

ABERFELDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Aberfeldy Town Hall.

Tuesday 5th September 2023 at 7.30pm

MINUTES

Welcome

Present: Victor Clements (Chair), Lorraine Reed (Vice- Chair), Elaine Fraser Murdoch (Secretary), Jean Duff (Treasurer), Val Ferguson, Karen Mackay, Susan Craik

In Attendance: Cllr John Duff

Apologies

Rob Stubbs, Mary MacDougall, Provost McDade, Pat Spicer

Minutes of previous meeting

Taken as read, proposed by JD and seconded by EFM.

Matters Arising

Cllr Duff had spoken to Golf Club re plastic bridge. The bridge was structurally sound, but railings at north end had been vandalized 3 X times recently.

VC to write to Feldy Roo thanking them for their work on the fitness trail, which many people now seemed to be using.

Crime Prevention and Community Safety

There had been an incident on the golf course where a lady had been assaulted after an incident with 2 X dogs. Police are investigating. A more aggressive dog had attacked her own.

Focus Topics:

Taymouth Development

EFM and VF would be attending a meeting with the other CC areas on Thursday this week, to prepare for upcoming meeting with DLC. These meeting were a good opportunity to liaise with DLC and discuss what was going on and how things were developing. The media campaign that had been ongoing had quietened down a lot now, and it was felt that this created a better atmosphere for dealing with matters of substance. Comms from DLC had been good.

Post Office

It is likely that the Londis store will close, and attempts are being made to move the Post Office up to Breadalbane Stores. Having a PO is extremely important to businesses in the town, so any potential threat to this provision is something that we need to be very aware of. The owners had met with the Post Office to discuss, but it is not yet known what the outcome of that meeting was.

Moness trees

EFM and Cllr Duff had been to see Moness, and had a useful and constructive discussion. VC had inspected the trees, and drawn up a draft felling application, to be discussed with Moness, hopefully before submission.

Wade's Bridge

Aberfeldy Development Trust (ADT) had arranged for an initial inspection of the bridge by an experienced heritage architect. The tercentenary of the bridge is due in 2033, and it is hoped to have the bridge properly renovated by that point. It is likely to be a significant undertaking, and consultations within the town have begun. Improvements have been carried out in recent years, but concerns have been expressed as to whether some of the work has been appropriate given the history and construction of the bridge.

Graveyard

VC had yet to contact Derek Wittman about this.

Empty properties

At present, the old church on the Crieff Rd was still empty, and starting to deteriorate again, and the old Chinese Takeaway on Dunkeld St had been closed for 15 years. As a CC, we had to decide what priority to give to these sites, and what priority we should give to other issues.

At the moment, it wasn't apparent what it is that could be done about these empty properties.

Duntium Playpark

This was almost completed now. Rob Stubbs would attend any opening ceremony on behalf of CC.

Griffin Community Benefit Panel

Micro grants

No applications to be discussed after meeting. Microgrant allocation for this year had now been spent.

Heart of Scotland Herb Society thanked the CC for the micro grant that they had received.

Main Fund

Main meeting was to take place later this week. LR would be asking if we could get additional micro grant money.

Reports

Chair

The wildlife friendly garden competition was run to 20th September, and judging would be organized after that point.

The Upper Tay Transport Group had funding to pilot an extension of service for the No 91 bus to Rannoch.

Secretary

There was a discussion whether additional dog bins could be provided for the Feldy Roo fitness trail, but there would be a problem in servicing these due to access problems.

Treasurer

We currently have £221.70 of administration money, £1.24 in micro grants, and "11.87 in road safety money.

JD would make up accounts to 31st August, and we would have our AGM at November meeting.

JD was still trying to sort bank account signatures with Bank of Scotland, who were proving to be very difficult. This had to be addressed before we could pay back money to PKC re community warden funding.

Housing/Planning

ACC had written in support of proposed changes to Sports hub planning application. The building had to be raised by 1.3 metres to make proper allowance for one in two hundred year flood, but overall design had been changed so that the building would still look appropriate to setting, and not dominate the bridge.

Cllr Reports

Although this did not affect Aberfeldy, there had been 4 X GP surgeries closed in PKC area recently, because of difficulty in recruiting GPs. This was causing a lot of pressure on the NHS more generally, and is something we should all be aware of.

There was a consultation ongoing on council tax bands.

There was some discussion on the so called "tourist tax" and what the impact of this might be. It was estimated that accommodation providers locally would be paying £400- 1500 annually. Such accommodation was important to Highland Perthshire, but housing supply was extremely acute now as well, and this was the priority for many people. Aberfeldy CC were in principle in favour of some sort of control over short term lets.

AOCB

The first responders were still operational in Aberfeldy.

There had been a caravan abandoned at the green triangle. Community warden has been informed.

The toilet/ shower / visitor information facility at Beyond Adventure was almost ready to be opened. Beyond Adventure would manage and maintain it. The facility was for walkers/ cyclists/ caravanners wanting to dispose of grey waste etc.

There was a discussion about why everyone from Aberfeldy had to go to Pitlochry to get vaccinations and for breast screening etc. The concern expressed was that facilities in Aberfeldy were being downgraded or under- used, and this was not the direction of travel that people wanted to see.

Date of Next Meeting Tues 3rd October 2023