

Dufftown and District Community Council meeting

Community Centre

18th March 2014

Present:- John Fleming, Ally MacDonald, Dennis Dalgarno, Eddie Brewster, Mike McConachie, Alistair Jeffs.

Guests:- Bunty Campbell representing Glenrinnies.

Apolgies:- Michele Myron, Sandy Findlay. **Guest Apologies :-** Jean Smart

Alistair asked for a change in the minutes to say that that according to RES and not DDCC in the second last part of Februarys minutes. The minutes of the meeting held in February were then said to be a true representation and was proposed by Eddie and seconded by Dennis.

DDCC minutes a copy of the approved minutes are now displayed in the library window.

Jim was asked to resend Januarys minutes to the Moray Council and ask that Lossiemouth CC minutes be removed from our page.

Treasurers report:- Eddie said he now has £50 in hand for petty cash.

Alistair Jeffs proposed that the Community Council pay for a regular column in the local newsletter "the Dufftown Speirin's." Jim said it costs £96 for quarter page advert in four issues usually but as this is a community group he would be happy to print as much as was needed within reason. It was agreed to go with a quarterly update of Community Council News and a summary of ongoing issues. Jim asked that the Community Council worked together on this to agree which topics would be printed. The proposal was accepted by all present.

It was agreed in a previous meeting that £20 a meeting be paid to a minute's secretary.

Jim advertised the post in the Speirin's and on the face book page. Morag Ross was the only reply. Morag has returned to Dufftown after serving in the navy and is interested in doing her bit for the community, said she would be interested in the post. Jim to write to her to invite her to the next meeting to see how things go.

It was agreed tonight that £20 be paid out to the secretary per meeting and that receipts for stationary be submitted by the secretary.

Cllr McConachie:- Mike asked that the committee look at the Sustainable Education Review and at the proposed school closures and mergers. Mike mentioned a number of scenarios that have been proposed.

Mike also mentioned the new local authority pay structure which has been set by COSLA unfortunately the new structure means Moray Council will now receive 5 million pounds less in funding than in previous years.

Mike mentioned the Yes campaign and asked us to come along to the Memorial Hall to find out more and air our views on the 28th of March at 7pm.

Mary Scanlon:- has also written in to say she has a Constituent Surgery on Friday 28th of March in the Memorial Hall from 11am to 11:45am, no appointment necessary.

Planning :- Jim mentioned the planning submitted by DIAGEO concerning the demolition of the filling store old boiler house and various other buildings and planning for the new distillery at Mortlach The Community Council are supportive of the new distillery project but are in agreement with Historic Scotland that the buildings have significant historic value and that Diageo should be think about building the new distillery without knocking down the old warehouses. Alistair Jeffs said that there was enough room to build the still on ground already available. 3 people have voiced their concerns to Alistair concerning the demolition of the old warehouses.

There has been no reply to the DDCC's representation concerning the new road to Mortlach Distillery." This was submitted by email after the last meeting

Alistair said he had been to a planning course and said that he had mentioned that we meet once a month and that the planning notifications were in too short a time frame for us to deal with. He was told that individuals from DDCC can contact Moray Council who will put a hold on plans till our meeting has passed and we can discuss things and put in views.

The Local Development Plan in folder was brought to the attention of the Committee. This will be circulated and then held in the library for public access. The Public Consultation will be held 4-8pm on 21 April at the Memorial Hall. The opportunity for consultation was welcomed by all. It was felt that the consultation would have been better held at the beginning of the 8 weeks to give the DDCC and the general public the maximum opportunity to consider the vast amount of information provided and then respond. Our members were amazed at the scale of the proposals especially the change of use to an area above Hillside and the possibility that a building firm could come up with a plan to build up to 100 houses on that site. Other area of the town may change forever.

The committee discussed other things that should be in the plan, footpaths, adequate car parking for Dufftown, adequate sewage and water supply and how will our already overcrowded school cope with this sudden influx of population.

Our views need to be in by 2nd May 2014, not long away. Alistair to ask for an extension so we have our say after the next meeting.

Litter picking and local paths :-

Ian Douglas wrote regarding the last meeting...

