

ABERFELDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Locus Centre Auditorium

Tuesday 5th December 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, Rob Stubbs

In Attendance: Cllr John Duff, Sujeevan Seenithamby (Aberfeldy Post Office/ Breadalbane Stores)

Apologies

Susan Craik, Pat Spicer, Norma Carr (Community warden), Provost McDade.

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes taken as read, proposed by LR, seconded by JD.

Matters Arising

The Christmas market in Aberfeldy had went really well, with good weather, and lots of people attending. Well done to Val Ferguson and all the team who put the day together. It all reflected very well on Aberfeldy.

Will address the Resilience Plan in February, starting with a review of all incidents happening over the year.

The Locus Centre had been in contact with VF re disabled parking place by front door of town hall. The hall had recently got planning permission for adjustments to make entry easier for wheelchair users.

Crime Prevention and Community Safety

No matters arising for the Police.

Community warden had reported a small number of low level issues involving youths in the town.

Focus Topics:

Aberfeldy Flooding

VC had written to PKC Environment Services outlining our concerns about flooding at the caravan park. We also thanked PKC in writing for their support of Tayside Waders. PKC Head of Environment Services had acknowledged letters and would be in contact in due course.

Taymouth Development/ Moness

The Moness survey questionnaires were all out, and also being distributed in Dull & Weem, and being collected via boxes in the town. We would meet on Wed 13th December at 7.30 pm to open

the boxes. John Duff would act as independent witness. All CC members who could be available are asked to attend. It should not take that long.

Moness trees

DLC had confirmed that they had engaged a contractor to fell the trees, and that they would be in contact with the community council in advance of submitting a felling application. This was a legal process that would allow representations to be made if people had any objections.

Tay Forest National Park Consultation

After a discussion about potential positive and negative aspects of having a national park in this area, 4 X CC members voted in favour of the proposal, three were unsure of the balance of benefit or otherwise, and no-one spoke against.

VC to write to Provost indicating support from Aberfeldy CC for the bid.

Post Office

Sujeewan Seenithamby explained his rationale for moving out of the Keystore shop on Dunkeld Street, and consolidating his business in Breadalbane Stores. He wanted to take the Post Office with him, and the PO have agreed to this, but are expecting him to cover their costs of moving (£11,300) as well as £33,000 of costs to set up a suitable space for the PO desk in the new store. Suji is unwilling to do this as he cannot justify the additional £11,300 cost, and plans to hand in three month's notice by the end of this week if a resolution cannot be found.

John Duff is to speak to PKC about what help might be available to help with the transfer, as the PO services provided where such a key facility in the town.

Suji only gets paid on commission for his PO work, and does not receive a commission on any money banked, which can often be very time consuming for little gain. However, the range of PO services do bring people in to his shop, and he wants to keep them on, but he needs some support to be able to do that. He plans to be out of the Keystore building by March next year. If the PO counter cannot be moved, then we will have no PO services in the town. Supporting the existing postal provider is much better than having to try and find a new one, possibly after a long delay.

All present understood the urgency and importance of the situation.

As a secondary consideration, help was being sought to manage parking outside the Breadalbane Stores, which was potentially a better place to park than the PO on Dunkeld St. It was agreed to look at options once, hopefully, the PO service was secure.

Graveyard

VC and Derek Wittman had been up to Borlick Farm to discuss a possible option for a new graveyard site. The farmer was open to discussion, and the site seemed suitable, although there was some doubt about the soil depth in places. DW would take forward with PKC Bereavement Services, who were looking at a range of graveyard issues at the moment. It may be that soil pits could be dug in the New Year to see if the site is indeed suitable. If it is, then wider consultation can take place on the proposal, and discussions opened with the landowner.

Griffin Community Benefit Panel

Micro grants

There were no current applications. One £500 grant had not been spent, and was being paid back to us, and they would be invited to apply again next year.

Main Fund

The next meeting will be in February.

LR to ask at next panel meeting if Aberfeldy can increase our micro grant allocation to £7,500 for one year. We had spent our £5000 very quickly this year, and would probably have been able to distribute more had funds been available. Aberfeldy was the biggest community council area within the community benefit fund area, and yet our allocation was the same as all the others.

Reports

Chair

The play park at Duntium was now open, and would be maintained by the developer for the next year or so. There would then be a discussion about who would maintain the park in the longer term.

Susan Craik would represent the CC on the Friends of Wade's Bridge committee. We had been asked to provide a representative.

Secretary

No further report.

Treasurer

We had £11.87 in road safety money, £283.11 in micro grant money, and £33.90 in administration money. This latter amount will be made up to £700 for the year ahead. The 2022-23 accounts would be sent to PKC shortly.

The Moness survey had cost £218, with Dull & Weem CC covering £60 of this.

Housing/Planning

Nothing to report.

Cllr Reports

No reports.

AOCB

VC to email Cllr Duff regarding the road at Grandtully, which seemed to be subsiding further, and which several people felt needed to be addressed quickly.

It is understood that the Bank of Scotland van will stop coming to Aberfeldy in the New Year.

Concern was expressed that the PKC administration is planning to close 7 X libraries in Perth & Kinross, although there was no current risk to Aberfeldy. There is likely to be major controversy on the back of this. The issue that we needed to be aware of was that if libraries could be closed elsewhere, then it may be easier to do it here in future. All to be aware of the debate on this, and how it might affect other communities, including Pitlochry and Dunkeld.

There was some discussion about the CC using facilities at the campus for meetings, especially as they were set up to do hybrid meetings with people coming in online. However, it was felt that this was not an appropriate thing to do, there being an expectation that the CC use the town hall.

Date of Next Meeting Tues 6th February 2024