

DUFFTOWN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING HELD IN COMMUNITY CENTRE 19/11/2013 AT 7pm

DRAFT

Present:- Eddie Brewster, Jim Nicol, John Fleming, Jean Smart, Dennis Dalgarno, Ally McDonald, Cllr Mike McConachie, Alistair Jeffs, Michele Myron,
Apologies: - Sandy Findlay, Ian Douglas, Cllr Pearl Paul.

The minutes of the previous meeting written by Tracey Rae were approved by Michelle Myron and seconded by Jim Nicol

Before the meeting J Fleming said congratulations to Alistair Jeffs and the Save Dufftown Library campaigners for keeping Dufftown Library open.

Constitution

It was agreed by all to follow the model constitution provided for us by Moray Council. However we made one small change.
Item 14c has been changed from "may not be approved" to "must not be approved."
The constitution was signed by John Fleming, Jim Nicol and Eddie Brewster

Treasurer's report, Eddie Brewster.

Eddie has prepared the way to opening a bank account at Royal Bank of Scotland in Dufftown. Jim Nicol and Michelle Myron both agreed to be signatories.
Eddie provided claim forms for expenditure to those requiring it.
We discussed finding an examiner for our books before an AGM. John Fleming said he would find someone to do this.

Youth Representation

We discussed various ways to encourage younger members to come along to get involved in their local Community Council.
There may be an opportunity for a modern studies student or some one in business studies or interested in local government to get involved, it was mentioned contacting Speyside High school to see if would be any interest. A vacancy is available for a minute's secretary for DDCC. Mention of this will also be place in the Dufftown Speirin's and it has already been mentioned in the Community Associations Speirin's face book page (which is totally separate from the Community Council but works to promote Dufftown's many groups). It has over 350 followers.

Police Matters all

Nothing reported this time

Community Engagement

Jim mentioned tonight's meeting was mention in plenty time in the Northern Scott and on the face book page.
We have 2 vacancies on the Community Council, It was agreed to send a direct email or letter to Cabrach and Glenrinnies to see if we could encourage more to come to our meeting and to see if we could get a representative from both these areas.

The library is to remain open so it was suggested to place a notice in the window with our minutes instead of the idea we had of a separate notice board at the square.
Bunty Campbell is the new chairperson for Glenrinnies, Jim will present her with a copy of our minutes to see if we can get someone from Glenrinnies to attend in January.
Mike said it would be also good to send a copy to be put on the Acorn notice board in the Cabrach.

Website and Generic Email, Jim Nicol

The committee decided to stick with the Moray Council's site for displaying our minutes and continue with the Dufftown Speirin's pages for news (which is totally separate from the Community Council but works hard to promote Dufftown's many groups).

Jim passed on details of the generic email address to members who had not heard about it and passed details on passwords etc. The address is dufftowndistrict@gmail.com. The password is available to Community Council members, please ask Jim.

Tasks

We decided to appoint tasks to each Community Councillor to spread the work load. The following was accepted.

John Fleming, Chairman (from last meeting)
Eddie Brewster, Treasurer (from last meeting)
Ali McDonald, Environment and cleansing
Alistair Jeffs, (Vice chairman) wind farms, libraries.
Dennis Dalgarno, rights of way, roads and core paths
Jim Nicol, (secretary) planning
Michelle Myron, stand in secretary.

More tasks will be allocated as they appear in the duration of the four years.

Co-options

Not much we can do here till we are constituted.

Planning, Jim Nicol

Jim mentioned that there was quite a lot happening in Coresmaul Drive on plots which have no houses yet and an extension to the Ambulance station, not much to concern the Community Council this time.

It was suggested we all keep an eye on planning in the weekly wards list when they appear on the generic email; there is only a short delay before planning is passed. Any concerns should be flagged up asap.

Windfarms, Alistair Jeffs

RES Hill of Towie - Alistair Jeffs mentioned how disappointed he was that the Dufftown community had not seen any of the RES Hill of Towie windfarm community benefits even though it is obviously in the Dufftown area. He asked Cllr McConachie if there was any chance of any retrospective benefits from the first stage of the project. Mike said very unlikely.

