

ABERFELDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Aberfeldy Town Hall

Wednesday 7th March 2018 at 7.30pm

Minutes

Welcome

Present: Victor Clements (VC - Chair), Duncan Curran (DC), Ian Menzies (IM), Lorraine Reed (LR), Julie Kilpatrick (Minute Secretary)

In attendance:- Cllr Mike Williamson, Norma Carr (NC) and 19 other members of the public.

Apologies

Jean Duff, Patrick Spicer, Cllr Xander McDade, Police Scotland Community Officers

VC welcomed all to the meeting and was pleased to see another good turnout.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes from the February were taken as read. Adoption proposed by DC and seconded by IM.

Matters Arising

Community Warden Funding

VC was pleased to announce that £6k from the Fire Brigade has been secured by Roddy Ross, an application is currently with Griffin and one other body. NC advised she finishes at the end of March, VC was confident that the £6k should be with us in the next few days which should enable her to continue beyond that date.

Street Cleaning

NC advised we may lose our part time street cleaner and will have to share with another area, this to be confirmed. She will chase up her request for the street sweeping machine to visit Aberfeldy, it is currently deployed in other areas. Concern was raised about the dirty streets as well as blocked drains requiring attention.

Bridge Repair

NC has been in touch with the Golf Club and they are happy to liaise with the community concerning the bridge repair. The Golf Club are not happy that the safety barriers have been deliberately cut. Next engineer visit scheduled for May, the issue being the safety of the handrails. VC will follow up with Keith Moncrieff. A suggestion was made that in the meantime the Golf Club display a "use at your own risk" sign to try to reduce their liability.

Car Pool/Sharing

VC advised that 10 people in Aberfeldy are already taking part in this scheme and he will follow up with them to see if it is something which could be progressed.

Retained Fire Fighter Recruitment

VC previously posted an ad on Facebook and will do so again. More personnel urgently required, Aberfeldy currently has 8 personnel and needs at least 12. VC asked those present to please help spread the word.

RBS

VC has written to Pete Wishart. Avril Taylor has not yet had a response to her letter to Pete Wishart.

Crime Prevention & Community Safety

No Community Police Officers in attendance. No matters arising for the Police.

Dog Fouling: NC advised fines have been issued for dog fouling, most of these offences having been carried out early in the morning. Any information from the public is welcome and will be followed up, the dog warden requires date, time, location, description of dog and name of individual dog owners if known.

MW provided PKC contact number Tel. 01738 475000 and ask for the dog warden.

All were keen to help eradicate this problem and were willing to name and shame if need be. It was agreed the problem was more prevalent in winter time main problem areas being the Golf Course but also the lower Birks and the streets in general. A suggestion was made to ban dogs in the play area of Victoria Park.

LR suggested putting more posters up around town reminding everyone that perpetrators should be reported and can be fined. VC agreed to raise the issue of dog fouling on the Aberfeldy Community FB page, that it is not acceptable and the steps which can be taken to try to eradicate the problem.

Litter: The lack of street cleaning has made the litter problem in Aberfeldy more obvious and especially during the school lunch break. It was suggested a representative goes to youth groups or the school and explains the knock on effect this has on a tourist town. The school have a litter pick organised and they may also notice a difference this time round. VC will contact the school as this approach has helped in the past.

New Hospital

MW will provide an update for the next meeting. A member of the public attended a meeting today at which 4 potential options were discussed for providing a health/hospital service in Aberfeldy. The topics covered included the concept of having a hub providing respite, day care, interim care, physiotherapy etc. The issue of recruitment was again discussed with 3 of the 7 staff required having been recruited.

The lack of communication with the Community Council was raised, MW undertook to provide VC with Rob Packham's contact details as VC would like to have representative attend the next Community Council Meeting.

Action Points:-

Who	Action	By When
VC/Others	Community Warden Funding for Part Time Post	Ongoing
ACC/MM	Regeneration of Town Square	Ongoing
NC	Street Cleaning - Machine	April Meeting
VC/NC	Bridge Repair	April Meeting
ACC+	Speeding / Parking issues – progress update	April Meeting
VC/LB	Fireworks	April Meeting
VC/PS	Resilience Plan	April Meeting
VC	Car Pool /Sharing Update	April Meeting
VC	Fire Fighter Recruitment – post again on FB	April Meeting
VC	RBS Closure – update/response from PW	April Meeting
ACC	Common Good Update	April Meeting

Speeding/Parking Issues

A background of the initiative to reduce speed and increase safety was provided. This included looking at the safety of people, especially the children and elderly making their way around town.

