

ABERFELDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

Aberfeldy Town Hall

Wednesday 1st August 2018 at 7.30pm

Minutes

Welcome

Present: Victor Clements (Chair; VC), Duncan Curran (Deputy Chair, DC) Jean Duff (Treasurer; JD), Ian Menzies (IM), Patrick Spicer (Acting Secretary, PS), Mark Jenkins (MJ)

In Attendance: Norma Carr (Community Warden; NC), and 8 other members of the public. Our Community Policing Team from Pitlochry were also in attendance, though they apologised for their late arrival due to a call-out for a rescue in the hills (Sgt Caroline McNaughton, CM, & Jamie Elder, JE).

Apologies

Cllr John Duff (Cllr JD), Cllr Xander McDade (XM), Lorraine Reed (LR)

New Members

VC reported that enquiries have been received from people wishing to put themselves forward for co-option on to the ACC, but no further completed forms have been received back.

Minutes of the previous meeting (May 2017, AGM and Regular Meeting, June Meeting)

The minutes for all three meetings have been circulated and confirmed by the ACC. VC asked for a proposer for formal ratification of the regular meeting minutes for May and June. JD Proposed and MJ seconded adoption. There were no objections. (AGM minutes to be ratified at next AGM)

Matters Arising/Action List

Golf Course Bridge: VC stated that advice had been received that the visit by the designing engineer had taken place, but it was not known what the next steps would be. PS reported on an inspection visit that indicated no missing parts due to vandalism in the central part of the bridge and NC reported recovery of the parts that had been thrown in the river.

Fireworks: VC reported on two meetings with Lio Ballard. They had concluded that as no venue had been identified nor were suitable ones in sight, that this plan be dropped, at least for this year.

Car Pooling: VC met with Mary MacDougall re car pooling idea. There was discussion of doing some market research and developing a proposal for consultation. No forward action was agreed or assigned and no timetable proposed or set.

Resilience Plan: The meeting recorded as planned in the June meeting minutes did not take place and no progress has been made. VC stated that the draft plan just needed updating in respect of numbers and a few responsibilities needed allocating. NC advised of help available from PKC officers Paul Laidlaw and John Handling (Health, Safety and Wellbeing Manager).

Dalweem updates from Robert Packham: Action by XM to press for regular updates noted in June minutes. XM had made the request by e-mail, but the outcome was not known with XM absent. No update had been received. MJ undertook to approach Sandra, the manager of the Dalweem Unit to see if he could obtain a local update.

Street Drains: VC remarked that Cllr JD had reported back on his attempts to get the drains cleared. Following a walk round the town he noted a considerable number of blocked drains. These were reported to the appropriate team and have all been cleared. He also asked the street cleansing team to get the mechanical sweeper lorry to visit the town to clear the sand, grit and debris left after winter before it was washed down the drains and the sweeper was out and has given the town's streets a clean. Members of the public commented that they had noted there were still blocked drains. In particular, mention was made of one outside Munros shop which was being chased by Billy from Humanos. PS noted that Scottish Water have advised that they are not responsible for these. The correct authority to address are PKC. Only if the sewer itself is blocked do Scottish Water get involved. If a drain needs clearing, this should be reported via phone (01738 476476) or the PKC website with a specific location. Photos have been useful in getting action in the past.

Double Yellow Lines (DYLs): Cllr JD had taken the action to request restoration of the faded and eroded lines around the town. With assistance from PS a report had been compiled and sent in as a formal work request and the work was now in the queue. PS commented that he had been unable to discuss this feedback from Cllr JD and that he would be clarifying what had happened to our previous request that had been reported as slated for the spring time.

Parking at Moness Crescent/Moness Avenue: Cllr JD had taken the action to enquire what was going on with the parking area and the garages. Written feedback had been received (attached). He had established that the intent had been to consult on the way forward and affected residents should have received a letter, with a reply by date of July 30th. A member of the public did confirm receipt. It was not clear whether everyone potentially impacted had in fact received the letter. There was discussion as to whether privately owned garages could be repaired or replaced. The feedback was that PKC would like to see them gone due to their condition, but that as privately owned, on rented PKC land, this could not be done

without agreement and it therefore appeared that restoration or re-build might be an option. The intent for the spaces with numbered posts is in the written feedback.

