

Speyside Community Council

APPROVED Minute of Meeting Held

On Wednesday 29 November 2023

At 7pm

Speyside Sports and Community Centre

Community Council Members:

Marion Ross, Greg Sarab, Fraser Dyer, Donald McLean, Alison Bagnall

In Attendance:

Cllr Ross, Cllr Gordon, MG (E.C.H.C.), SW (E.C.H.C.), KR (Rothes Council), W. Cameron (ACA), S.B., K.D., J.R., (Members of the Public), Chris Muir (Moray Council)

Apologies:

Cllr Harris, Neil Slessor (SCC), Brenda Davies (SCC), Pam Winchester (ACA)

Welcome:

MR welcomed everyone and introduced Chris Muir, from Moray Council, as guest speaker.

MR proposed that the meeting should approve the Draft Minute of 25 October 2023 and proceed to the Presentation and Discussion with Chris Muir with the planning items to follow. Unfinished business to be carried forward to another meeting.

Fraser Dyer seconded the proposal.

Previous Minutes: 25 October 2023

Proposer: Fraser Dyer

Secunder: Keith Ross

Chris Muir: Moray Woodland and Forestry Strategy

The Moray Woodland and Forestry Strategy, Supplementary Guidance is being updated and Speyside Community Council expressed an interest in having its views, on woodland creation in its area, taken into account.

The purpose of the Strategy and the protocols established by Scottish Forestry and Moray Council surrounding woodland creation and grant funding were explained. This is Supplementary Guidance and for guidance only.

The work undertaken by the Woodland Sub-group provided an excellent platform for discussion. It was highlighted that, in our opinion, the Scottish Forestry process has been less than transparent and it has been extremely difficult to get any answers to our questions.

It was felt that the consultation process should be reviewed as our experience had shown it not to be fit for purpose. We appreciate that Scottish Forestry may be inundated with woodland creation applications but the consultation process has to be open and readily available to all.

The threshold that triggers an EIA seems to be very high and most forestry schemes do not reach that threshold, regardless of size.

Figures for the economic benefit of forestry within Moray were quoted. However, no figures were available for the economic benefit of farming.

Speyside Community Council reiterated its support for woodland creation but stressed that it has to be the right trees, in the right places and in appropriate numbers.

C.M. was thanked for his presentation and we look forward to the new Moray Woodland and Forestry Strategy in due course.

- **Matters arising and not covered on the Agenda**

- **Correspondence**

- **Reports:**

- *Treasurer:

- *JCC

- *Moray Transport Forum

- *Forestry Sub-group - Bardon Hill

- Glen of Rothes

- **Police Matters:** CSP Report – previously distributed.

- **Planning Matters:** Weekly Wards previously forwarded to members and community organisations within our area.

Councillors left the room for this item.

R2 Speyview Aberlour – MR reported on an online meeting that she had with Planning. The planners are still waiting for consultation responses from Transport Scotland and Moray Council Transport Department.

However, it was confirmed that, at the moment, there will be two uncontrolled pedestrian crossings over the A95. There will be no reduction in the 40mph speed limit. (Transport Scotland may agree to change this but the proposal does not meet the required threshold. There will not be a continuous footpath down the A95 nor any cycle lane.

Moray Council had provided enlarged planning drawings showing the proposed Active Travel Route and these were shared with those present at the meeting.

The meeting expressed its concerns regarding the proposed Active Travel Route. It is not clear whether or not some of the land, that is in third party ownership, is for sale. The development could, however, be consented but with the addition of a Condition requiring that an Active Travel Route has to be in place before anyone occupies the properties.

GS asked if a Compulsory Purchase Order would be considered by Moray Council.

The application will come before the Planning and Regulatory Services Committee in December.

MR to submit a Freedom of Information request to Moray Council relating to the Moray Affordable Housing Investment Programme.

Teindland Windfarm – 17 turbines up to tip height of 200m. The site was owned by Scottish Land and Forestry and Scottish Ministers have identified this area for development. Battery storage may be

included. Developers were invited to bid for the land, which is on Brown Muir (a Landmark Hill).

Access to the site entails crossing land that is the ownership of several people. A transportation route has not been decided. Exhibitions are planned for March.

Simpsons Maltings – work is ongoing to fulfil the Conditions that were attached to the planning permission in principle.

Glen of Rothes Woodland Creation Scheme – D.McL., A.B., and F.D., were formally thanked for the extensive response that they had submitted to Scottish Forestry. It was a very impressive piece of work. Copies available from: speysidecommunitycouncil@gmail.com

- **Business:** RCW – Terms of Reference

- **AOCB:**

Next Meeting: Wednesday 31 January 2024

Meeting Closed at: 8.30pm