

ABERFELDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Aberfeldy Town Hall.

Tuesday 3rd September 2024 at 7.30pm

AGENDA

Welcome

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

In attendance: Cllr John Duff.

Apologies

Provost McDade, Susan Craik, Norma Carr (community warden).

Minutes of previous meeting

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

Matters Arising

VC had been to see Mary MacDougall's son to speak about possibly having her name on a trophy or cup for winners of the wildlife gardening competition. Will look to confirm or not in October.

The CC are still trying to recruit new people.

The road repairs at Bolfracks have been postponed to 2025, as tenders received were not suitable.

Crime Prevention and Community Safety

No matters arising at the meeting.

Focus Topics:

Taymouth Development

There had been no further meetings since August. It has been reported that Timeshare owners at Moness have been advised that Timeshare arrangements will come to an end in December, although that does not necessarily mean that some of the cottages will not be getting used for holiday accommodation. Any change in use will require planning consent, as previously advised. We are to be informed when an application is imminent.

Moness have been making a range of activities available for local use, although this has perhaps not been all that well advertised within the town.

Moness trees

Making a start to the trees was due to start in September, but a felling licence has yet to be granted. VC to contact contractor doing the work to check current situation.

Graveyard

No further update on this. We have asked PKC that provision for a new graveyard is made within the new Local Development Plan.

Caravan Park

VC and VF had attended a meeting at caravan park to discuss flood response resilience, and John Duff had since also been to see them. JoD has been able to confirm that a range of improvements have been made since the flood last October, particularly in relation to communications, and that the park should be in a better position to respond effectively if/ when this happens again. VC to report this back to those who contacted us last year with their concerns. JD/EFM & VF would try out the new caravan park app to see what information was on there. VC and JoD would arrange to go and see caravan park management again to confirm that we are happier that a stronger plan for resilience is now in place.

Resilience Plan

VF had received funding from PKC which has allowed for the purchase of 4 X rechargeable battery packs, foil blankets and a range of other emergency response equipment, including 4 X backpacks with emergency kit for those local volunteers leading an emergency response.

VC & VF to finalize resilience plan before October meeting, asking PKC for help in doing so.

Local Development Plan

VC had responded by letter to LDP consultation, which at this stage is looking at issues in principle. At Stage 2, specific proposals will be consulted upon. The CC have raised the issue of the supply of new affordable houses, and also the need for additional graveyard provision within the town.

Griffin Community Benefit Panel

Micro grants

There were 5 X micro grant applications to be decided after the meeting.

Main Fund

There was to be a main panel meeting on Thurs 5th September coming. The endowment fund should now be close to getting established. The panel were in a position to make a substantial initial investment, with a six figure sum being invested thereafter. The current funding would come to an end in 2035, and it was important to plan so that some sort of funding option was possible beyond that point.

Reports

Chair

The community planning exercise had received 570 replies, and would be organizing a community information day in the town hall on Saturday 26th October. The CC would be represented, and could answer questions and take comments on board.

There were a number of issues around the town that could potentially be improved, so it will be interesting to see what action points can be developed to try and take some of these things forwards. Communications within the town, and the CC role within that was one of the issues that some people felt could be improved.

Secretary

No additional report.

Treasurer

We had £143.82 of administration grant money, £4211.11 of microgrant money, £2200 defibrillator money and £254.22 of resilience planning money.

The October meeting would be our AGM. JD would have provisional accounts complete in advance of that. We may need alternative means of verifying accounts this year. JD to action.

Cllr Duff would open the October meeting, at which point, the positions for office bearers would be decided. All to contact JoD if they were interested in taking on an office bearer position.

VC to do annual report as usual.

Housing/Planning

An application had been submitted to re-roof part of Breadalbane Terrace. It is not a council matter as such as all but one of the flats was privately owned, and the work would need the consent of all those with a legal responsibility for the roof.

Cllr Reports

There was a discussion about short term lets. PKC Environment and Infra structure committee had decided NOT to require planning approval for conversion of houses into short term lets. Aberfeldy CC had previously decided that it was in favour of such a provision, and VC had written to the Courier to make this point.

Flats do require planning permission, where shared access is required. Otherwise, planning not now required.

The council would be deciding whether to consent to the large PH20 proposal in Perth, centred on swimming pool and leisure provision. Done properly, this could be a big attraction within Perth, consolidating existing infrastructure, but there was a concern that the family part of the swimming pool would be lost, and there were also very significant implications for the availability of parking within the city centre, with the Timberow carpark being developed, and implications for other parking areas as well, notably at the Dewars Centre. This is a big decision for the council to make. A lot of people from Highland Perthshire will make use of the current facilities there, especially the family provision at the swimming pool.

New legislation on pavement parking would shortly be implemented, involving £100 fines for anyone parked on pavements and potentially obstructing them. The new arrangement will be implemented by traffic wardens, in Aberfeldy as elsewhere.

There is also going to be a significant reduction in verge cutting from 2025 onwards, due to budget cuts, with a reduction to twice annually on the main A class roads, and just once elsewhere.

AOCB

There had been complaints about the amount of mud on the road to the east of town following the potato harvest in fields below the road. It was now cleaned up.

There were significant concerns about the staffing problems at the leisure centre, with facilities, including the swimming pool, regularly closed. JoD speaking to LiveActive about this at present. There was an interim head teacher in position at the school at present. Interviews would be taking place later this month for some-one to fill the position on a permanent basis. RS was now the Parent Council representative on the Learning & Families Committee of PKC, in a non voting role. This should be good for Aberfeldy in keeping us up to speed with what is happening in education more widely.

Date of Next Meeting Tues 1st October 2024 AGM.