
Minute of Meeting of Dufftown & District Community Council

Date: Monday 3rd May 2021

Time: 7pm

Venue: Zoom Call

Chair: Jim Nicol

Attendees Joan Nicol, Angus Anderson, Sarah Anderson, Chris Mutter, Anne Mutter, Cllr Derek Ross, Gary Templeton, Neil McPherson.

Apologies. Andy Harrold, Zoe Bremner, Cllr Louise Laing, Cllr Walter Wilson,

1. Welcome and Apologies.

2. Guest Speakers-

Windfarm development and the Councils involvement- Gary Templeton (policy) & Neil McPherson (Development management) Moray Council.

Gary stated that methods for policy are set at a national level. The process involves firstly the identification of potential areas for development. Moray has 39% of its landmass that fits the criteria. Then constraints remove some areas from this list. The constraints take into account things such as nature reserves, carbon rich soil, natural scenic areas, road access etc. All issues are then considered and balanced up before final decisions are made. Moray Council have an obligation to look at every application even if for areas already saturated with developments. However, if too many applications come in for a particular area, it is unlikely all will end up going ahead. Knockando is currently an area of concern for saturation.

Neil concentrated on the areas of closest proximity to Dufftown. There are currently two applications near Dufftown and three applications for scoping. Scoping is the pre-application stage and is procedural to see if areas meet the needs for application. The three locally are at Glenfiddich forest, Craig Watch and Clashindarroch. Not all will probably manifest to applications to planning. Environmental impact is considered in any application.

Larger developments are always considered by the Scottish Government and the Moray Council is then just a consultee. Objections to any development can be sent to the Scottish Government.

Questions were then taken with Cllr Ross asking what the cost implications are for Moray Council in taking on these planning applications. Gary stated that there is a set fee for any development of less than 50MW which does cover council costs.

3. Police Update – nothing to report.

4. Minutes of last meeting- The minutes were accepted as a true representation of the meeting. Proposed Anne, Second Joan.

5. Matters Arising-

Clock tower Flag- DDCA have been contacted and confirmed that they will help with putting up a new flag. They did not commit to helping with funding it, however Dufftown 2000 who helped before are happy to share the cost with us again. They are looking into getting quotes for a more robust flag and all information we gathered last time was given to them.

Bins/litter- Trulien want to meet regarding helping DDCC projects like this, they mentioned meeting at the Memorial Hall once we are able to.

Sarah will contact Cllr Nicol to see if there is any update on our extra bins idea. We are hoping that if we supply these and get them emptied to a central point, Moray Council will collect from there

Andy has helped recently with spraying kerbs in the main streets of Dufftown with weedkiller and wondered if MC is able to help with road sweeping. Apparently, they do not have a small road sweeper any longer however a large mechanical street sweeper visits Dufftown twice a month. The first visit sweeps the main streets, Balvenie Street, Fife Street and Conval Street collecting up to 5 tonnes of detritus, mostly sand and is often full and has to return to tip. The second visit in the month concentrates on sweeping other streets. As the larger sweeper is unable to reach close into the paving Andy has arranged to meet up with the driver when he is next in town to sweep areas of debris into an accessible place.

With regards to litter picking, the mobile toilet attendant litter picks the 3 main streets when he is there to clean the toilets. He checks all streets for litter and picks any visible accumulations and is happy to be directed to any areas of need.

Crossing/ signs- DDCC has received a reply from Nicola Moss after our last correspondence on why there is no further development in our safer crossing project when other areas have been able to go ahead, it states –

In terms of a safer crossing facility, work was carried out in Dufftown quite a number of years ago on Balvenie Street to provide reduced road width for crossing the road on the journey to school route. The project at Lossiemouth was to do a similar piece of work on a wide road by St Gerardine's School. In the case of Lossiemouth, the solution was a traffic island, rather than the 'build outs' in Dufftown, however, the net effect is the same to reduce the overall road width. There isn't scope to narrow Balvenie Street any further. I hope that helps explain the relationship with the works done at Lossiemouth.

Sarah has responded thanking her for clarification and asking if perhaps better signage could be used to make the crossing place more visible to motorists. This could perhaps be included in with the works on the speed activated signs we have asked for? Cllr Ross has found out that there has been confusion on the speed activated signs as DDCA have been contacting Moray Council as well. Sarah has contacted them regarding this and we will now work together with only DDCC and Cllr Ross liaising with MC and DDCA being kept informed. We are awaiting quotes for work and DDCA have also secured some funding. An update on quotes for the project is required and Cllr Ross has directed us to Stephen Cooper for this.

6. Correspondence-

Andrew Simpson Lord-Lieutenant of Banffshire- asking for Banffshire memories for a project

Glenfiddich windfarm- inviting engagement re scoping with a deadline of 21st May

7. Treasurers Report – The Account balance stands at £3301.94 which is split up into community council running funds of £805.97 and the balance of fundraising monies. £1685 of which is to be used for the safe crossing project only.

8. Community Feedback – There has been concern reported regarding children's parties being held at Spring Croft in regards to main road crossing safety.

Health and Safety concerns have been raised regarding the site where the mini mudder is held. There has been a lot of rubbish dumped some of which has been rolled down the hill and could easily end up on the Low road and present a hazard to traffic. Cllr Ross will report this to Moray Council on our behalf.

There have also been complaints regarding dumping at the recycling centre.

9. Reports – None

10. Planning Issues- None

11. The Joint Community Councils of Moray - There has been a group formed to discuss the problems that may arise from tourism in the coming months. DDCC expressed interest however could not join in the meeting. Next JCC meeting is on 13th May via Zoom.

12. Date, time and venue of next meeting- Monday 7th June at 7pm in Committee Room, Memorial Hall Dufftown if allowed by that date however if not, we will meet via Zoom call again.