Alistair had written to Ruth Highgate at RES who stated that the matter had been considered by the trust who declined to provide any benefit.

Alistair has a CD with the Hill of Towie information and has asked for a hard copy of this information. Anybody wishing to borrow these is welcome.

Infinergy - Alistair has been looking closely at the Dorenell site and was also very disappointed at the low amount of funding that will to be distributed to local Communities and tourism in our area compared to the over inflated costs of car parks and tourist facilities to be built on the Glenfiddich estate.

Total Community Benefits per year will be £905000. Most of it going to the landowner or wasted.

To strengthen local tourism!!!

£155000 will be spent setting up visitor facilities one-off costs at Windfarm
£240000 per year will be spent on visitor facilities to the Windfarm.

I think money could be much better spent helping local tourism – like a tourist office or paying someone to run the whisky museum. I'm sure there are many other good ideas out there for the whole district.

Regeneration of Cabrach – should read refurbish and pay running costs of landowners estate property which he hasn't maintained despite having a fortune of 250 million pounds plus

Refurbish Blackwater Lodge and other buildings one off £1.55 million
Annual running costs £36400
Refurbish 6 houses £1.2 million

Annual running costs £46800

The landowner is also getting both bites of the cherry. Payment for building on his land and community benefits of repairs to his housing!

Action: More detailed information will be provided at the next meeting. Alistair will speak to Cllr McConachie for further information on windfarm community benefits. Alistair will ask Nick Page (project manager) for who agreed to the future distribution of community benefit.

Right of way, core paths and roads, Dennis Dalgarno
Moray Council have indicated by email that they will clean the gulleys very soon.

Disabled parking lines on Fife Street have now been painted.

The white lines have also been redone around the Square and down Balvenie Street.

The 7 1/2 tonne road sign is impossible to see on Church Street. Moray Council wrote to say that the sign is in the nearest place it can possibly be to the entrance to Church Street. John Fleming came up with the idea of putting the weight restriction on the big sign next to the newsagent, the secretary will write to see if this would be possible at some stage.

Cars are still driving down the wrong side of the street at the square. Cllr McConachie has contacted the council to see what can be done, they have responded saying they will turn the signs a little but also that the signs are clear enough and they can see no reason why anyone would drive down the wrong way. An illuminated sign will be looked at when the budget allows.

Dennis had invited Ian Douglas, unfortunately he did not manage this meeting to discuss Dufftown's core paths it is hoped he might come to our next one in January the 21st 2014.

Library Campaign, Alistair Jeffs.

Dufftown, Cullen and Burghead Libraries have been saved from closure. The sub committee are now supporting Rothes Findochty, Portknockie, Rothes and Hopeman. The Moray Council's argument for closing the libraries is cost. However, sub committee is very concerned that it will actually cost public money to close these libraries - as well as be unjust in preventing fair access to everyone.

Rothes

Total Project Cost 2009/10 - £205000 (written off by Council)

To be repaid to EU £14500

Annual running cost £7500

Hopeman

Total Project Cost 2009/10 - £157000 (written off by Council)

To be repaid to EU £27500

Annual running cost £7500

If these two libraries are kept open for 2 years to meet the requirements of the EU grant, then EU money not repaid of £42000 minus the running costs of the libraries for 2 years £30000. Council savings £30000!!

The Committee supported the ongoing work to Save the Library.

The Save the Libraries Campaign has some events planned:

*Talk by Howie Firth on his new book - with special raffle and Orkney Cheese and Biscuits - 730pm
Thu 21 Nov*

Lari Don - Dufftown's Famous Children's author at the School Tue 26 Nov

Gathering at the library with Soup and Sweet 1130 Sat 30 Nov

AOCB

Nothing mentioned.

Next Community Council meeting will be 21st January 2014 in the Dufftown Community Centre from 7pm.