mail to find out whom we should contact regarding any problems with the Post Office arrangements. Royal Mail and the Post Office are actually separate companies so they were unable to help. There have been no further problems reported with the service at the Memorial Hall and no comments received from individuals from the Facebook post or other means. We will therefore close this issue unless anything is brought to our attention in the future.

Community Centre- Cllr Laing said the Council will definitely want to close the centre even if a good enough case is put forward not to. Two groups have put forward an interest. The Community Council are keen that the facility is kept open as it is used daily by 10 different groups and other halls in the area would not be able to accommodate them. The groups cover activities for all age groups in the community and it would have a big impact if they were lost. The Rifle club would especially be impacted as it would be unable to move elsewhere. The Council is in support of any group wishing to take it on as long as it continues to be able to be available to all groups concerned.

Road/Gritting/Budget- Nicola Moss has replied to our two road queries. Firstly on the road signage issue she reported that the 30mph sign on the Low Road is placed at a point that gives drivers time to slow down and that there would not be a case to move it. Jim will contact Mr Watts with her reply. There was also a reply to the gritting question and link to the council

site for information on this. Roddie Burns was mailed with our concern over the limited time given to reply to the survey, we have not had any reply.

Dornell wind Farm – Anne, Angus and Sarah attended the recent drop in meetings at the Memorial Hall. Following this the update on the issue was put in the minutes regarding Lesley Campbell stating that the fact we were not part of the steering group had been an oversight on the part of STAR'S. However it has been requested by a council member that it be put in the minutes that the Steering group is restricted to members of the Community Associations for the four areas affected. It should also be minuted that as attendance is restricted and that no minutes of the group have been made available to any interested parties that there is no transparency in the decision making. Apparently meetings are restricted to prevent unreasonably large numbers attending.

Clash Gour- Correspondence has been received regarding a visit to discuss further the option of Community involvement in this project. It was felt that as a large investment would have to be found to take part in such a project and nobody at present willing to take this on we should decline the offer.

Spring Clean Dufftown- The Community Association has in the past arranged a clean-up day around Dufftown. The Northern Scot has in the past publicised this and Moray Council has provided gloves, bags and tools. The Community Council will arrange this years clean up. It was confirmed that we have public liability insurance to cover arranging such an event. Saturday 14th April from 10am to 4pm was pencilled in as a possible date and time. Joan will check if the Memorial Hall is free as a meeting place for volunteers and for refreshments. Jim will then put it in the Speirins to gather volunteers.

Corsemaul Drive Rubbish- Rubbish dumped on building plots in this area has been brought to the attention of the Community Council. It is not known if this rubbish has been fly tipped or has been put there by the landowners. Environmental health have inspected the area in the past as there had been the mention of vermin at the site but no findings came back to residents. The issue had been reported with Councillor Wilson attending the site in August 2017. During his visit he had taken photos of the site and agreed it was unacceptable and would get in touch with Sepa. Despite contacting Councillor Wilson again there has been no reply on the issue. It was felt that if this was fly tipping rather than owner's rubbish it may result in further problems of this nature. There is also the issue of health and safety. Cllr Laing said she would contact the Community Warden on our behalf for advice and also speak to Cllr Wilson regarding this.

Clocktower Flag- Ann reported the state of the Clocktower flag which in fact does not resemble a flag anymore and does not send out a good message. Cllr Laing will find out if access could be sought to replace this if funding for a new flag is made available. It was mentioned that if this could be done before the peak tourist season begins it would be an advantage. Sarah will look into costings for this.

DDCC Email set up- It was discussed if anybody had any issues with the new set up Angus had put in place. As there were no problems it would be left as is and

tweaked in the future if required. We will unsubscribe from a lot of sites of no interest.

4. Correspondence – Various training days and seminars are coming up over the next few weeks. Information and registration can be found on DDCC gmail. There has been mail asking for us to vote for Speyside in the BBC Countryfile poll of best places in the UK. Jim will put this on the Speirins as well. Moray Awards posters have already been put into local shops and others were distributed for members to display.

5. Treasurers Report – The accounts have now been audited and sent to Jane along with the recent funds request form. End of year accounts were presented with a balance of £681.63 in the account and £10 cash held. With regard to the DDCC bank account old signatories need to be removed and new ones given. The form from the bank to remove signatories states that if there are no longer existing authorised signatories remaining that two new ones need to sign and minutes giving authority to new signatories must be enclosed with the form. It was decided that three signatories should be allowed to sign on the account these being James Nicol as Chairman, Zoe Bremner as Treasurer and Sarah Anderson as Secretary. This was agreed by all attending. The relevant completed forms will be taken to the bank by Sarah.

6. Community Feedback - Angus reported a few negative comments regarding the recent pylons erected in the Auchindoun area. Obviously there is little the Community Council are able to do regarding this.

7. Reports

Local Councillors – Cllr Laing reported that Dufftown Public toilets are not part of the Councils closures and that they are trying to ensure gritting of the Cabrach is resumed. She held a surgery last Friday and was asked if there had been any update regarding the dead trees and the bridge issue at the. Jim will chase up a response on this. The last dealings with this matter was left with Diageo. They were going to find out if the trees were on their land or on the land they leased out and if they were able to fund the bridge repairs. Cllr Laing also had a query regarding trees being cut back and just left there. Jim reported that this is done to establish ecosystems .

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8. Planning Issues- Three plots on Corsemaul drive have a planning application for a single dwelling house and detached garage on plots 7,8 and 9.

9. The Joint Community Councils of Moray – Nobody was able to attend the recent JCC meeting in Elgin.

10.AOCB - The Clocktower- Speyside youth are still the only interested party however since the passing of Fred, the moving away of Marcus and other changes within the group this may change. Cllr Laing to look into what happens to the Clocktower in June if nothing happens regarding this

Blocked Drains- There has been road flooding due to a blocked drain near Plasfiddich at the Maggieknockater turn off of the Keith road out of Dufftown.

Crash Barrier Parkmore Brae- Angus pointed out that 6 months have now passed since the request for a barrier at this site was turned down. The Community Council voted that the issue should be brought to the attention of the Moray Council once again.

Community Council Facebook page/Noticeboard- It was decided that a separate Facebook for the Community Council rather than using the Speirins should be looked into. This alongside the noticeboard previously discussed should reach as much of the community as possible. Sarah to get prices/sizes for next meeting and we will discuss further then.

Antisocial behaviour- Ally reported a resident having trouble with kids knocking on their door and bothering them. The Police have been called and they have spoken to those involved but they have not stopped. This is something that needs to be reported again if the issue has not been solved.

Speyside Way- Ally and Ann reported a drainage issue on the Speyside Way. A drainage pipe from fields is dumping water onto the path creating a muddy mess for walkers. This is in the area of Balvenie house just as you enter the Speyside Way. Sarah to get in touch with Ken Kennedy regarding this.

Mortlach Church Graveyard- Ally reported that flowers are still being eaten by the Deer despite a special cage to prevent them doing so being available.

- 4. Date, time and venue of next meeting –** Tuesday 20th March 2018 at 7pm in the Royal British Legion Dufftown.