

Speyside Community Council
Approved Minute of Meeting Held at
Speyside Community & Sports Centre, Aberlour
Tuesday 30 April 2019

Community Council Members

Greg Sarab, Kelly Spark, Ann Higgins, Jane Tweedie, Jean Richardson, Marion Ross

In Attendance

Cllr Laing, Denise Robson (Contact the Elderly) Stuart Gouldstone (Carron Community Member)

Apologies

Cllr Ross, Frannie Shaw, Cllr Wilson, Jim Hart (Archiestown)

Welcome

MR welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Previous Minutes – 29 January 2019

Proposer – SG

Seconder – JR

Guest Speaker

JR introduced Denise Robson the North of Scotland Development Officer for (Contact the Elderly)

Contact the Elderly is a charitable organisation that works to alleviate acute isolation of people aged 75 and over. They will be making a name change shortly although unsure of the new name for the group yet.

Contact the Elderly has been running for over 50 years. Denise has developed new groups from Orkney to Shetland down to Aberdeen and Angus. Currently concentrating on Moray and North Aberdeenshire. There are currently 12 groups in Aberdeen city.

Contact the Elderly is a simple concept. A once a month afternoon tea, on a Sunday between 2-4pm. It's made up of 2 different types of volunteers and guests.

Guests are generally over 75. Socially isolated and live alone. Although a judgement can be made during

a visit by Denise they have previously accepted guests under the age of 75 or even couples.

A host will open their home and offer an afternoon tea free of charge 2 or 3 times per year. Most will home bake although this is not a requirement, some choose to purchase ready made cakes and treats. Denise will pre visit all new hosts. The criteria for a host are to have no more than 3 steps up to their house and to have a downstairs toilet. During Denise's visit she can advise on room set up to help with accessibility and reduce trip hazards. Hosts are not PVG checked. 3 or 4 hosts are for required for 1 group to cover the whole year.

Drivers are required to collect the guests, take them to the Host's house and take them home again after their tea. Usually the same driver will collect the same guest every month and will only take 1 guest in their car. Drivers are all PVG checked and no expenses are paid. The drivers will also attend the afternoon tea so are paid in tea and cake.

Currently there is a group in Elgin which meets the second Sunday of the month. There is a group in Buckie which has been running for 3 months. It usually takes 6 months to fully set up a group and hold the first afternoon tea.

Volunteers can fundraise for their own groups if they wish. This can be used for extra outings, Christmas dinner and/or gifts.

Referrals can be made by a Health Care Professional or any member of the public.

MR asked, how do you match up cars and mobility?

Denise advised trained carers are not provided therefore guests need to be mobile enough to enter and exit the car with no more than an arm to help.

Denise asked if SCC could make people aware Contact the elderly is looking for volunteers to start up a new group in Speyside.

Matters arising and not overtaken on the Agenda

- Mackessack Park – MR received an email from Ken Kennedy (Parks and Land). Nothing from Deborah Halliday (Flood Alleviation). This is now a matter for the Consultation Team as this section of footpath is part of the flood bund. (Stephen Cooper, Head of Direct Services is responsible for this). MR has been in contact and is awaiting a response.
- Rothes Ladies. MR has just received an answer about crossing the main A941 (Transport Unit, Moray Council) this will be passed on shortly. The communication from Stagecoach has already been passed on.
- Exposed BT Cabling in Archiestown and Aberlour Gardens – MR has forwarded photographs sent

to Kevin Price (TMC). He is still waiting to hear from his contact at Open Reach. MR suggested it's now perhaps time to contact OFCOM, our MP and our MSP as we are poorly provided in Moray. AH advised when one property is fixed another house gets worse in Aberlour Gardens. MR suggested compiling a list of where the problems are.

- Cllr Ross had reported the fly tipping in a layby to the south of Rothes, on the Orton road. It is understood that this has been cleared.
- MR stated that it is disappointing to have to contact some MC departments twice before any response is received. It doesn't seem to matter whether a letter or an e-mail is sent. Often the delay is a month. Whilst it is acknowledged that people are busy and staffing has been cut, an acknowledgement of any communication would be welcomed.

Correspondence:

- Community Council Grant - A letter has been circulated by TMC confirming there would be no grant this year.

