

Minute of Meeting of Dufftown and District Community Council

Date: 24th April 2018

Time: 7pm

Venue: Royal British Legion Dufftown

Chair: Jim Nicol

Attendees: Joan Nicol, Anne Hodge, Ally MacDonald, Zoe Bremner, Angus Anderson, Sarah Anderson, Cllr Derek Ross.

Apologies: Cllr Louise Laing.

1. **Police Update** – The recent community safety report contained one reported incident involving dog fouling in Dufftown as well as a case of online fraud in Aberlour.

Recently there have been thefts from oil tanks in remote rural areas mainly in the Keith area. This has been reported on the DDCC Facebook page.

2. **Minutes of last meeting** – The minutes were accepted as a true representation of the meeting. Proposed Angus Second Anne.

3. **Matters Arising-**

Mobile Banking hours - Since the last meeting a joint letter from ourselves and Speyside CC was sent to Douglas Ross MP asking him to lobby for a decent mobile banking service for residents and tourists after the service was threatened with a cut from two to one days a week. This was copied to the Northern Scot but the email bounced back. Mr Ross replied offering us a chance to meet with both himself and the RBS area manager. We had said we would discuss his offer at our next meeting and get back to him regarding this. The letter had asked him to intervene and for the government to compel RBS to provide a service. Since then things have moved on with the DDCC being made aware of a change in the planned cuts in both a letter to Richard Lochhead MSP and an email from Mr Ross. Mr Ross had also appeared on Prime Ministers Question time stating he was pleased to report that as a result of campaigning by DDCC, Speyside CC and himself, RBS will now not be axing the second visit to Dufftown. There was no mention of other areas of Speyside. We have received confirmation of this. We obviously now have no need to take the offer of a meeting but Cllr Ross will inform Speyside CC and if they wish to do so, will contact Mr Ross themselves.

It does appear that customers in Dufftown are a little confused regarding the service and Anne has heard from one customer saying she was told by staff that the two visits were temporary. This is not what we have been informed but the DDCC will thank both our MSP and MP for their help in this and ask them to keep an eye on the issue to make sure there is no backtracking.

Post Office – Both Jim and Anne have received complaints about the Post Office service. It had been closed on one of the two days it was supposed to be open and computer problems have meant it has not been offering a complete service on numerous occasions. Anne had been in and found out that problems were due to new computer equipment being installed by TalkTalk/BT and the Post Office. She was given details for how to lodge complaints. As they were offline, any stamp sales and parcel collections were cash only and were taken to a different post office to process. This has been ongoing for four weeks. Everything seems to be sorted now and we will keep an eye on how things go over future weeks. It was felt by one person that a notice on the window or door as to why there was no service should have been placed. The DDCC have been asked to express the residents' dissatisfaction. The complaint information can be made available on the Speirins.

Clock tower and Flag – The DDCC has eventually got the flag flying and the Community Association has managed to get the clock running.

Facebook page and Noticeboard - Angus has created the DDCC Facebook group and it has been well received with member numbers increasing after Jim put a link to it on the Speirins page. Angus has put photos of all the community councillors on it and it was checked again that all were happy with this. There is a section for minutes, details of all the Moray Councillors and posts have been put on regarding bank info road closures and windfarm development.

Sarah has been in contact with the head of Libraries and as long as any noticeboard is put up and maintained by the DDCC they are happy for us to have it on the outside of the library. Angus and Sarah will measure up and get costings so one can be ordered. It was discussed that a section be used with local information for tourists e.g. cashpoints, banks, post office and medical.

Parkmore Brae – It has previously decided that the DDCC would continue to pursue the placement of a crash barrier at Parkmore Brae. However due to other commitments, Angus has not decided the best way to move forward on this. He will have a think and update us .

Local Group Communication – Sarah has been in contact with the Community Association regarding all local groups liaising more. The Chair will bring it up at their next meeting. Dufftown 2000 is already in touch and we are sharing minutes with each other.