Rapid Response Car: Feedback not called for by the Chair. Deferred to September meeting.

Community Council Boundaries: VC reported that he had been assured that there was no plan to change the ACC area boundary.

Cultullich Bridge: VC commented on the fact that works were to be put off until next year. He believed that PKC planned to come forward with proposals for a by-pass Bailey Bridge to enable the road to be kept open during the summer works. Concern was expressed that the message previously received was that the works needed to proceed to avoid the possibility of more extensive closure due to catastrophic failure and therefore that PKC do not wait until it is too late to plan for the new approach and to aim at the earliest possible start allowed by the environmental concerns.

Who:	Action	By When
VC	Speak to Golf Club representatives and obtain word on the forward plan	September Meeting
VC	Agree date and time for meeting with NC to go through the draft resilience plan	In week beginning 6/8
NC	Make contact with PKC officers for input to Resilience Plan	
PS	To speak to XM on return from vacation to get update on Dalweem feedback plan and failing that to speak to Cllr JD on his return from vacation re further approach	August 10th
MJ	Approach Sandra at Dalweem to get a local update	Asap but at least for Sept mtg
PS	To follow up with Cllr JD on the DYLs work request	August 10th
NC (assisted by MJ)	Establish status of the Rapid Response Car that was originally assigned to Aberfeldy	September Meeting
CM	Establish the details of the incidence of police speeding through square and pass on feedback, report back	September meeting
PS	Add cycling on pavements to work of RSSG	TBD
PS	Look into possibility of ACC website hosted by PKC and / or develop pilot website to consult on and decide	No time fixed – as and when time permits
PS	Update Insurance wording and seek quote for insuring assets	Asap, so as to be in place in September
VC	If decision made to buy cover, seek PKC funding	September
JD	Acquire copy of Land Registry details for the Cottage Hospital	Asap, but by Sept mtg

NC	Investigate tree obstruction of mini-roundabout signs and try to obtain action	By Sept mtg
Not assigned	Approach RBS about failings of present mobile bank; weather provision particularly	Not scheduled
PS	Invite Jeannie Grant to address a future ACC meeting, date to be agreed	August 7 th
PS	Meet with Jeannie Grant re Greenspace issues; report back to next ACC meeting if Jeannie does not come.	August 7 th / Sept mtg

Crime Prevention and Community Safety

The Community Policing team not being present at this point, PS gave a summary from the Commanders Bulletins. Present police focus is on many forms of fraud involving phone, e-mail and online approaches. Specific mention of Take Five Campaign (<https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/>). Mention was made of the Trauma Teddies appeal which is also on our Facebook Page. Only one local incident had been reported involving theft of video recording equipment stolen from a journalist at Breadalbane Football Club's ground. NC was asked if she had anything to add and noted abandoned cars that had been reported for dealing with and occasional reports of noise and litter from groups adjacent to the river. NC confirmed that part of her two day week is now spent in Pitlochry. She still usually does a Tuesday in Aberfeldy and is still running her drop-in at the Safety Hub.

Subsequently JE gave a report. This noted 31 calls of which 6 were road traffic related and 3 for disturbances, one at the campsite and two in respect of the same incident on Dunkeld Street. He reported that as a result of intelligence received there had been 2 drug busts in Aberfeldy as a result of which one person was in jail and two others charged (maybe same incident reported in June meeting). CM emphasised the key role of local intelligence in these matters and asked for this to continue to be provided. In this respect specific appeal was made with regard to drivers who might be tempted to drive under the influence of alcohol. The request was to encourage them not to or take their keys (by agreement not force) or to phone it in to the police for them to follow up.