Reports

- Treasurer: Amount in the Bank - £1038
- Moorland Fire around Archiestown and Knockando update by Cllr Laing. There was a small fire 2 weeks before the larger fire. However, the cause of the fire has not yet been determined. The Local Resilience Partnership was activated to co-ordinate the fire fighting effort. 2 farms were evacuated, and equipment at the two nearest windfarms (Paul's Hill and Berry Burn) was isolated. Additional resources were also sent from the Scottish Government but the helicopters in attendance were paid for by the land owner.
A 'warn and inform' system is in operation for the duration of the emergency as the fire may well continue for the next couple of weeks. Estate workers continue to check the smoking areas on a daily basis. There will be a debriefing in a couple of weeks and a public information meeting will be held.
There has been a considerable amount of damage to both commercial forestry and native tree woodland whilst the flora and fauna of the area have been largely destroyed.
- Joint Community Council – sub-group (meeting on 29/04) Some Elgin residents came to speak to the subgroup about the grass cutting they had been undertaking on their housing estate and how it had been organised. Whilst community action is to be welcomed, it must also be born in mind that there may be public liability risks and that insurance would be advisable. Cllr Laing informed the meeting that TMC will be taking on more grass cutting in housing estates.

- **MR and JT asked Cllr Laing for documentation on what grass cutting will now be done by TMC.**

School crossing patrollers - Each one costs £6k a year. This includes training, uniform as well as wages. Some of the larger schools are offering to pay for their own crossing patrollers. However, Rothes has not had a 'lollipop' person for some time and Aberlour is to get a controlled crossing. Small schools cannot afford to pay for a 'lollipop' person.

- **Planning Training – MR attended the 2nd session on 23 April. Items discussed included the planning process, building warrants, enforcement, dangerous buildings and high hedges. were discussed.**
- **Speyside Community Transport Group – Currently waiting to hear from Moray Leader if the money for the bus been approved in principle. If so, match funding would need to be applied for.**

Planning

- **Berry Burn Community Liaison Group - JR has an interest in attending. MR being substitute in JR cannot attend.**

Police Matters

- **CSP Report - The report has been electronically distributed. It contains a general warning regarding fires caused by white goods (e.g. tumble driers/ washing machines) and advises not to go out or go to bed and leave these appliances on.**
- **There is also a reminder to lock windows and doors when going out or working in the garden.**
- **Rothes – 2 drain covers were removed by children but replaced when spoken to by the police.**

Business

- **Minutes Secretary - KS has agreed to be the Minutes secretary**
- **Co-option of new member – We are now in the position whereby we can co-opt another member. MR proposed that we co-opt Kelly Spark. Seconded by AH and GS.**
- **Moray Food Growing Strategy – MR has been contacted by Emma Gordon, Planning Officer, TMC. Proposing to hold a public meeting to explain what the strategy is and to identify possible locations for allotments and other community food growing sites. This is a joint venture between Speyside CC and Dufftown CC. May 22nd in Dufftown memorial hall.**

Guest Speakers

- **Speyside Tourism - Laurie Piper is booked for Tuesday 28th May at Speyside community centre.**

Conferences:

- **Energising Communities Conference, May 3rd from 9.30-3.30 in the Elgin Town Hall. How communities can benefit from the energy sector and how the initiative can be funded. MR asked if anyone was interested in attending.**
- **Young People and Mental Health Training on 9th May 9.30-4.30, The Inkwel, Elgin Youth Café.**
- **Aberlour Youth Point (Moray Alcohol and Drug Partnership) on 16th May, 12.30-2.00pm, Elgin Library.**
- **Grampian Intergeneration Network Friday 31st May 10.00-12.00, 30/32 High Street, Elgin**
- **Speyside Low Carbon Hub Community Event June 16th 11.00 to 3.00 Alice Littler Park, Aberlour. This is a hub and path project to encourage the use of low carbon transport. It includes upgrade of the Speyside Way between Craigellachie and Carron, electric cars and e-bikes as well as chargers.**
- **Charger going in Aberlour opposite The Byre Grazing for community car share scheme.**

AOCB

GS and John Dunbar attempted to fix the sign outside the front of the Co op and have cleaned the sign up. GS will email Neil Mcfarlane at Transport Scotland about it.

Meeting closed: 8.40pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday 28th May Speyside Community and Sports Centre, Aberlour.