

DUFFTOWN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING HELD IN COMMUNITY CENTRE 21/01/2014 AT 7pm

DRAFT

Present:- Eddie Brewster,, John Fleming, Jean Smart, Dennis Dalgarno, Ally McDonald, Alistair Jeffs, Michelle Myron, Sandy Findlay, Jean Oliver

Apologies: - Jim Nicol , Cllr Mike McConachie, Bunty Campbell

The minutes of the previous meeting written by Jim Nicol were approved by Dennis Dalgarno and seconded by Eddie Brewster.

Constitution

Has now been approved by Moray Council.

Treasurer's report, Eddie Brewster.

Eddie has encountered some problems with RBS in setting up the bank account. Eddie has managed to rectify these and bank account should be live w/c 27/01/14.

Mrs Lizzie Harper has agreed to take on the role of financial examiner for the community council. It was agreed that an honourarium should be provided for her role as well as that of Secretary. Details to be discussed at a future meeting.

Youth Representation

No update here, awaiting any information from Jim Nicol.

Police Matters

Nothing reported this time.

Community Engagement

Jean Oliver attended the meeting representing the Cabrach. Jean has some concerns regarding the Cabrach representation on the DDCC, specifically whether the Cabrach were properly notified about the forming of the DDCC. Jean felt that the Cabrach did not wish to be represented by the DDCC and that she would follow up with the Moray Council the grievances which she had.

For the time being, Patty Nelson is a contact from the Cabrach Community Association and we should provide copies of the DDCC minutes, etc to her.

Co-options

It was decided to leave co-options till a later date.

Planning, Jim Nicol

Mortlach distillery and the planned expansion was discussed. Dennis had invited Mike Jappy and Steve McGingle from Diageo along to answer any questions. They arrived at 7.30pm. The situation stands that there has been a warrant for demolition of the warehouses submitted, however no application for the proposed new road or the new distillery has been submitted. Diageo hope to have these applications submitted by the end of Jan.

Diageo confirmed that the planned expansion will mean that the warehouses will have to be demolished and no change can be made to the proposed new site of the distillery.

Diageo have agreed to provide a footpath on the lower part of Fife St, near the Mortlach distillery - where there currently isn't one

Diageo plan to widen the junction at Fife st and for lorries to right turn only, i.e. heading out of the town.

Diageo will take direction from Moray Council regarding the widening of Fife St, specifically at the bad corner. Diageo currently feel that it is not within their remit and would be very costly.

Diageo agreed that there would be an increase in distillery traffic in the short term - until the pipeline between distilleries to Glendullan was put in place, after this traffic would be decreased. No date as yet for completion of the pipeline.

The DDCC stressed that they were supportive of the Mortlach expansion plans but saw this as an opportunity to resolve the bad corner at Fife st and therefore prevent any future accidents.

It was suggested that someone from Moray Council, roads/planning dept should do an on-site visit to the bad corner at Fife St and then come to the next DDCC meeting to discuss. Alasdair to e-mail.

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. Alistair has invited Ruth Highgate at RES to DDCC meeting on 18th Feb.

Infinergy - Alistair has been looking closely at the Dorenell site and was also very disappointed at the low amount of funding. Alasdair is to write to Fergus Ewing, querying the £5000/£2000 community benefit which the area is supposed to benefit from.

Right of way, core paths and roads, Dennis Dalgarno.

Moray Council have cleaned out gulleys, however many have been missed out. Dennis to ask the council to repeat the exercise and will point specific gulleys which were omitted.

Cars are still driving down the wrong side of the street at the square. No further action has been taken.

Core Paths: Due to budgetary constraints, Moray Council haven't assigned money for the upkeep of core paths. Jean Oliver who is on the Core Paths sub-committee has asked for anyone who would like any paths to be assigned core paths to let the committee know as they are currently conducting a mapping exercise of the core paths in Moray.

Ian Douglas to be invited to next DCC or DDCA meeting to discuss options for upkeep of paths and for him to bring along items for litter picking - Dennis to arrange.

Litter: Particularly bad areas were mentioned, i.e top of Conval St and the layby at the bottom of the bank at Balvenie Castle and the bank beside there leading down to the river Fiddich. Ally McDonald to contact council to see if someone can come to clean the area and possibly arrange a litter bin for the layby.

Library

Finished and saved!

AOCB

A manhole on Balvenie St has had cones around it for a long time, Dennis to contact council regarding this.

Quality of work undertaken on council houses questioned, however due to it finishing soon it was decided no action should be taken.

Moray Council Leisure Review

Alastair felt that DDCC should have been consulted prior to the review as to how the review should be undertaken. Moray Council have been invited to meetings, however they feel that we have no right to be recognised/to be consulted.

Alastair to put complaint in. DDCA agreed this was the right action.

Next Community Council meeting will be 18th February 2014 in the Dufftown Community Centre from 7pm.