

Dyke Landward Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday 4 March 2015 at 7.30pm in Dyke Village Hall

1. Present

Carol Shaw (Chair) (CAS)
Steve Arkley (Treasurer) (SA)
Alistair Sutherland (Vice-Chair) (AS)
Jane Foster (JF)
David Shaw (DS)
John Bonsall (JB)

In attendance

Christine MacLeod (Secretary) (CM), Cllr. Anne Skene (The Moray Council) (Cllr AS);
Cllr George Alexander (The Moray Council) (Cllr GA); Ben Clinch (Moray Estates
Development Company Ltd) (BC)

Apologies

Arnold Boyle

2 Police Report

No one from Police Scotland attended therefore there was no Police Report. CM has asked Tracey Rae to provide her with an up-to-date e-address for Police Scotland.

3 Doune Woodlands, Forest Plan Darnaway & East LTFP Scoping

Ben Clinch (Moray Estates Development Company Ltd - MEDCL) spoke to the scoping document previously circulated, with the aid of a detailed map of the Darnaway Forest. BC explained that it is a condition for the 10-yearly renewal of the felling licence, for forests of over 100 ha, to consult local residents, and he would be pleased to receive questions and any feedback, either during or after this meeting, or at a later point in the procedure when the document goes in the public register. BC described some of the problems the MEDCL is experiencing: the pathogens affecting Corsican and Scots pines; the threat to the small and declining capercaillie population from open access, especially unleashed dogs; the threat to the designated oaks in the Findhorn gorge from increasingly dominant beech trees. He said the MEDCL proposed to continue thinning and felling trees and restocking Darnaway forest with mixed conifers and birch but mainly sitka spruce. SA asked whether the timber lorries caused significant damage to local roads and who was responsible for their upkeep. BC: MEDCL liaises with the Moray Council's transport department, which specifies which roads the lorries are permitted to use. CAS asked what measures were being taken to protect the

capercaillies. BC: MEDCL is looking at the feasibility of notices requesting dogs be kept on leash, but there are further problems (a series of wet springs, and predation by badgers and pine martens). It was agreed that there was ample evidence of good management and MEDCL seemed to be pursuing a policy that DLCC could support. **Action:** anyone who has any concerns should email BC.

4 Minutes of Last Meeting

AS: (4) Parking at Brodie: 'Shona Sutherland' should be 'Shona Ferguson'. Minutes were corrected, then agreed and signed off by the Chair.

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

A96 at Brodie. CAS reminded members that three representatives of Transport Scotland will attend the April meeting of DLCC (1/4/2015), beginning by the A96 at Brodie, at 5pm, and then moving into the Dyke village hall for the actual meeting, at 7.30pm. It was agreed that this would be a Q & A session. CAS outlined publicity proposals, in order to attract the maximum number of residents, especially from Brodie:

Actions: CAS will draft a leaflet and deliver it to all Brodie residents (including Brodie Countryfare, the Old Mill Inn, and the caravan park, and a poster for the notice-boards; CAS will draft a press release for *Forres Gazette*, making clear it's an open meeting; CAS will arrange for an announcement to appear on the Dyke & District Hall's Facebook page; JF will insert an item in the Dyke church newsletter. CAS will email a list of DLCC's concerns to Cllr GA and Cllr AS.

Parking at Brodie Pond: AS has spoken again to the manager at Brodie Castle, Shona Ferguson, who is keen to do something about bad roadside parking at the pond, but doesn't want to create more parking space there. She would be keen to prepare a joint submission with DLCC to the Moray Council for hazard-warning signs and possibly double-yellow lines. CAS has sent requested information to Tracey Rae and is waiting for her to advise on next steps. Cllr GA said he would email Police Scotland and Kevin Price (Moray Council) about the issues.

6 Treasurer's Report

SA reported that the DLCC's account with RBS was now open. He had advised Tracey Rae of this, 3 weeks ago, but the Moray Council grant had still not arrived. There was currently only one invoice outstanding.

7 Correspondence

Digital Engagement Day: email received from Tracey Rae had been circulated with agenda.

Community Engagement Day: email from Alastair Kennedy had been circulated with agenda. Cllr AS commented that Cllr Lorna Creswell was more involved in this than she or Cllr GA were.

Scottish Hydro energy efficiency scheme: A3 poster was put up in Dyke village hall; various people volunteered to put A5 leaflets on notice-boards; JF volunteered to deliver A5 leaflets to Dyke houses.

Moray Greens: emailed announcement of an Information Exchange on Fracking, in Forres, on 10 March, had been circulated with the agenda. No further action taken as fracking is not an issue in this region.

8 Community Feedback

None.

9 Reports (a) Local Councillors

Councillors Anne Skene and George Anderson shared feedback from the Moray Council.

- (i) The shortage of teachers and of teachers has led MC to raise the maximum class size at P2 and P3 from 25 to the statutory 30, which would be mitigated by employing more classroom assistants; as a result, new entrants would be able to attend same school as their siblings.
- (ii) Elgin was going to hold a *charrette* [i.e. workshop] with invited consultants to investigate how to improve the High Street.
- (iii) Despite the UK government's recent announcement, the spaceport issue is not completely foreclosed, since Virgin remains interested in Kinloss.
- (iv) Forres hydro-therapy pool: the CEO for Health & Social Care will explore whether the NHS contribution might be increased to help keep it open. It is generally agreed to be a very valuable local resource and everything should be tried to keep it open.
- (v) So far the MC budget had suffered only a 'light cut' financially; another £14 million of cuts were due over the next 2 years. This was why the £20,000 contribution to the hydro-therapy was no longer available, and why swimming pools could be at risk in the next round of cuts.

10 Planning Issues

Since the last meeting DS has been forwarding weekly lists of Moray planning applications by email. Only 2 applications were in DLCC area, and neither was controversial.

Action DS will edit future lists to circulate only applications in DLCC area.

11 Joint Community Council of Moray (JCC)

Nobody had been able to attend the last meeting of the JCC on 12 February.

12 AOCB

AS and GA gave their apologies for absence from the next meeting.

GA: Forres Tolbooth will be open to the public, Weds 1 April to Sat 4 April and Weds 8 April to Sat 11 April, 2:00 – 4:00pm (12.00 – 4:00pm if there were sufficient volunteers).

SA: should something be done to pre-empt conflicts between different users of the Culbin forest tracks and surrounding area, e.g. husky teams, horse-riders, motor-cyclists? Following some discussion, it was agreed to leave these groups to make their own arrangements, e.g. the husky teams usually put up signs to say when they're active in the forest.

CM: should the DLCC agenda be more widely circulated, e.g. display on notice-boards?

Action: **CM** will email agenda to notice-board key-holders, to *Forres Gazette* (by Friday for publication on Tuesday). **JF** will ask Dyke school about flyers for parents. **CAS** will explore possibilities of posting it on Facebook.

CAS: proposed DLCC buy CM an external hard drive for dedicated DLCC archival back-up. SA said he had a spare one that CM could use.

13 Date and Time of Next Meeting of DLCC

Wednesday, 1 April 2015, at 5:00pm, beside the A96 at Brodie, for DLCC members with representatives of Transport Scotland; then public meeting at 7:30pm, in the main hall of Dyke Village Hall, including Q&A session with representatives of Transport Scotland.