

ABERFELDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

Aberfeldy Town Hall

Wednesday 1st February 2017 at 7.30pm

Draft Minutes

Welcome

Present: Victor Clements (Chair), Jean Duff (Treasurer), Duncan Curran, Ian Menzies, Lorraine Reed, Pat Spicer.

In Attendance: Cllr Ian Campbell, Cllr Mike Williamson, Norma Carr (Community Warden), Mike Morgan (PKC) & 4 members of the public.

Apologies

Ron Young (Vice Chair)

Minutes of the previous meeting

No changes to what was circulated. Proposed for approval by Jean Duff, seconded by Ian Menzies

Matters Arising

VC and PS attended the HPCP EGM January 30th. The forward plan is to transfer the Broadband assets to a community owned entity called Ossian Connected to protect what has been achieved so far. Ossian Connected would have trustees comprising the remaining HPCP trustees. The plan also calls for the lease on the office in Pitlochry to be transferred to Heartland Radio, who would sub-lease back to Ossian Connected space for the Broadband project. This, the meeting was advised, would leave HPCP with no assets, liabilities or cash. The meeting was also advised that relevant entities (CBS, P&KC, the office landlord) had agreed, in principle, to this plan. This would then allow new trustees to come forward and take over HPCP and set a new agenda. The current chairman stated that the existing trustees would start winding up HPCP if three new trustees were not forthcoming by February 3rd. Two people put themselves forward at the meeting, but subsequently decided to withdraw. The expectation is that the remaining trustees/executive will complete the

above forward plan by the end of the current financial year in March and wind up the organization.

Meeting with Moness re the caravan park took place, attended by IC and VC

Ian Campbell reported on progress of re-use/upcycling centres in Pitlochry and Aberfeldy. Due limited funding, current effort was directed to looking for partners.

Recycling issues in Aberfeldy, were much discussed. However, this topic has been held over to be given prominence on our Agenda at the next meeting in March. It is hoped relevant experts can be invited along.

MW reported that the programme focussing on Domestic Abuse issues had completed.

The deployment of speed data gathering equipment in Aberfeldy reportedly took place in January as planned. However, the collation and analysis of the data collected has yet to be completed. This will hopefully be reported back to our next meeting.

“High Speed” broadband has arrived in Aberfeldy and it is now possible to apply for a connection.

MW reported that the traffic wardens had visited as planned. A report on the outcomes will be available for next month’s meeting.

The issue of dog fouling of the town was discussed. The Community Warden (Norma) has been pursuing this with new signs and leaflets and verbal warnings being given to offenders. The present policy is for the CW not to initiate fine processes, so as to build trust between the community and the warden. Members of the public are encouraged to report observations of offenders and to similarly discourage owners from re-offending. MW flagged that such reports can be made online.

(<http://forms.pkc.gov.uk:8080/Ef3/General.jsp?form=SSReportingDogFouling&page=DogFouling>).

It was also reported that the Red bins for dog waste are to go, with use of ordinary litter bins to be the substitute. Norma has been trying to get some new general waste bins installed to plug gaps that the removal of the red bins will create.

The funding plan for PKC has fed into the ongoing budget process. It is expected that this will result in cuts of roughly 3 ½%.

MW reported that Tayside Waders resilience plan was now completed and there would be a launch meeting/event on 20th March, 7.30 pm, at the bowling club. The document was not yet available but MW undertook to obtain a copy and to pass it on.

The ETAPE route. BH said there was no further news, so it was expected there would be no change in 2017.

The derelict church next to the school campus. No letter had yet gone out and the problem of excluding children from playing there remained. NC reported that efforts to keep the barricading in place was not yet working. VC undertook to write.

The PKC roads folk are on the case of looking into the slippery pavements, but no information was available about their plans.

Meeting with Historic Scotland in connection with the town square regeneration plan did take place. Their involvement would only likely be in respect of historic buildings adjacent that could do with support and any application from Aberfeldy would have to compete with applicants in other areas. On the walkabout that was part of the meeting no obvious targets were identified. It was reported to the meeting that the Co-op building had been sold to the owners of the Factory Shop in Perth. No timescale for their future plans was available. It was also reported that the former Bank of Scotland building had been sold.

VC reported that efforts had been started to seek funding the community warden post in the longer term. This would come up again as a special item on the agenda of our April meeting.

Crime Prevention and Community Safety

There were no Police representatives present. No issues raised by members of the ACC or Public. MW reported that the Rural Crime Forum was on Feb 2nd. The Rural Crime event is on the 23rd February, but no venue has been announced as yet MW undertook to pass on further details when available.

Resilience Planning – Defibrillators

Four of the units are now up and running and being monitored by Norma. No problems so far. Work to deploy the fifth in the Moness Crescent area is ongoing with a site identified.

Plans for further training to strengthen the first responders group were reported. Norma will be one of those trained at an event in April.

Regeneration of Town Square

Mike Morgan spoke of the current state of progress. Based on previous consultations the plan being worked is to make the square more flexible for events, with a reduction in parking spaces to 7. Another key drive is to better link together the town centre assets, this includes the Lower Birks. Plans would include the installation of power points to facilitate events and the market in particular, which was doing very well. Current plan sees specification and procurement happening by end summer, with main works in Spring 2018.

Common Good

Nothing to report.

Under this item Gordon Stronach raised concerns about the lack of a group caring about the Upper Birks. He made the case for trying to form a group to address issues ("The Friends of the Upper Birks" or something like this). There was some discussion of the idea and a suggestion made in the first instance to try to work with the PKC Greenspace team. However, there was no harm in trying to seek like-minded folk to form a group and seek funding, if that was the best way forward.

BH also raised the issue of "the field" adjacent to the Lower Birks. The appeal for ideas was going to be in the Quair and on a poster on site, which went up February 1st.

Griffin Community Benefit Panel

LR noted the next meeting will be in March ACC does not currently have any micro grant funds and will be seeking 2017 funding shortly.

Reports

Treasurer – We have £547.24 in our funds, and £0.16 of grant money, plus the balance of the defibrillator funding (£895.20). This latter will be more than enough to fund installation of the fifth AED machine. The balance would go to the Lucky2BHere charity.

Planning

Nothing to report.

Councillors Report

MW flagged up that a process to distribute money in the Community Partnership Fund had started, but was struggling to deliver awards by the end of the budget year at end March. The expected pot is c £7000 with a max award of £1500. The hope is there will be an event at which members of the public/applying groups will present ideas and vote on which projects should be funded. The process was described as a shambles.

MW also reported on a meeting hosted by Neighbourhood Watch Scotland to discuss best practice amongst the various Community Watch alert schemes throughout Scotland and how we can utilise the alert schemes better. SGN (Scottish Gas Networks) are now going to use PK Community Watch to let folk know of any failures in their system, similar to the one in Scone this week.

IC reported on the budget focus.

AOCB

The question was raised about when the Xmas lights would come down.

LR raised the issue of price rises at Dalweem. There was a discussion about % changes for self-funders, council funded folk and weekly vs monthly rates.

Work on conversion of part of Dalweem to serve the community in lieu of the Cottage Hospital is ongoing.

BH again raised the issue of the future of the "Field". There is a possibility of a visit to see the progress of the donation by one of the donors coming over from Canada in June. BH also gave an update on HPCLT rural skills training.

Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 1st March 2017