PS raised the issue of Police cars speeding through the square that had been raised earlier in the meeting under the Road Safety item (see below). CM undertook to follow up, establish what had actually happened and express these concerns. JE commented that police procedures and training for this type of driving meant that it was probably safer than it seemed and given the confines of the square was probably not as fast as it appeared to be.

Dalweem

There being no further news, this agenda item was only addressed under Matters Arising.

Focus Topics

Resilience Plan

There being no progress to report and discuss this was only addressed under Matters Arising.

Speeding/Parking Issues

PS reported back on the activities of the Road Safety Sub Group. He took the opportunity to display the recently acquired Pop-Up Policeman ("Jim"). Appeal was made for more volunteer help to be able to deploy these on a regular basis and one member of the public did volunteer. A written summary of activities and progress is attached to these minutes. Under this topic two matters were raised. DC mentioned an incident of blue-light, high-speed driving by police cars through the square about ten days ago. In his view the speeds (he thought in excess of 60 mph) could not be justified in terms of shortening their travel time to the incident in question and in this 20mph zone with blind corners and pedestrians was an extremely dangerous thing to do. PS took an action to try to establish the date (it was thought to relate to the recent RTA on Kenmore Road that had resulted in a temporary closure) and pass feedback to Police. Their subsequent arrival negated the need to record this as a formal action going forward. Cycling on pavements: a member of the public raised the problem of cycling on the pavements in Aberfeldy which are not really suitable for this and not marked for dual use. Request was made to look into whether signage could be put up to deter this and thereby reduce the practice and risk, as well as make it possible to act against those who did not comply with the highway code. PS agreed to note this request and address as part of RSSG efforts. There was discussion of whether, in a no enforcement world, there was much point in taking action beyond raising awareness and encouraging adherence to the highway code. Bill Hoare mentioned that the problem of the Kenmore Road mini-roundabout signs being obscured by tree branches and leaves was again getting out of control. PS stated that he understood the trees were on private land and therefore it was up to the owner to control them. PKC could however put pressure on if required. NC undertook to take a look and try to talk to the property owner.

Communication and Consultation / Long Term Plan

This topic was on the agenda in response to a challenge from the member of the public at previous meetings. PS spoke to this matter. Mention was made in this respect of a process to develop a pro-active five-year plan based on local community priorities by the Muthill CC. PS stated that work had been to develop proposals for changed ways of working to address the concerns raised, but these were not yet ready to bring forward. There was particular discussion of the use of Facebook and a website to improve communication flow. PS felt that we were making progress with our FB page. VC, however, championed the cause of greater use of the Community Noticeboard page. Yet others felt we should persevere with our own page as otherwise our communications might get a bit swamped by material from

other contributors. There is no harm in both and material from our page could be shared on the Noticeboard. There was a call for dates and agendas of meetings to be posted there to boost publicity and hopefully gain greater interest. No one volunteered to do this, however. There seemed general agreement that developing a "Whats App" Group was not the way to go. PS agreed at some point to look into a pilot website and at whether there is a possibility of this being hosted by PKC. It was noted that Facebook was great for time related material and for pushing messages out, but websites were still better for longer term fixed info and widely used for this. VC asked if minutes could somehow get posted to the Noticeboard. PS commented on unresolved problems with posting of minutes on the Locus Breadalbane Website. On the long term plan, VC commented that some years ago Charettes had been held in the town hall, which had lead to prioritised plans and that the Town Square Re-development had come out of this process. Allusion was also made to a house to house survey also conducted some time back and coordinated by Avril Taylor. There is therefore precedent for this approach. However, with the passage of time maybe this needs re-visited and new plans made. No decision was called for by the chair and no actions formally recorded. PS however, intends to press on with bringing proposals forward. He ended by noting that we could achieve more if members of the public with particular interest in an issue could volunteer to help progress things under the auspices and authority of the ACC. At present there is too much reliance on the small number of ACC members, most of whom have busy lives to manage as well.

