

ABERFELDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting
Aberfeldy Town Hall

Wednesday 3rd October 2018 at 7.30pm

DRAFT Minutes

Welcome

Present: Victor Clements (Chair; VC), Ian Menzies (IM), Patrick Spicer (Acting Secretary, PS), Mark Jenkins (MJ), Lorraine Reed (LR)

Cllr John Duff (Cllr JoD), Cllr Xander McDade (XM)

In Attendance: Norma Carr (Community Warden; NC), Jeannie Grant, Community Greenspace Ranger (JG) Nick Moore & David Robertson (Scottish Ambulance Service), Mel Bon (PA) and 15 other members of the public (MOP).

Apologies

Patrick Spicer, Jean Duff, Cllr Mike Williamson, Police Scotland Community Policing Team

Minutes of Previous Meeting (September)

Proposed by MJ and seconded by LR

Community Council Elections

Duncan Curran standing down has forced a by election. MJ and LR have to stand for election and we have spaces for up to 4 other people. Any election would take place on 15/11/18.

Crime Prevention & Community Safety

No Police present and no police matters forthcoming, recent break-in at Golf Club currently being investigated by Police. NC advised dog fouling occurring again now its getting darker, she is also looking into some issues concerning youths.

Action Partnerships

MJ advised nothing to report as next meeting is not until November. Meantime looking for ideas from the community as to which local groups which might benefit from this funding. The Community Council is keen to find a way of gathering opinion in support of such groups.

The funds available are £50k in total, for 1 year only, meaning that any projects need to be self-funding thereafter. The question was asked as to how the available funding could be advertised locally, suggestions included Facebook, local press, Quair and Heartland Radio. MJ will put together a plan over the next few weeks, deadline for applications 15/02/19.

It was also mentioned that many good local projects have benefitted from micro grants and the committee would again encourage local groups to apply for this funding.

Resilience Plan

NC attending a meeting in Perth on 04/10/18. The plan is to compile a list of contacts along with advice as to what happens in the event an emergency in the town such as flooding e.g. Town Hall is the meeting place and Heartland Radio for communications.

Plan is to have a draft Resilience Plan for the next CC meeting in November aiming to pass it at the meeting in December. We also need to discuss avenues of disseminating the information to everyone in Aberfeldy.

Speeding/Parking Issues

The 'pop up' figures are now being put out. These can be used in other towns too and are not exclusively for Aberfeldy. They have also been effective in Grandtully and Butterstone. The plan is that the Police will occasionally be there in place of the pop up figures. Also looking at putting build outs at the four entrances to Aberfeldy to reduce speeding on approach to and exit from the town.

Town Square Re-development

Nothing further to report at this time, additional funds applied for. Question asked as to what would happen if we did not secure the additional money, also the subject of parking was raised again. VC reiterated we are hoping to secure sufficient funds to significantly improve the Square and that the 13 parking places which would be lost in the Square can be found elsewhere in town provided locals are prepared to walk a few minutes to their destination and can leave the spaces in the town centre for visitors and those unable to walk.

Griffin Community Benefit Panel

LR advised a few applications to consider this evening for micro grants. Year end is coming up so if anyone knows of local groups who would benefit from a grant please ask them to apply as soon as possible and preferably before December.

The Endowment Fund takes a pot of money from the Griffin fund each year so that when the 25 year period is up the funds won't just stop suddenly the idea being that the money is invested so the fund can keep going a bit longer beyond the initial 25 years.

VC advised that the Upper Tay Paths Group wish to improve the path from Grandtully to Kenmore and are looking for funding from each of the 4 community councils the path goes through. The question is whether it is appropriate to support this particular application by providing a supporting letter. After some discussion it was decided against writing a letter of support as the community council cannot be seen to be approving some applications and not others before going in front of the panel, it will therefore be left for the panel members to decide.

Move2Improve

Official opening of lower Birks at 2pm on 25/10/18, LR representing C/Council at the opening. The question was asked as to how this project was funded i.e. whether M2I was self funding. VC advised some of the funding was raised by M2I themselves and JG said some was from "Take a Pride in Perthshire", the organisation supporting projects such as Pitlochry in Bloom etc.

ETAPE – Limelight Sports

VC met with two representatives of Limelight Sports as part of their community consultations. He emphasised to them the importance of trying to have some spin off events which would benefit the community such as re-introduction of the Cycling Festival, although it was pointed out by JG that this event was previously run by PKC.

