

ABERFELDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Aberfeldy Town Hall

Wednesday 7th February 2018 at 7.30pm

Minutes

Welcome

VC welcomed all to the first meeting of 2018.

Present: Victor Clements (VC - Chair), Jean Duff (JD), Duncan Curran (DC), Ian Menzies (IM), Lorraine Reed (LR), Patrick Spicer (PS), Julie Kilpatrick (Minute Secretary)

In attendance:- Cllr Xander McDade (XM), Norma Carr (NC) and 21 other members of the public.

Apologies

Cllr Mike Williamson, Police Scotland Community Officers

Cllr Ian Campbell

Following the sudden death this week of Cllr Ian Campbell, VC invited those present to say a few words. Ian Campbell was a very good friend to Aberfeldy, supportive at all times and had the interests of the local community at heart. It was wholeheartedly agreed that he will be very much missed.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes from December 2017 were taken as read. Adoption proposed by JD and seconded by PS.

Matters Arising

Bridge Repair

After some discussion it was reiterated that the bridge belongs to Aberfeldy Golf Club and as such they were responsible for the repair and associated costs. Although it is of significant importance to the local area it is privately owned and on private land. LR asked whether we could approach the Golf Club to see if ACC could help them in any way. Suggestions of donations by course users other than golfers were put forward. VC will contact the Golf Club with a view to opening a dialogue and NC will see Keith Moncrieff on 9th February.

Street Cleaning

Still 3 days a week, it was agreed that the streets were visibly deteriorating. Dog poo - NC will contact the dog warden re this ongoing problem. A member of the public asked about having a street cleaning machine, NC will follow up to see if we can get the machine up again

Update on new Hospital

XM had no update for the meeting. A member of the public advised there is a meeting on 1st March with PKC Chief Executive. It was agreed the community had to keep up the pressure, lack of staff remaining the main issue. XM stated as soon as nursing staff are found the Hospital will open.

Tourist Information Centre

Following the closure of the TIC in December, Locus Breadalbane have moved their office into the tourist area and will be operating as a voluntary Community Information, Tourism & Local Advice office for Highland Perthshire. The office will be open 9-1 Monday to Friday and signage will be arranged to identify the location. In time, and if more volunteers are willing to come on board, they would hope to expand the service to cover afternoons and weekends. Any business, organisation or individuals with information or leaflets can hand them into the Locus office for display. Categories include accommodation, places of interest, food & drink, activities and shopping. Please remember to keep the office informed of events and entertainment.

Action Points:-

Who	Action	By When
VC/Others	Community Warden Funding for Part Time Post	March Meeting
ACC/MM	Regeneration of Town Square	March Meeting
NC	Street Cleaning - Machine	March Meeting
VC/NC	Bridge Repair	March Meeting
ACC+	Speeding / Parking issues – progress update	March Meeting
VC	Fireworks – volunteers required – post on Community FB	March Meeting
VC/PS	Resilience Plan	March Meeting
VC	Car Pool /Sharing – Stats from PKC	March Meeting
NC	Erosion Birks Path - Greenspace	April Meeting
XM	Community Police Officers – Contact Email Address for VC	March Meeting
VC	Fire Fighter Recruitment – post on FB	March Meeting
VC	RBS Closure – ACC to write to MPs	March Meeting
ACC	Common Good Update	March Meeting

Retained Fire Fighter Recruitment

One application received to date. One of the criteria is that applicants must be within 5 minutes of the station. VC will post on Facebook again.

Crime Prevention & Community Safety

NC reported it has been quiet other than issues with dog fouling, street lighting and school children. A member of the public had heard that the Community Police Officers are being reduced in numbers. XM confirmed that more Police Officers were required in Blairgowrie and they had been deployed there. ACC to voice their concerns at the situation. It was suggested if this were the case then perhaps the Police could part fund NC's role. XM to provide VC with contact email address.

Community Warden Funding Plan

VC advised we have re-submitted an application to Griffin, and applied to two other bodies, to try to help fund this important role. It was agreed we need NC who is happy to continue in the role on a part time basis.

Speeding/Parking Issues

Since the last ACC meeting PS has attended 3 meetings with PKC officers including walkabouts and now has 3 pages of actions from the last meeting on 06/02/18. PKC coming back with costings at the end of March and hope to have proposals for action by April. Areas to be prioritised are Kenmore Street and Crieff Road in the vicinity of the school. Other areas we would like included are the East and West approaches to the town. PS would like to get people involved who are interested in these issues. For example to support applications for funding an updated school travel plan is needed and PS would like help to get this done. PS, and the others involved, were congratulated for the work carried out to date. A number of other issues were discussed including 20mph signage, extending the 20mph zone, and forestry vehicles forcing people off the road. DC advised taking note of reg number and complaining to the company involved.

Regeneration of Town Square

The loss of parking and alternatives were discussed. VC reiterated that the net loss was 13 spaces and that most parking in the town during the day is short term. Regarding funding, the project is now expected to start in Autumn 2018 instead of Spring.

