

ABERFELDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Aberfeldy Town Hall.

Tuesday 6th August 2024 at 7.30pm

MINUTES

Welcome

Present: Victor Clements (Chair), Lorraine Reed (Vice- Chair), Jean Duff (Treasurer), Rob Stubbs, Susan Craik.

In attendance: Provost McDade

Apologies: Cllr John Duff, Val Ferguson, Elaine Fraser Murdoch

Karen Mackay had decided to leave the CC due to other commitments. Karen had been a CC member for several years, and we thank her for her efforts over that time.

Pat Spicer has also indicated that he is likely to be moving away from Aberfeldy, and therefore, we will need to recruit some-one else to look after the website. Again, we thank Pat for his efforts on setting up the website, posting material, and his work with the road safety group, which we will also now have to delegate.

We had all been saddened to hear the news about Mary MacDougall passing, and several people from Aberfeldy had attended her funeral in Dunkeld. Mary had involved herself with a lot of projects in the town, including representing us on the Community Investment Fund panel, and was instrumental in setting up our wildlife friendly gardening competition, which had a lot of entries this year. It was agreed that VC should approach family to see if they would be amenable to having Mary's name on a cup or plaque for winners of the competition each year.

Minutes of previous meeting

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

Matters Arising

The CC was looking to recruit new people. All encouraged to think about anyone who may like to join.

The road at Bolfracks will be closed from early September to allow the embankment to be repaired, initially in working hours, then entirely as the work is completed. The work is scheduled to last for 6 weeks.

Crime Prevention and Community Safety

No matters arising.

Focus Topics:

Taymouth Development

LR had attended a recent meeting. The castle is now open to guests, with a suggestion that there will be an open day in the autumn for wider community. The Kenmore shop is now open.

In Aberfeldy, it is likely to be some time yet before we see a planning application to change use of some of the cottages at Moness in to full time residential units. Moness resort is believed to be doing well this year, with a wider range of activities being available for the general public. Better advertising on current opportunities is to follow in due course.

Moness trees

VC has been told that the trees are to be felled in September, but no communication with contractor, so we cannot be sure about this.

Graveyard

No feedback from PKC. Suggestion that a graveyard site in this general area be added in to the local development plan.

Caravan Park

Starting to make some progress now in getting PKC involved with risk assessment on the site. The process is extremely slow, but we are duty bound in trying to represent the residents who where flooded last October, so we will persevere with this.

Resilience Plan

We had received funding from PKC to purchase a number of emergency backpacks with equipment for use in emergency situations. VF had been co-ordinating this. These would help the flood response efforts at the lower end of the town, and be available for emergency response more generally. VC would ask VF to bring a backpack to September meeting to show what they contained.

Local Development Plan

PKC are consulting on this at the moment, and the CC needs to provide a reply. The emphasis at the moment is on strategic arrangements , with a more detailed analysis to take place in the next phase.

It was suggested we make the following points:

- 1 The need for additional graveyard space
- 2 We need a greater supply of housing stock, particularly as the loss of housing stock to holiday accommodation and second homes is greater than the rate of new houses being built.
- 3 That there be greater flexibility given to permitted development rights, where large houses can for example be split up in to smaller units, or possibly extended to add an additional housing unit.
- 4 Aberfeldy currently has a large development envelope to the east of the town, but there appears to be little prospect of this progressing. We would like to see additional zones designated for housing across a range of different owners, so that at any one time, at least some of them can be going forwards.

- 5 We would like to see a higher % of affordable homes in developments in the area, to counteract the much higher level of second homes in this area.

Griffin Community Benefit Panel

Micro grants

There was one application to consider after the meeting.

Applications were slow to come in this year. All to encourage suitable applications from suitable groups and community activities.

Main Fund

There was some discussion about the lack of progress on the endowment fund, and the frustration caused by that. To get full value from any such fund, it is important that this be set up in the near future and get money invested in to it, as the scheme is now almost 15 years old, and we want something to be in place once the scheme ends. To achieve that, funds need to be invested now.

Reports

Chair

The Community Action Planning exercise conducted in the town had gathered in well over 500 replies from individuals and 30 replies from businesses. Results were currently being collated. It is planned to have an open event in October at which priorities for the community will be laid out, and there will be an opportunity to speak to people about different aspects of what is proposed. The CC will be represented, and will be available to answer questions.

The Wildlife Friendly Garden competition had 15 entries this year, and the standard was very good. VC judging at the moment. There were 10 entries from within the town and 5 outwith, giving 33 different gardens to date over the three years. See point above about getting a cup/ plaque carrying Mary MacDougall's name.

Rabbie had been knocked off his bench in the Birks. PKC aware and dealing with the matter. Not sure whether vandalism or some other reason.

Scottish Government had decided to evaluate Galloway for being the third National Park in Scotland, with Tay Forest being one of two other bids that met the criteria. There may now be pressure to extend one or other of the existing parks. PKC obviously disappointed that Tay Forest did not win through in the initial phase.

RS will represent the CC in the Community Investment Fund process.

Secretary

No report

Treasurer

There is currently £332.12 in the administration account, £4211.11 of micro grant money, £2200 of defibrillator money, and £254.22 of resilience funds.

We will have our AGM in October, and accounts will be made up to end of August. Any expenses for printing or mileage should be submitted to JD within the next week or so.

Housing/Planning

No planning applications.

The application for a restaurant in Mojos Curios had been successful.

Cllr Reports

Not involving Aberfeldy directly, but PKC will be discussing the future of Pullar House, and also the PH20 development which is focused on Dewars rink/ swimming pool. The existing facilities are obviously used by a much wider area outwith Perth.

AOCB

The campus have an Acting Interim Head Teacher at the moment, and will be re-advertizing for the Head Teacher position, suitable candidates having not been attracted in the previous round. It is not ideal for the school, but the interim arrangement seems to be working for now.

Date of Next Meeting Tues 3rd September 2024