An application for funding has been submitted to the Highland Ward Action Partnership for funding for pop up police and pop up kids. Sustrans, an organisation committed to providing safe routes to school other than by car, also have funding available for projects which meet their criteria. The school travel plan requires to be updated and a sample questionnaire will be issued to help with the Sustrans application. Any suggestions from the community are welcome.

Regeneration of Town Square

No update, to be carried forward to April meeting.

Resilience Plan

Prior to our next meeting NC & VC will work together on contact details for the Resilience Plan.

MW advised PKC had engaged consultants to look at the potential flooding issue in Aberfeldy and who will come up with a plan. A questionnaire was made available on Facebook, solutions require to be sought for different types of flooding.

Fireworks

Lio Ballard advised no location has been found as yet. The show field owner was worried about the possibility of flooding, mud and parking. The unused section of the Golf Course had been suggested but again parking and access was an issue. MW advised both Pitlochry and Grandtully plan to have their own displays on the same night this year. VC and LB to meet and follow up on this matter.

Etape

MW had two meetings to discuss this year's events, one of 81 miles and a 40 mile event to be incorporated within that. In 2019 they hope to extend to 100 miles, potential routes being discussed and a possibility it will be taken out of Pitlochry. Various opportunities were under discussion including funding to local communities affected by ETAPE, the re-introduction of satellite events such as the Cycling Festival to Aberfeldy and so on. Participant numbers have decreased in recent years hence the need for the organisers to diversify. The question of how much profit the organisers make was raised and this is thought to be in the region of £500k. The community as a whole still seems to be split in their opinions about the event.

Common Good

Nothing to report.

Griffin Community Benefit Panel

LR advised a few applications have been received for micro grants, just waiting on the funding from Griffin to come through. A number of applications have also been received for Highland Ward Action Partnership

Reports

Chair : Re complaints about stones/boulders on the A827 Aberfeldy to Kenmore which seem to be coming from the Bolfracks wall, MW undertook to chase up and NC will follow up with the current landowner
Re-cycling Centre is not closing which was well received
Brown lidded bin permit increasing to £35.00 in 2019, take up rate for the 2018 permit is 50%, VC will post some information on Facebook re the ongoing costs.
Removal of Beech trees at the Birks, a small number of trees have been taken out to allow other species to flourish. This programme will continue for a number of years and should not have an adverse effect on the landscape. The question was asked about the disposal of the trees and what happened to the wood which would have been sold on for a sizeable sum.
By election: following the death of Cllr Campbell the by election will be held on 19/04/18 the candidates being John Duff, Scottish Conservative Party, Mary MacDougall, Scottish Green Party, John Kellas SNP and we understand a Lib Dem candidate from Pitlochry.

Secretary : Position Vacant

Treasurer : £336.58 in our account
£0.00 in micro grants
Hall bill received on 19/12/08 and now paid

Planning

Nothing to report. Concerning Fishers, the previous application may be re-submitted. The application was turned down as the council felt the site should be kept for industrial use. ACC was in favour of the combination plan for houses and some industrial units. ACC would also like the local development plan modified to include the Fishers site.

Councillors Reports

MW advised that the boundaries for Community Councils are being re-visited to match the actual Ward boundaries. Council to come back to us on this. There is to be a review of parking in rural towns in Perth & Kinross with the council looking to have a consistent approach e.g. paid parking.

AOCB

Re funding for the Community Warden, LR suggested approaching the Co-op to see if we could apply for this. Apparently the next round of applications is end May/early June.

Freeview update – 45 to 50 people from Grandtully to Killin can now report problems of interference directly to the BBC. The issue appears to be with the Kenmore transmitter, only BBC channels are affected and not HD. BBC radio and TV investigation service.

Date of next meeting : Wednesday, 4th April at 7.30pm