

DUFFTOWN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MEETING HELD IN COMMUNITY CENTRE 18/02/2014 AT 7pm

Present: DDCC members: Eddie Brewster, John Fleming, Dennis Dalgarno, Ally McDonald, Alistair Jeffs, Michelle Myron, Sandy Findlay, Cllr Mike McConachie(left early)

Others: Jean Smart, Jean Oliver, Bunty Campbell (representing Glenrinnnes)

Apologies: - Jim Nicol

The minutes of the previous meeting written by Michelle Myron were proposed by Eddie Brewster and seconded by Dennis Dalgarno

DDCC Minutes It was decided that these should be displayed in the library window once they have been approved.

Treasurer's report, Eddie Brewster. We now have a bank account with cheque book at the RBS. £334.34 has been deposited, these are funds received from Moray Council, they are for Community Council running costs.

Eddie to cash a cheque for £50 to have for handiness in petty cash.

The position of Minutes Secretary to be advertised in Speirin's/on Speirin's Facebook. It is proposed to pay £20 per meeting. Jim to arrange.

Eddie to e-mail Tracey Rae to ascertain what other CC chairpersons are compensated. Thereafter we will agree an amount for Jim.

Planning, Jim Nicol Mortlach distillery New Road Application Cllr Mike McConachie reported that an application had been received from Diageo and that the reaction has not been positive from the council. The new road is felt to be too close to the existing road and in particular the bad corner on Fife St. Alastair Jeffs to write to council to voice our concerns, i.e. no left turn into the town, improve the bad corner and to suggest possibly purchasing land in order to improve/widen road.

Schools Review Cllr Mike McConachie informed us that there would be a community briefing in April.

Licensing Review Cllr Mike McConachie informed us that there would be a review of the public entertainments licenses in April, he also informed us that there may be some changes to the price structure.

Alastair Jeffs requested that Mike asks for reviews to be held in Dufftown instead of/as well as Aberlour.

Ian Douglas, Parks and Recreation Moray Council arrived 7.30pm Ian clarified the situation of the Core paths in and around Dufftown. Ian displayed a map of the core paths network. There are only 4 paths recognised/maintained by the council. They are: Meggs Widd, Maister's Widd, Tinninver Wood and Craichie Walk by the Fiddich. There is currently an annual inspection undertaken. Grass cutting should

be carried out 3 times per year. This situation is unlikely to change.

Ian Douglas is open to e-mails regarding any issues with these paths and indeed will try to react to concerns with other walks in the area, i.e. Giant's Chair and Gordon's Cross. Upkeep of these 2 paths is not really within council remit but if there are resources he will try to assign some for these walks. Using Community Services may be an option for the maintenance of these paths, Ian is to email the CC with details on how we go about "employing" community services. Ian happy to be involved/facilitate a program of maintenance for the paths, this would likely involve volunteers from the area.

Paths for All are a Scottish body which can provide up to a £1000 grant for tools, including litter pickers for the upkeep of paths. This is an option that must be looked into. Ian is to ask if there is any equipment in the council stores that we can borrow in order to maintain the paths. It was recognised that these walks brought a lot of visitors to Dufftown.

Windfarms, Alistair Jeffs RES Hill of Towie - Ruth Highgate at RES came to the meeting to discuss the intended extension of Hill of Towie, Hill of Towie Phase 2. The full details of the intended project is in the library for reference.

The extension is for 16 additional turbines. The submission was put forward to the Scottish Government in October and as yet there has been no reply/indication given to RES. Moray Council have yet to get back with comments/objections. SNH and SEPA have queries but no objections. DDCC raised concerns over why Dufftown was not included in the community benefit fund for Phase 1? This was mainly due to it being Strathisla CC that was consulted. REAP administers the community fund and REAP, RES and Strathisla CC agree to consider Dufftown for the Phase 2 fund.. DDCC would like this in writing.

According to RES there is nothing we can do to ensure that Dufftown is included in the community fund, once planning approval is received that is when DDCC must act.

Ruth from RES informed us of the practice of offering an Electricity Discount Scheme to homes within a certain area of the turbines. For Mill of Towie Phase 2 this will be to all homes within a 4.6KM radius from the turbines. This discount will be subtracted from the monies RES attribute to the community fund. Concerns were raised that this Electricity Discount scheme did not benefit the community and instead only individual's pockets. Alastair to petition Scottish Government/Fergus Ewing regarding the Scottish Government best practice guidelines regarding windfarms and if RES are conforming.

AOCB

Dufftown is to be included in the Britain in Bloom Competition, it is important to obtain school buy-in. Alasdair to find out if possible to get official sign for "Dufftown in Bloom, winner"

The state of the signs approaching and in Dufftown needs addressing, they are all very dirty. Dennis to ask Moray Council.

Michelle to find out about possibility of a "pop up" shops being able to occupy unused buildings in Dufftown, i.e. old newsagents and old Clydesdale bank building. A similar scheme in Keith is currently

operating.

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