

ABERFELDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Aberfeldy Town Hall.

Tuesday 7th November 2023 at 7.30pm

MINUTES

Welcome

Present: Victor Clements (Chair), Lorraine Reed (vice Chair), Elaine Fraser Murdoch (Secretary).
Jean Duff (Treasurer), Val Ferguson, Susan Craik, Rob Stubbs.

In attendance: Provost McDade, Cllr Duff, Norma Carr (Community warden) & 13 members of public.

Apologies

Karen Mackay, Pat Spicer

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were taken as read, proposed by RS, and seconded by LR.

Matters Arising

The toilets at the Co-op had supposedly been opened in September for a few days, before being closed down again due to vandalism. VC to follow up.

The Victoria Park toilets were still closed.

The Kenmore Christmas market had now been moved to a different day, and was no longer conflicting with the market in Aberfeldy.

Crime Prevention and Community Safety

Community warden had resolved some issues relating to problems at Birks cinema, with inappropriate behaviour towards staff, and a sign having been removed.

Focus Topics:

Aberfeldy Flooding Debrief

There was a long discussion about the flooding events of 7th October.

The community response by Tayside Waders was very good to protect houses in the lower parts of the town, with good support by PKC resilience team, and the press had recently covered the effectiveness of this.

There had been a range of problems to roads in the wider area, and it may take some time for problems to become apparent, and then to get fixed. The main Glen Lyon road had been fixed and re-opened very quickly.

The event that everyone was most aware of and which had been covered by national news was the flooding at the caravan park. The water had risen very quickly from early morning on Saturday morning. There had been 60-70 caravans on the site, some of which were occupied at the time, and almost all of whom had been caught out by the rising water. A number of farmers and local

construction/ machinery plant operators had organized themselves to try and pull caravans to safety, rescuing c 30 caravans before the water got too deep. A number of people had to be rescued, including one disabled woman, and some young families. By mid- afternoon, the caravan park had to be abandoned, with 30-40 caravans still on site, many of which were then floating by that point. Part of the problem in getting caravans out was that almost all of them had been locked and immobilized. Rescuers had been wading in chest deep water at times, the water being very dirty and contaminated with effluent.

In the aftermath, and on the day itself, the CC received a lot of feedback about the event:

- Nobody staying at the park knew about the specific risk to them, although they were aware of the general situation.
- There had been no communications or warnings from the caravan park, with the only information coming through social media.
- Rescuers had operated independently of the caravan park
- The caravan park had no information about who was on site, and had no system for checking who was present or not.
- While some caravan keys had been left, no-one knew which keys belonged to which caravan.
- There was evidently no contingency plan/ risk assessment or indeed any apparent concern for the caravanners. The onus for dealing with the situation seemed to all be on them.
- It is understood that c 15 people were put up in hotels in the town that evening by PKC resilience planners.
- In the aftermath, it is understood that a high proportion of the caravans on site had to be written off, including some of those pulled out.

Several other comments were that some people were informed that flooding was a winter problem only, that they went to the caravan park to escape from social media pressures, that there was no master key for locks, there were no visible pitch numbers, and that all communications were from the caravanners to the park, not the other way around.

There was a further discussion about how, on the sale of Moness Resort, the caravan park lease had been retained, when a key reason for them getting the lease in 2013 was that the caravan park would then have the back-up of a much larger visitor resort. No such back up now existed.

Aberfeldy CC was to write to PKC environment service to:

- 1 Ask if contingency plans/ risk assessments were in place, and whether the caravan park were in breach of their contract with PKC, or upholding their obligations under Health & Safety legislation. Everything we know suggests that no provision was in place.
- 2 Ask why the caravan park lease had been transferred, when the key consideration of awarding that lease in 2013 was no longer relevant.

In a separate letter, Aberfeldy CC would write to PKC outlining their support for efforts in wider flooding situation.

Resilience Plan

The CC needed to publicize more widely the current plan. VC had met with Locus Breadalbane/ Aberfeldy Timeshare and agreed to do an annual debrief on any events that had taken place in the previous year, and what lessons had been learned.

Taymouth Development/ Moness

The CC were to distribute a survey questionnaire on attitudes to DLC purchase of Moness resort. The price for colour version was £218.11. Dull & Weem CC would like to participate in survey, and there was agreement to do so. The 1500 leaflets would be sufficient to cover both areas. CC members would have to distribute leaflets, including to businesses in the town. Leaflets would be collected in and analysed in early December.

Moness trees

No further update on this.

Tay Forest National Park Consultation

There was to be a consultation event at the campus on Thursday coming, and all encouraged to attend. CC would discuss at December meeting.

Post Office

This was potentially a very serious issue within the town, with the Keystore/ PO shop likely to close, and uncertainty over whether PO services can be moved up to Breadalbane Stores. VC/ ASBA were to discuss with leaseholder to find out what plans are going forwards. Aberfeldy cannot afford to lose PO as well as banks.

Graveyard

No more progress on this.

Garden Competition

There had been 11 entries to garden competition, attracting a number of new families living in area, and Glenlyon Primary school. Would look to repeat competition again in 2024.

Griffin Community Benefit Panel

Micro grants

No applications

Main Fund

Next meeting was later this month. Endowment fund not yet up and operational.

Reports

Chair

A bar had been installed at the Birks to restrict vehicles larger than cars from accessing.

Aberfeldy Development Trust (ADT) were looking at taking forwards a community action plan.

The CC had received an email from Lorna Vander Zanden who had come to Aberfeldy 4-5 years ago to help lead the search for her friend Susan Maclean who had went missing. The search finally recovered her body. LVZ had written to say that she had come to terms with what happened, and was very thankful for the help people had given her while she was here.

Secretary

The new Chinese takeaway was progressing quickly, and was likely to be open before long. It was widely regarded as a good addition to facilities within the town, with many people expressing a willingness to use it.

Treasurer

Accounts had been presented at AGM, earlier in the meeting.

Housing/Planning

There were now several examples locally of short term tourist accommodation being turned down for licencing, or where owners had decided not to pursue licencing and the premises would revert to permanent residential housing. The CC had previously given support in principle to any regulatory actions that would tilt the balance of use towards residential accommodation.

Cllr Reports

Provost McDade

PKC were currently looking at the winter maintenance programme, seeking to build in as much flexibility as possible.

Reminder than postal voting expires three years after application.

The Health & Social Care Partnership were currently working on an agreed plan of delivery.

John Duff

The No 91 bus service was now in operation five days a week, and looking to increase service provision. They were looking for 2 X new drivers at present.

The walker/ cyclist/ caravanning support facility beside Beyond Adventure would be opening soon.

AOCB

There was an ongoing delay on the A9 associated with current works, and this was scheduled to last for several months.

VC to contact Locus Breadalbane again re disabled parking signage at front of town hall.

Date of Next Meeting Tues 5th December 2023