

**SPEYSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**APPROVED Minute of Meeting Held on Wednesday 27 September 2023**

**Speyside Sports and Community Centre**

**At 7pm**

- **Sederunt:** Neil Slessor, Fraser Dyer, Greg Sarab, Alison Bagnall.
- **In attendance:** Margaret Grant - ECHC, Sheila Willox – CCHC, Keith Ross – Rothes Council, Chris Davis IDCA, Cllr Harris - TMC, Kath Davies, Ian Blackhall - IDCA, Pam Winchester - ACA, Willie Cameron - ACA.
- **Apologies:** Cllr Gordon, Cllr Ross, Marion Ross SCC, Brenda Davies – SCC, Donald McLean - SCC.
- **Welcome:** AB welcomed everyone and explained that both Chair and deputy Chair were unavailable so she was standing in.
- **Previous Minutes: 30 August, 2023**  
Cllr Gordon's amendment to the previous minute on the Burn of Rothes Bridge was accepted:  
Moray Council are not providing a full detailed report apart from Officers' view that the bridge may need to be replaced. It is on a core path, but not scheduled for work on core path maintenance. Plan due to start soon.  
He suggests getting some quotes on the basis that MC already administer the bridge and would ordinarily maintain it from the non-network bridge budget (spent for this financial year).

It was agreed that the project be put on the back burner.

Proposer – Fraser Dyer

Seconder – Neil Slessor

- **Matters arising and not overtaken on the Agenda:**
  - With the Treasurer away it was not possible to find out if the third £30 cheque for flower sponsorship had been cashed.
  - A decision on the SSEN Resilient Communities Fund application is due in October.

- **Parking on double yellow lines on Queen Street, Aberlour.** MR had written, with photographs, to Nicola Moss at TMC. In the absence of Police/Traffic Warden involvement MR requested the yellow lines be repainted to improve visibility. TMC's response is there is no funding available until next year.
- **Correspondence:**
  - **Roths Castle** - Historic Environment Scotland/Moray Council - youngsters have been climbing on the walls at Roths Castle and dislodged a number of stones. Moray Council owns the site and is responsible for its maintenance. MC has advised its Property Department of the problem and Police Scotland informed.
  - **The Pavilion at Roths Castle** – photographs and repairs information sent to HES
  - **Teindland Windfarm** – to be dealt with under planning.
  - **Teindland Land Management Plan** - to be displayed on the Scottish Forestry public grants register.
  - **The Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland** – as above.
  - **Tom Rawson-River Spey Litter Pick** - will take place 27-29 Oct 2023.
  - **Gresham House** - MR emailed Simon Amor to confirm if he remained our contact for Gresham House – no reply received. The company is now in US ownership. FD briefed the meeting on the current situation specifically on the disappointing decision that no Environmental Impact Statement was required.
  - **Roths Glen Woodland Creation Scheme** – no update available.
- **Reports:**
  - **Treasurer.** DM reported no financial activity during September. The balance on the a/c is £2976.14
  - **Moray Growth Deal.** The Project Board met on-line on 19<sup>th</sup> September. There has been a 30% increase in passenger numbers since May. Most on demand journeys by concessionary passengers are made between 9.30 and 12.30.
    - An issue with the app on the drivers' tablets which led to complaints has been resolved. The number of single person journeys is reducing.

- The 366 service route (Aberlour-Knockando-Elgin) is not performing as well as was expected. It was noted that new routes take time to bed in. The public is being urged to complete the online m.connect Survey.
  - **Moray Community Resilience Event 2023** – DM and AB attended from SCC and the village groups were well represented. The event was very useful and included a PLANEX using local village resilience plans where they existed in draft to ‘game’ how an incident could be managed.
    - It was noted that Knockando has no village association and without it there is no local resilience plan. DM would ask local residents about forming a group specifically for resilience.
    - SCC (AB) will draft a resilience plan which will provide the overarching plan into which the individual village plans fit giving visibility of resources available across Speyside.
- **Police Matters:** CSP Report – previously distributed. It is noted there has been an increase in cyber attacks and scamming.
- **Planning Matters:** Weekly Wards previously forwarded to members and community organisations within our area.
- **Planning Updates:**
  - **Teindland Windfarm:** Letter received from Kirsty O’Brien, Invicta Public Affairs. Requests a meeting with SCC sometime in October. It proved difficult to find a date but SCC, Innes and Inchberry were interested in a meeting.
    - The development is for 17 turbines between 149 and 230m high some of which will be less than 1km from houses. There may also be battery storage.
  - **R2 Speyview Aberlour:** Report from Cllr Gordon. Councillors had met with Officers from Housing and Planning. Access and transport issues remain and require to be resolved. Another meeting will be held, with the relevant Officers, in early October. The planning decision will be taken by Planning

Officers (Delegated Powers). Subject to grant funding and planning permission, the development will be put out to tender

- **Restaurant/Houses, Rothes:** Cllr Harris reported the planning committee reasons for refusal were:
  - Location in flood plain – and if TMC had allowed the development they believed SEPA would overrule the decision.
  - NS pointed out that new electric charging points had been installed beside the bridge at Rothes which were equally likely to flood – but there had been no objection to them.
  
- **Simpsons Maltings, Greens of Rothes:** MR responded to the consultation request from TMC and will now forward the information from the Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland re: lack of air pollution monitoring of additional HGVs during construction.
  
- **Business:**
  - **Potholes and Street Sweeping.** Concerns raised from Rothes (Keith Ross) and Aberlour (FD). TMC will not deal with Rothes as they are not a statutory body. SCC (FD) agreed to deal on their behalf, in consultation with Rothes Council and the ACA.
    - To impress upon TMC and AMEY the need for road sweeping in general to keep villages looking kempt, and specifically, putting large piles of grit on roadsides for winter without subsequent regular sweeping of roads and pavements increased the flood risk for properties downhill as drains become choked with sand – as evidenced in the recent Aberlour flood.
  
  - **Remembrance Sunday.** It was agreed that the SCC would purchase 4 wreaths with a centre card logo @ £24.19 each. To be laid at Aberlour, Rothes, Archiestown and Craigellachie. Wreath layer required for Craigellachie.

Proposed – Fraser Dyer

Seconded – Neil Slessor

- **Rothesian Sponsorship.** SCC sponsored The Rothesian for a month and submitted an article for the front page.
- **AOCB:**
  - **Speeding** - 'Highland Defender' vehicles were seen speeding through Aberlour on a Sunday afternoon. GS asked if there was an appetite for the SCC to write to the company informing them of the speed limit and reminding them of the need to comply with it. The motion was carried – GS to draft a letter for the Chair to send.

Proposed – Greg Sarab  
Seconded - Fraser Dyer
  - **TMC** - Cllr Harris briefed on behalf of the council:
    - Budget for the learning estate in Moray there being 6824 primary children and 5388 secondary with only 492 in Speyside and Glenlivet. The birth rate has fallen by 15%. The falling numbers will impact on service provision in Speyside in future years.
    - Telford Bridge condition may require a compulsory purchase.
    - Nursery provision in Rothes and Aberlour is on track.
    - Admin staff for schools will be considered later.
- **Consultations:**
  - **Moray Council:** Keith Green Energy and Infrastructure Framework (Draft). Ends 16 October.
- **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 25 October 2023
- **Meeting Closed at: 2012 hrs**