Aberfeldy Fireworks 2018

Dealt with under Matters Arising

Regeneration of Town Square

VC reported on the issue of insufficient finance and that Mike Morgan was going to a PKC committee meeting on 2nd August where it is likely there would be a decision as to whether more money could be found, a reduced scheme approved or the plan abandoned. It was queried whether a representative could attend, but VC reported not. Discussion ensued on whether the money could be diverted to other matters or whether it might be diverted for a similar purpose elsewhere. There was no definitive information available. Views were expressed that it were better to compromise on the quality of the materials than drop the scheme, but it was not thought that this could bridge the gap. A minimum case of the provision of power points was said to have been agreed. VC commented he was of the view that unless we got a substantial improvement to the appearance and utility of the square it was not worth the disruption that we would have to bear. No vote was called for on the topic.

Insurance

PS commented on the need to feed information into the purchase of a PKC block policy for cover of our activities. He mentioned that the current wording would be updated to reflect

the physical activities of the RSSG. He also mentioned that the insurance did not historically cover fixed assets as the ACC did not have any. With the purchase of various things for the works of the RSSG, this would not be the case going forward. We needed to choose whether to be insured for these assets or not. The decision was taken to ask for a quote and seek funds from PKC if necessary. PS undertook to do this.

Cottage Hospital: Research into Deeds

JD reported on progress of the research. Nothing substantive established yet but a huge source of documents that might provide answers has been located at the University of Dundee. There was discussion of spending the money to get the details of the current ownership from the Land Registry to provide some clues and this was agreed.

Action Partnerships (AP) (added item)

VC raised the issue of an ACC representative being nominated to the AP. He reported on latest meeting of the existing AP at the Campus in June at which it had been agreed to split the present partnership in two. One for Highland Perthshire (to correspond to the Highland ward) and one for the Strathtay end of the current AP. He offered two models. One of inviting applications from the general public and a selection process (as for Griffin) or a volunteer from the ACC itself. MJ volunteered. PS agreed to be his deputy to ensure representation at all meetings. Mention was made of the intention to continue with Participatory Budgeting (PB) events under the Action Partnership as have been held the last two years, with PKC are committed to move towards 1% of their total budget being spent in this way in future.

Community Choices Fund -Application news

PS reported on the application for a slice of a central government fund for PB events, the Community Choices Fund. This had been announced in June, with a deadline of July 13 for applications. This fund was the source of some of the money PKC had distributed in past years, but now Central Government wanted the money to go direct to Community Councils and/or other local organisations rather than the Councils. At the AP meeting, our Elected Representatives (ERs) had gauged interest in a joint application by the 9 Highland CCs. As a result of a positive response, Cllrs JD and XM had worked, with support from PS, to draft an application for a fund totalling £90K on behalf of an alliance of Community Councils lead by ACC. This has had full written support of the other CCs and was duly submitted before the deadline. Results are expected in August. VC commented that if successful, a lot of work will follow on. PS agreed that if successful a new organisation would need to be formed to oversee the process. VC commented this would be not unlike the reportedly defunct HPCP. He further commented that although this had been reported as wound up, it was in fact still in existence and still running the pilot Broadband project. He expressed opposition to re-engaging with the rump, as a means to this end, because of concerns re the possibility of

hidden financial liabilities. ACC no longer a paid-up subscriber, so not affected (or fully informed).

Common Good Fund

VC reported that our paper on how a community rep would have speaking rights on the CGF committee had been accepted and that in future we could raise matters of concern. We could also attend and speak to items on the agenda of interest, after local consultation, and call for agenda items to be delayed, via the Chair, Mike Williamson, if there was insufficient time to have that local debate and a decision. PS enquired about the option for remote attendance mentioned by MW, but there was no news.

Mention was also made under this heading of the consultation process for development of a new 5 year plan for the Birks. This is being championed by Jeannie Grant our Greenspace Ranger, but will be written by Annabelle O'Connell. Consultation events happened on June 13th (attended by PS on behalf of ACC) and June 20th. An online questionnaire was out there to gather views. (link on our Facebook Page – may have closed?).