The matter of the sign 'car park closed from 29 January until further notice' at the entrance to the main car park behind the Co-op was raised. Locals ignore it but visitors won't do this and consequently can't park in the town or reach the electric charging points at the far end of the car park. This was detrimental to the town during coinciding with the first school holidays of the year.

Post Meeting Note: Cllr McDade contacted PKC Road Maintenance division who arranged to have signs turned around so not visible to public over the weekend in question.

RBS

Avril Taylor continues to protest to RBS concerning the closure of the Aberfeldy Branch continue. 10 branches are no longer closing and Pete Wishart is taking the Aberfeldy petition to Westminster. AT is also writing to other banks to see whether they could open a branch in Aberfeldy. The protest was very well organised and attended and VC formally thanked AT for organising it.

Various ideas were discussed as to how costs could be reduced enabling RBS to retain the Aberfeldy Branch, however none were considered practical due to existing banking legislation.

If the branch closure went ahead the question was raised as to whether we could have ATMs which offered the facility to withdraw cash / bank takings / get change, as these do exist.

It was asked whether ACC could write to the MPs to chase up and put forward some solutions. VC agreed to do this.

Resilience Plan

NC will provide VC with Paul Laidlaw's email address and VC will try to have the lines of communication in place for the next meeting. A member of the public raised concerns that each time the River Tay floods the islands in the middle grow as they gather more and more debris, in turn causing more likelihood of flooding. It was felt this was something we had to live with and our priority is to get the lines of communication in place to help people as and when the need arises.

Fireworks

It was questioned whether we want to go ahead and do this given Grandtully might be back on track this year. XM stated that Grandtully were keen for communities to do their own thing thereby reducing the numbers going to there. A member of the public offered to help with the setting up of the fireworks provided he could have 3 helpers to assist with lifting etc.

VC asked for a group to get together to organise this. Another member of the public suggested doing a costing exercise first. LR suggested putting it out to the community to see who and which groups would be willing to help. VC to put on community FB page.

Etape

PS advised that a new team are running this event. They are keen to learn from the past and build a new relationship with local communities. XM advised that the organisers have been ordered by PKC to go out and consult with the community and PKC will monitor this. There is a view in Pitlochry that it is not economically helping the town. After some discussion the consensus of opinion was that Etape was of no benefit to the local community. PS advised that the next Etape meeting is towards the end of February, if there is no positive vibe and no-one wants to get involved he will take this to the next meeting. PS asked if anyone willing to get involved could get in touch with him.

Common Good

To be updated at next meeting

Griffin Community Benefit Panel

LR advised one grant application received for discussion this evening, the next Griffin meeting is end February. Following a question re the longevity of funds LR confirmed there is an endowment fund in place so the money from Griffin will last longer.

Action Partnerships

Some applications in from Aberfeldy including for speed signs, community warden. Around early March we will be invited to come along and express which application is preferred. LR said a link had been put on FB for postcode lottery funding.

Reports

Chair : Nothing to report

Secretary : Position Vacant

Treasurer : £483.80 of our own admin grant to spend by end March (from an annual grant of £700.00)
£0.00 in micro grants
No hall bill received since August

VC reiterated that micro grants of up to £500.00 are available and stressed the importance of submitting a detailed application.

Planning

Fishers Laundry Site – location currently zoned as industrial

Local Development Plan – 80 houses at Borlick and part industrial

The new development at Duntuim was part of the original LDP. Concern was raised by some of the public present over the number of houses in the LDP and that local services could not support such developments. It was stressed that planning permission would not be granted unless other services, such as schools, were able to support developments. It was asked whether ACC could put something on the FB page to say it is a 20 year plan and to allay any fears. VC confirmed he did this about 6 weeks ago.

Lower Birks – VC wrote a letter of support for Move to Improve for the improvements at the Lower Birks.

We should write to M2I to say they have done a good job especially with the new landscaping & seating area

Councillors Reports

XANDER McDADE is happy to take on anything Ian Campbell was dealing with, please let him know if he can help. His Aberfeldy surgery will now be at 11.30am on the third Saturday of the month at the Community Campus and no longer the third Tuesday of the month.

AOCB

Freeview – a member of the public advised that over 40 local people have contacted him concerning problems with freeview and lack of service in the area. The issue seems to be with the mainstream channels and not with viewers equipment. There has been a suggestion that the problem will be subject to a site assessment by OFCOM.

Highland Perthshire Community Land Trust are pleased to announce they have funding to continue rural skills courses for the next 3 years.

Field between Burns Brae & Lower Birks – some access problems, awaiting lawyers response, no consensus on use as yet.

Litter – PS has noticed a deal of litter along the riverbank. There appears to be a number of people drinking on streets and just throwing away their bottles and cans. Wondered if any sanctions could be put in place and whether anyone had any other ideas. It was mentioned that the school will be doing another litter pick soon, other ideas welcome.

Date of next meeting : Wednesday, 7th March 2018 at 7.30pm