RBS Van

A letter was received from a member of the public asking if some sort of shelter could be made available for people waiting at the van in inclement weather. VC has suggested the writer speak to Locus Breadalbane to see if they can help. Avril Taylor said that queues can range from 8 to 20 people. Mention was also made that the Post Office banking service has vastly improved since being taken over.

Reports

No additional Chair or Treasurer reports

Acting Secretary had forwarded summary of communications received and speeding group report, who are always looking for additional people to help.

Planning

Fishers Laundry Site – VC advised the original planning application was turned down as the area had been zoned for industrial use. The Community Council and local Councillors made a case for smaller industrial units mixed with housing resulting in the local development plan being changed. The original application has been re-submitted and the Community Council agreed to support the plan. PS has suggested we mention the tight corner at Market Street/Home Street be modified if possible as part of the plan.

Rapid Response Car

David Robertson, Deputy Regional Director, East of Scotland Scottish Ambulance Service, introduced himself to the meeting. He advised there were some gaps in cover at the moment due to the grade of staff required to cover the vehicle. They are starting a recruitment drive to replace 2 members of staff who have retired.

They are utilising Paramedics in the meantime as it will take 2 years for staff to be trained to the standard required. They are keen to get staff up to the clinical grade asap.

Emergency cover previously based in Aberfeldy is currently based in Pitlochry as the staff need a base to work from. Ongoing the base will depend on the hospital environment.

VC said it had been thought the hospital at Dalweem would be the base but the fire station was mentioned as an alternative. DR confirmed they were keen to find an alternative site so a vehicle could be based in the local area.

VC said there was a suggestion that the emergency response car was being used in Perth instead of Pitlochry. DR said that on occasion a vehicle may need to be sent elsewhere but would return to its normal location asap. The intention is to have 3 specialists based in the area but in the meantime they will utilise paramedics. While their main role is primarily care they will have the ability to respond to emergencies too.

IM asked whether the ambulance service should have had personnel in place to replace those retiring. DR advised that they need to wait for training places to be allocated as the demand outweighed the supply for training places at Glasgow Caledonian University.

The question was asked as to where the out of hours service will be based - the plan is to replace what we had previously. The location may be Pitlochry, Dalweem or the Fire Station. For non emergency call 111 out of hours.

LR said there was concern at the last meeting that both the Ambulance and Rapid Response vehicle were based at Pitlochry. It was felt with a member of staff living in Aberfeldy that it would make sense to have it based locally and for him to be as close to his vehicle as possible. Dalweem would be the obvious choice as there is space there to be utilised.

The Ambulance Manager, Nick Moore, is keen to have further discussion to find a solution to the current situation. VC stated there is still a problem with recruitment for fire, nurses and teachers.

VC asked whether the first responder training was still available and it was reported no problems in this area.

Dalweem

Three councillors and VC attended meeting at Dalweem on 02/10/18. No further forward. Meeting arranged in next month or so. VC recommended we wait to see what NHS says and take it from there.

Cllr John Duff joined the meeting.

JoD said that the nursing shortage meant the 4 bed unit has not been put in place. A meeting has been requested with NHS to give us an idea of which services will be put in place at Dalweem so it is not left unused even if we cannot get the 4 bed unit at this moment in time. He also felt we should first meet with NHS. It was acknowledged that there was a shortage of nurses not only in NHS Tayside but in Scotland as a whole. This has resulted in cutbacks to services including the minor injuries unit at Pitlochry which is operating restricted hours. The money for Dalweem has been ring fenced so it is still available and cannot be taken away. Aberfeldy was to be used as a model for other towns. VC stated will be in a better position to feedback at the next CC meeting in November.

Caravan Park

Last month JoD said PKC would have a look at the lease agreement and license for the Caravan Park. It's a 50 year lease with an option to extend for a further 25 years. Moness Group have option in 2020 whether to continue with the lease.

In terms of the site licence council officers carried out an inspection of the site and facilities and found them to be satisfactory. JoD had a look himself on an unofficial basis and found everything to be clean with hot running water. Other complaints about lighting etc will be followed up.

There were concerns about over occupancy of the site, one of the caravan owners stated that the site map allowed for 129 pitches excluding the tent pitches, it was claimed 13 additional pitches had been added to the original plan and JoD undertook to check this. /.....

Caravan Park Contd.