Griffin Community Benefit Panel

With LR unable to attend and no news via other members of the ACC this item was passed over.

Reports

Chair

(HPCP remarks recorded above). M2Improve had been approached about a memorial plaque for Ian Campbell in the Lower Birks and this was going forward. Dementia Friendly Aberfeldy meeting on August 28th. VC mentioned invite to attend. PS commented this was distributed personally, but was confirmed as an open invitation. Details on our FB page. Request has been made that if intending to go, please advise the organiser for catering reasons. In the Church in Aberfeldy. Bolfraks Forest Management Plan. No reason for us to be involved, so not going to engage.

Acting Secretary

Briefly summarised correspondence received and what is done with it. Particular reference to the regular circulars from planning and the police. Important extracts are put on our FB page and circulated to the ACC. Over the last two months nothing of importance on the planning application or decision lists. Request made for feedback on whether there was too much, too little or whether stuff was missing.

PS mentioned he had been contacted re meetings dates, by Pete Wishart's secretary, as our MP wanted to be informed of what is going on and might attend. It then turned out that he is rarely around on a Wednesday, so will likely not come himself, may send along a rep. I

sent minutes, as requested, and agenda, but have not heard back as to whether anyone would be coming or not.

Treasurer

ACC currently has £595.60 in its main fund and £2175.00 in the Micro-Grant pot. Funds for speeding equipment - £1465.46. A cheque was requested for the purchase of the Kiddie pop-ups by the RSSG and this was duly delivered.

Councillor's Reports: None, as none in attendance.

AOCB

Mobile Banks and RBS in particular: much discussion about the quality of provision and its present lack of customer focus. In particular, a request was made that RBS be encouraged to make better provision for queuing customers to have shelter from the weather when waiting outside (at least from rain hail and snow.) The suggestion was that an awning be fitted to the side of the "bus" and this be suitably deployed. Problems with insufficient change were mentioned and this then knocking on to the TSB branch, who have had to introduce a customer only rule. Further mention was made of problems of cash machine running out of cash, and of payments information going missing. JD stated that there were problems with both RBS and BoS buses. There was also mention of problems with availability of the Post Office option which was part of the RBS argument for being able to close. Finally, there has been reports of numbers of people shifting from RBS to TSB. No action was agreed from this discussion and the Chair subsequently advised he felt these were matter for individuals to take forward.

Beavers: The problem of Beaver damage to tress and what could be done about it. There was no real conclusion or action from the discussion, but it was asserted that Beavers are not protected and therefore farmers can shoot them if they become a threat to their interests. It was felt for now the situation should be monitored, but action might become necessary.

Aberfeldy Greenspace: PS reported on an upcoming meeting with Jeannie Grant, the Greenspace Ranger, to discuss tall trees in particular, but more generally maintenance of greenspace in the town. It is clear this is a complex issue with ownership differences across the piece as well as departmental budget issues. It is hoped the meeting will provide some clarity, so the community might be able to influence things for the better. Mention was made of community complaints about the state of the Riverbank walk and the height of many trees. VC mentioned goal of having Jeannie come to an upcoming ACC meeting to address us directly. PS undertook to make the request in course of his meeting.

Date of Next Meeting **Wednesday 5th September 2018, 7.30 p.m. in the Town Hall**

Councillor John Duff Feedback on the Moness Parking Issue:

Rented parking spaces Moness Avenue/Crescent

The old wooden garages at the top of Moness Avenue/Crescent are privately owned but are built on plots which the owners rent from the Council. There are currently 26 garages at the site – 8 on Moness Crescent and 18 on Moness Avenue. Of these, 6 on Moness Crescent and 10 on Moness Avenue are currently occupied.

The Council are currently consulting with the occupants regarding the future of the garages which are not in a good standard of repair and indeed some of which appear to be beyond repair. It is clearly stated in the tenancy agreement that “The subjects shall be maintained in a state of repair to the satisfaction of the Council and the curtilage kept to the satisfaction of the Council at all times.” The garages are interlinked and in many cases are separated internally by chicken wire. The Council are seeking a consensus from the majority of tenants to remove the garages (see attached letter) but allow occupants to retain the plot (with posts, chain and padlock to maintain the former garage plot as theirs). The Council has no plans to build new garages on this site.

