

SPEYSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

APPROVED Minute of Meeting Held

On Wednesday 28 June 2023

At 7pm

Speyside Sports and Community Centre

Community Council Members:

Marion Ross, Neil Slessor, Donald McLean, Brenda Davies, Alison Bagnall, Greg Sarab

In Attendance:

S. Willox (EHC), M. Grant (EHC), Lewis McBlane (Northern Scot), P. Winchester (ACA), W. Cameron (ACA), 7 members of the Public, Cllr Ross, Cllr Harris

Apologies:

FD (SCC), B. Cooper (CVC), Cllr Gordon

Welcome:

MR welcomed everyone to the first ever joint meeting with Aberlour Community Association (ACA). An excellent example of how two organisations can work together for the benefit of a community. MR explained that the journalist from the Northern Scot was a listening ear and not looking for 'quotes'.

Previous Minutes: 31 May 2023:

Proposer – Alison Bagnall

Seconder – Brenda Davies

Matters arising and not overtaken on the Agenda:

- 36a Aviemore to Dufftown Bus Service. There is now a clearer bus timetable online. There is also a copy on the window at Aberlour Library.
- Sponsorship of flower tubs and hanging baskets. Craigellachie, Edinville and Archiestown have indicated an interest. MR will pass

the details to the Treasurer so that cheques can be issued for £30 for each organisation.

- Glen of Rothes Woodland Creation Scheme – Scottish Woodlands have been mapping the natural woodland regeneration in the Glen. There is still nothing on the Scottish Forestry EIA Register.
- Pavilion at Rothes Castle - MR had written to Historic Scotland to ascertain whether it would be acceptable to just repair/replace the roof and guttering or whether the Pavilion has to be restored to its original state ie with diagonal walls and seating. Awaiting a response.
- The official launch of m.connect was cancelled as Neil Gray MSP was unable to attend. The launch date will be rearranged.
- The Bridge on Burnside Street, Rothes – Cllr Gordon is taking a lead on this. It is unclear who actually owns the bridge and it is not part of any designated path network. Moray Council is currently undertaking works on Core Paths, using Dorenell Windfarm money.

Correspondence:

- Thomas Widrow – The John Muir Trust (CELT). A request for SCC to sign a letter of support asking for a carbon tax on landowners with holdings over 1000ha. It was agreed to carry this over to the next meeting.
- Moray Council – Aberlour Flooding. A public meeting with MC was not an option but 3 Moray Council Officers did meet with 2 representatives from SCC , ACA and 2 of our elected councillors. There will be an 'Event' in August.
- Our 3 councillors have agreed to purchase 250 sandbags which will be stored securely and distributed as and when required, in accordance with the Community Emergency Resilience Plan.
- Moray Council Local Place Plans – consultation dates to be announced soon.
- Banffshire Field Club – Banffshire Fowk Conference, 7 Oct, 2023

- SSEN Resilience Communities Fund – open for applications.
- Springfield R2 Aberlour
- Dr C Watt – Hill of Fare windfarm near Banchory
- 50th Anniversary Toolkit for Community Councils
- Climate Action Workshop – Thursday 29 June, Elgin
10.30 to 1.30
Tickets required

Reports:

- Treasurer: £2653.63 Pending credit - £56.68
- Speyside Resilience Planning – TEAMS meeting 8 June 2023.
MR unable to login

Police Matters:

- CSP Report – previously sent.

Planning Matters:

- Weekly Wards list previously distributed.
- Bio-fuel refinery, Rothes – this may not be commercially viable
- Acorn Biodigester, Longmore – this is not in our area but there may be implications for the volume of traffic through Rothes. Moray Council Transport Department has submitted a Holding Objection which is a very forensic response, highlighting the traffic issues associated with this development. On that basis SCC did not submit any representation.

Business:

- It was agreed to change the Order of Business to facilitate discussion on the flooding in Aberlour. This was conducted jointly with Aberlour Community Association.

A Report of the meeting with MC Officers and Councillors was delivered and included the following information.

The Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) was built to protect the High School, Mary Avenue, Conval Drive and the High Street. Which, by and large, it did.

Historically, when the burn from Hatton Farm to Stac Pollaidh overflowed it went onto the land that is now Linn Brae. This protected Chapel Terrace and also reduced the pressure on the FAS.

When Linn Brae was built this burn was diverted through a pipe.

However, there is very little information about the pipework associated with Linn Brae, which was permitted in 1997.

MC is conducting an 'adaptation plan' phase which will look at what changes, if any, are required. This should be completed by the end of the year.

Disappointingly, Scottish Government funds for flood alleviation are currently exhausted and there will be no further money until 2028.

MR will contact our MSPs to see if this is correct.

A lively and informative discussion took place following the Report.

- **Simpsons Maltings, Greens of Rothes, Rothes** – the application has now been approved with 32 Conditions which need to be fulfilled. Yesterday's exhibition did nothing to inform residents as to how many of these conditions would be addressed.

The development is now slightly smaller but still represents a huge footprint on the environment.

Still no definitive numbers provided for HGV journeys to and from the site.

There are still some issues with getting permission from MC to implement changes to the B9015. There will not be a continuous footpath from Rothes to the site as 3rd party land would be required. Plans for the biomass plant have been removed by the addition of a condition.

Simpson's are not averse to funding SIDs on the A941 and B9015.

Councillors were tasked with asking the Head of Service if there had been any policy changes relating to community purchase of SIDs.

There is the possibility of a community growing space at the edge of the site.

- **R2 Speyview Development** – as was agreed at the previous meeting, MR invited a representative from Springfield to attend this meeting in order to explain exactly what is happening with the A95, as it is not clear from the drawings that were submitted as part of the planning application.

There has been no response. On that basis, MR submitted the decision to OBJECT. Whilst we welcomed the much needed affordable housing, we could not support the access and egress arrangements that are proposed.

Cllr Ross gave an update on the situation regarding Moray Council's purchase of the land (in March 2022) from Springfield.

There were a number of questions from the floor eg What happens to the rest of the housing plots and who owns them? Could there be a compulsory purchase order for the land from the site to Taylor Court?

AOCB:

- It was agreed to invite a representative from the Police to our next meeting.

Future Programme:

Consultations:

- **Moray Council** – Licensing Board – draft statement on licensing policy Nov 2023 to Nov 2028 (ends 14 August 2023)
- **National** – Permitted Development Rights Review – Phase 3 (ends 23 August 2023)

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 30 August 2023

Meeting Closed at: 9 pm