Questions arose including whether the operator can increase the site fees by £300 per annum, the annual rent the operator paid for the site and what he has invested since then. Re the site fees, JoD advised that Mr Mackenzie (Moness) previously had problems collecting the site fees in time so has offered an incentive for paying on time. The site fee increase is a commercial decision and the council cannot intervene. The annual rent is £18k, the electrics have been replaced (noted now metered), heating in toilet and shower block repaired, toilet block refurbished and a new transformer in place. The question was also raised as to the part of the licence which stated that the operator was to put in an extra toilet block and shower which to date has not materialised.

As requested JoD will check the terms/date for renewal of the licence. It was suggested by site users that the licence needs to be reviewed, JoD stressed that the licence is for pitches and not number of people/berths per pitch. Re use of Moness leisure facilities these can still be used but for a fee.

XM joined the meeting

Birks Management Plan

JG introduced herself and advised that there is a consultation exercise at the moment for the Birks.

One of the ideas is to start a user group for the Birks of Aberfeldy that could access funding for improvements etc. as PKC cannot access these funds. VC wondered whether HPCLT could be involved as they have taken over other areas locally. There is a meeting at 18.00 on Thursday 11 October at the Community Campus for anyone who would like to be involved in setting up a user group. VC will speak to HCPLT.

Discussion took place as to areas requiring improvement/reinstatement, such as the middle walk, and it was agreed in principle that we should support this.

Question was asked by LR re the possibility of PKC passing the buck, in terms of finding funds, to the user group. JG said there is a very active user group at Kinnoull Hill and suggested looking at their Facebook page for further information to see what they have achieved.

VC suggested we perhaps brainstorm with Dun Coillich to see how they went about it.

JG said we know what visitors want but it is not clear what the locals want from the site and how they use it e.g. running, mountain biking, dog walking etc.

It was agreed in principle Aberfeldy should have a user group and was worth exploring it further:-

- 1) Establishment of a user group
- 2) Reinstatement of Middle walk
- 3) Designation of lower part of Birks, if SSSI taken away means more can be done with that area e.g. a proper mountain bike track. VC felt there was a benefit in having this designation removed.
- 4) Removal of beech trees – benefits already being seen in terms of light coming in and growth of ground vegetation. VC suggested limitations on the number of trees removed each year with a plan covering up to 100 years or more, defer speed of removal as no need for them to be removed quickly.
- 5) Additional signage in town for visitors
- 6) Mountain bike signage to be erected for benefit of all users by JG

VC will send JG a letter with these points.

Common Good Fund

JoD advised £120k in fund, policy at the moment is to only spend the interest and not the capital. Interest was £800.00 and this has been spent so no further spending this year.

Councillors Reports

JoD spoke about revised scheme for community councils.

Experimental 20mph zones in PKC area for which Aberfeldy road safety group has already done quite a bit of work.

XM spoke about the scheme of admin for community councils, important we read it and see what is being suggested. PKC financial plan, in the medium term probably more cuts on the way including schools under review Pitlochry, Grandtully and Logierait, which could have an impact on Breadalbane.

AOCB

VC raised the fact that the CC meetings traditionally held on the first Wed of the month now conflicts with PKC meetings and other organisations who meet on the same night. It was suggested the C/Council meet on the first Tuesday of the month from February 2019. In principle happy to consider this and will make decision at next CC meeting.

The question was asked whether the bench on Old Crieff Road was to be replaced. Advised this will be replaced in the near future thanks to the donation of a memorial bench.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 7th November at 7.30pm

Action List

Who:	Action	By When
VC	Dalweem update	November meeting
NC	Further follow-up on issue of vegetation obstructing road signs (could also address tree obstructing 20 mph sign outside Town Hall)	c/f to November meeting
VC	Birks Management Plan / establishment of User Group	November meeting
JoD	Review licence to operate terms and see if these being met (re Caravan Park)	November meeting
MJ	Action Partnerships – distribution of information	November meeting
ACC	Potential change of CC meeting day from Feb 2019	November meeting
VC	Complete draft of resilience plan	by November mtg
XM	Assist JeD to identify number of Cottage Hospital deed to allow work to continue	c/f to November meeting
PS	Organise pilot day-time meeting to connect to the community	No timeline yet
PS	Develop Comment Box idea. Recruit holders. Feedback on progress. Probably require micro grant money to purchase boxes.	c/f to November Meeting
JoD	Will enquire about possibility of changing rules re pedestrian access to recycling centres	c/f to November Meeting