An additional 21 posts have been installed down Moness Avenue. I have been informed that there are no plans to block off these spaces in totality. However, if a resident wants to reserve a space of their own, they could ask to rent one and this would then be blocked off with the posts, chain and padlock for their sole use. The rental of these spaces will be the same as the garage plots - £2.08 per week.

RSSG Report back

Meetings

June 14th: RSSG and Councillors. Topic: how to accelerate progress of the work. Understanding PKC priority setting and resource constraints.

June 26th: Chair of the Griffin Fund panel. Discuss our application and the direction of the work. Listen to case for speed bumps as part of the mix (not previously advocated) agree to address in community consultation.

June 27th Cllr John Duff on the DYL repair issue

July 3rd Lucy Shabbaz. Welcome her to the RSSG and discuss her particular concerns re Victoria Park environs.

July 12th Group meeting. Full agenda: Pop-Ups: VASS Locations : DYLs - Loading Bays - Disabled Parking – Status – and what next : Changes to 30/40 mph zones – Exhibition / Community Consultation – Safety by the Park – Develop Action Plan STP – Status and Action Plan : Rural Paths – Funding Offer –Funding – Griffin – Co-op – Councillors Meeting – Feedback / Q&A Living Streets report – Community owned and operated Radar Gun : Progress letter

July 17th Walkabout to look further at DYL issues and where not just repainting but changing might be called for.

July 24th: Jimmy and I met with Roddy Ross Team Leader for Safer Communities to discuss how to progress various actions from previous meetings that were not moving along fast enough. Enforcement? / Safety Camera Partnership / Trying to get our Mobile VAS to be a reality.: Latest Surveys : Future work : AP on Road Safety : Pop-ups : Community Radar Guns : Dash cams and linking to enforcement.

Actions:

Progressed and had outline agreement to pop-up risk assessment. Needs update once pop-ups are here and definitive dimensions and means of deployment can be incorporated. On basis that group accepted we were good to go, ordered pop-ups. Jims have arrived, Kids due end of this week or early next.

DYLS: ideas from a second walkabout lead to update of paper earlier written for John Duff to take forward. Revised paper to be discussed with John on return from leave next week

(hopefully) and can get on with developing firm plans.. In particular, RSSG are looking at working up proposals to put in one or more loading bays, in a drive to stop dangerous parking by delivery vehicles in the square and on Dunkeld Street/Bank Street.

Letter drafted and sent to traffic team contact Daryl McKeown and CCd to Keith McNamara.

Received proposals for three more VASS locations in Aberfeldy from Blair Watt. These have been acknowledged and feedback promised. Discussed and drafted feedback paper which is still to be sent, but will go soon.

Agreed to work towards Exhibition and consultation exercise to give greater clarity to various proposals being worked and seek Community views. Planning underway. Probably targeting mid to late September

Speed zone changes. Proposals put forward to change speed zone limits in Aberfeldy as part of the campaign to calm excessive speeding. Two of our proposals have been in part put out for formal consultation. Following this, agreed schemes, perhaps amended as a result of the consultation, would go to committee for ratification in September. Others on hold for now, but we are still pressing re East Aberfeldy and the 20 mph zone.

3 Further Radar surveys have been conducted. One at the East and one at the West end of town beyond the present 30 mph zone end. The idea was to gather baseline data that could be compared to post traffic calming measures surveys, after our hoped for changes are brought in. Finally, the survey from last summer on Kenmore Road was repeated to see what impact the new VASS had had. This was found to be positive, but still a significant speeding problem.

Analysis of the data from Crieff road survey of 2017 was conducted to look at directionality in connection with the proposals for three more VASSs. This showed that as on other arterial routes we appear to have greater problems with premature acceleration outbound than with late braking in bound (despite the hill!).