Thank you for inviting me to the meeting last night to talk about the local paths network in Dufftown. I am keen to explore ways to ensure the paths are looked after given the current Council resource limitations.

You asked for further info on a number of issues that were raised at the meeting and the following is my response:

1. **Funding for tools and equipment for paths maintenance.** The Paths for All Partnership provide a small grants scheme to help community groups purchase equipment for paths maintenance. A copy of the grant guidance is attached. To apply visit <http://www.pathsforall.org.uk/pfa/support/lplp.html>
2. **Council Supplies.** You requested the Council supply you with everyday equipment to assist your volunteers carry out maintenance. The Council have signed up to the *Clean Up Scotland Campaign* where materials and equipment will be available for free to community groups willing to get involved in cleaning up their local area. You will be contacted shortly by a member of our waste team to discuss particulars.
3. **Overhanging tree on Maister's Widd path.** The leaning tree over Core Path SP08 is a health and safety issue and has now been reported to the Council grounds maintenance division. This will shortly be inspected and hopefully acted upon.

Hope this helps

Ian M Douglas
Moray Access Manager

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Jim read out the email from Neil Duncan regarding litter picking in the Dufftown area, we have been offered litter picking equipment and rubbish removal. We just need to arrange a day or weekend, decide what we want to do and arrange collection of the gear.

Jim mentioned the Community warden in Keith had also been in touch and was organising a litter pick with Mortlach Primary School and involving community groups like ourselves and the public. The warden was asking which areas would be best to tidy up. Jim has placed a wee bit in the Dufftown Speirin's about this and has some feedback already, mostly concerning rubbish thrown from cars along the low road and round by Mortlach distillery, Tininver Wood along the path to the graveyard and on the bank and verges at Balvenie Castle. The Community Warden said that she can arrange litter picking equipment too. Jim to ask the Warden about keep Scotland tidy posters.

The group discussed the use of Community payback and whether we can get some assistance on litter picking and maintenance on the many paths around Dufftown. Alistair Jeffs said he would write to find out if this would could be arranged.

John Fleming produced a map he was given regarding core paths. Some of the core paths were highlighted in yellow pen showing the paths that will be maintained by Moray Council. Ian said that if there was time, they might just be able to cover other areas if they really need doing and we mention it to him.

Unfortunately the areas on the map which will be maintained by Moray Council does not include Gordon's Cross, the Giants Chair walks or Megs Widd all popular tourist attractions for many years.

Wind farms:- Alistair said that Fergus Ewen has not replied from Dorenell yet, but has said he will soon.

Alistair mentioned that according to Scottish Government guidelines the community benefit should be far higher than Dornell are offering, the neighbouring communities to the wind farm will be a 1/2 million pounds worse off for it.

Dufftown in Bloom:- Ally McDonald mentioned that the school kids at Mortlach would all be planting and growing donated sunflowers this year and that the younger children at the cabin would all be getting involved with planting flowers and getting involved with Dufftown in Bloom.

Dennis mentioned the dirty signs would be cleaned before May and Ally mentioned there was no progress on the Beautiful Scotland winner 2013 sign for Dufftown.

AOCB

John asked Bunty if she would be willing to be co-opted into the Community Council to represent the Glenrinn area. Bunty said she would be happy to join the committee if asked.

Dennis then proposed Bunty and Ally McDonald seconded it.

We still have room for one more co-opt and Alistair Jeffs said he would write to see if he could find a Cabrach representative.

Bunty mentioned the need for a larger car park at Beatshach Benrinn. Cars are parked along the verges and it's difficult to pass. Draff lorries and forestry trucks are also on the road and the situation is getting intolerable. Jim to write to Moray council to see if the verges around the car park can be flattened and hard core laid this would be a simple, cheap and easy answer.

Ally McDonald mentioned the Graveyard Gate is in need of repair and will contact Grant Speed.

Dennis Dalgarno is to see if anything can be done as regards signage at the square. Cars are coming down the wrong side of the clock and due to the frequency of this happening a collision will surely happen at some point.

Our next meeting will be held in the Community Centre on 15th April at 7pm