Spring Clean Dufftown – Volunteers turned out to help with a spruce up of the town and a large number of bags were filled. Dufftown hopefully looks a bit better in time for the tourist season and the upcoming whisky festival.

It was noticed that in the playing fields, although dog owners were collecting dog waste in bags, the bags were just being dumped, a big number of which were fished out of the burn. It was suggested that a bin at all entrances with clear signage that dog waste could be deposited there would be a good idea. However, it was also pointed out that in the past, bins have been re-sited as the council may be unable to empty extra bins. It was mentioned that we

should find out which bins are used frequently and which are not. Cllr Ross stated that litter and dog fouling is an ongoing problem and there is a Community Warden to which offenders can be reported. In the past year there have been three penalties issued for littering, five for dog fouling and five for fly tipping. He said there needs to be a policy and strategy with enforcement for this problem.

4 Correspondence –

Numerous emails regarding meetings of various groups to do with Dorenell have come in. These include the stakeholder liaison, community benefit group and the community liaison group. As there has been so much confusion with which group meets we are supposed to be attending it was decided that we would say thank you to invites but just ask to be kept informed of how the project is going.

With regard to the ongoing issue with EDF on the reductions in payouts to the community, this has not been fully resolved.

Correspondence from the Scottish Land Commission regarding the Scottish Government's land reform agenda. It is asking for evidence from the community. Angus will put information on the Facebook page.

Clash Gour Windfarm are holding Exhibitions in Elgin and Archiestown on the 1st and 2nd May .

Information on electronic speed signs and low flying training were received by Jim.

- 4. Treasurer's Report –** All changeovers for the account have now been confirmed by the bank. The balance on the last statement stands at £1015.11 as of 1st March. Since then Moray council have asked for details of our account for our next grant instalment. Sarah will go into RBS at some point to see if we can get either telephone and or online access to the account. Cheques were issued to councillors for monies owed and for meeting room expenses.

5. Community Feedback- none

6. Reports

Cllr Ross informed us of plans for the Moray Growth deal fund. Monies have been applied for but not been yet received. Plans include turning the Elgin Town Hall into a cultural centre and Grant Hall into a whisky centre. Mr Ross has contacted all local distilleries to see how they feel about this and if they would like action taken. It seems a lot of the funds are centred on projects in Elgin rather than Moray wide. Mr Ross also commented on a boost to employment in Lossiemouth with a new squadron and BA and Rolls Royce now residing in the area.

7. Planning Issues - none

8. The Joint Community Councils of Moray- The next meeting of the JCC will be on 10th May in Elgin. There is also one scheduled for the 9th August.

9. **AOCB -** Joan attended the recent training for community councillors on data protection. Most is common sense but we should have a data protection policy. Any communications we receive must be actioned then destroyed and names only used in published documents if we have the individual's permission. The same applies to mailshots with names on them.

Complaints on Facebook regarding the deer eating flowers at the cemetery have been received again. Cages are available from Moray Council for 10 days after a funeral, these can be arranged by the funeral director. However these do not help with the numerous flowers left on peoples frequent visits to loved ones graves. It is not known who is responsible for the adjacent land but better management may help with this.

Cllr Ross has received an email from the Transportation Department regarding the shared cycle path on Balvenie Street. It states that as very few complaints have been received, at present there is to be no further action taken. The Community Council have received correspondence asking for documents on the proposal of the path, the rationale for it and any risk assessments carried out. The letter also asked what the insurance situation is if an incident occurred.

Corsemaul Drive rubbish – Correspondence has been received and the owner of the land has been contacted. They are at present out of the country but will be returning in a few weeks and have promised to get the issue resolved.

Community Association Clock Tower meeting- There are plans to acquire the clock tower via community asset transfer. A group of twenty trustees will be formed and an architect brought in. Costings provisionally are thought to be between £100-250 thousand. Further meetings are to be arranged but there are no dates as yet.

10. Date, time and venue of next meeting - Tuesday 15th May 7pm Royal British Legion Dufftown.