

ABERFELDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting

Aberfeldy Town Hall

Wednesday 5th September 2018 at 7.30pm

DRAFT Minutes

Welcome

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

Cllr John Duff (Cllr JoD), Cllr Xander McDade (XM), Cllr Mike Williamson (MW)

In Attendance: Norma Carr (Community Warden; NC), Jeannie Grant, Community Greenspace Ranger (JG) Annabelle O'Connell AOC) and 28 other members of the public (MOP).

Apologies

Police Scotland Community Policing Team

Caravan Park (added item)

A significant number of people attended from the Caravan Park (main reason for high numbers). Complaints were made about the price rises and the poor quality of the service. Showers and toilets. Speeding on site. Smell of sewage. Lack of flood warnings (MW mentioned SEPA Floodline sign-up option). Due to the terms of the price rise (discount for advance payment) and the approach of the end of the season, resolution is urgent. VC outlined history of current set up and ACC support for a commercial entity running the site rather than PKC. A model of a long lease, low rent and investment by the leasing firm was explained as the basis. Support for action from a number of voices on ACC as resolution in interest of site users and the wider community that ACC is there to represent. Actions were taken to look into Health and Safety issues, licence to operate and lease provisions in terms of investment requirements and quality standards to be addressed before the October meeting (see action list).

Minutes of the previous meeting (August Meeting)

Proposed for Ratification by DC, Seconded by JeD

Style of minutes. ACC voted minutes should be brief, not too long. A limit of four pages was suggested. PS dissented and argued more detail than had previously been supplied was good for communicating with the community, absent councillors and particularly those who could not attend. The clear majority wanted little or no change to historic practice, despite some support from members of the Public for a different approach. Circulation of written reports with minutes was one way that was accepted for more detailed comms.

The chairman recorded a vote of 6 to 1 in favour of a limit of 4-5 pages despite this not being mentioned in the majority of council responses (the common words were not too much detail) and has insisted this be minuted. No one amongst those members of the community who spoke supported this approach.

Matters Arising

Topic	Update
Status of Golf Club Bridge	Bridge reported to be checked as safe and re-opened (VC)
Dalweem Update	MJ reported on efforts he had made to find out what was happening. XM reported he had not had a response to pressing for regular updates from Robert Packham of NHS Tayside. It is understood NHST are still looking at options
Rapid Response Car	This is and always was based at Pitlochry, not lost to Aberfeldy. Its role is to back up the single ambulance based in Pitlochry. On call for rapid response from 20.00 -08.00. There is no cover 18.00-20.00. NC reported she has invited Rob Ballantyne to present at next mtg for clarity. Ideas for changes were put forward.
Police Blue Light Incident	PS in contact with CM on this topic. Incident date has been supplied and an answer expected
Road Sign Visibility	NC reported relevant contact on leave
Possible ACC Website	PS advised still on hold for lack of time. Intent to develop pilot website to consult on and decide. Suggestion made that possibility of co-hosting by Locus Breadalbane be investigated.

Action List

Who:	Action	By When
ACC	Meet on Dalweem situation at JeD's home (apologies PS)	19.30 12/9/18
NC	Further follow-up on issue of vegetation obstructing road signs (could also address tree obstructing 20 mph sign outside Town Hall)	October meeting
JoD	Review lease, investment and quality of performance issues at Caravan Park	October mtg

MW	Review licence to operate terms and see if these being met (re Caravan Park)	October mtg
MW	Contact Environmental Health re sewage and other HSE issues at Caravan Park	October mtg
PS	Put item on October agenda for more discussion of Birks Management plan	October mtg
VC	Complete draft of resilience plan	by November mtg
VC	Review feedback on resilience plan, put forward final draft ahead of meeting for adoption at	December meeting
XM	Assist JeD to identify number of Cottage Hospital deed to allow work to continue	October mtg
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.	October Meeting
JoD	Will enquire about possibility of changing rules re pedestrian access to recycling centres	October Meeting

Crime Prevention and Community Safety

No police. PS gave a summary from the Commanders Bulletins. Details on Facebook

NC reported some vandalism, (tables in Victoria Park. Will be replaced in spring) parking tickets and a visit by Dog Wardens

Focus Topics

Birks Management Plan – Jeannie Grant and Annabelle O’Connell

This management plan will focus on compiling a master list of actions and aspirations to enhance the Birks over the succeeding five years (Infrastructure e.g. signage, paths, seating, waymarking, Interpretation, How the site is used, Biodiversity). This list will then underpin fund-raising activity to achieve infrastructure changes. It will incorporate aim of forming a user / “Friends” group. It will include the SSSI boundary and the Scottish Natural Heritage site management statement. No fixed timetable yet. First draft probably early next year. Online survey completed with good response. AOC offered option to those present to complete paper version to capture further input in organised way. Discussion covered issue of Beech culling, the impact of the Site of Special Scientific interest (SSSI) designation on plans, the suggestion that the boundaries of the SSSI were inappropriate and should be changed. Reinstatement of middle path into gorge. Bike track (SNH want this to go).

Common Good Fund (CGF)

VC referred to ACC new role in CGF management. Suggested as the Birks is a CGF asset might make concerns in previous topic an issue for next meeting.

Resilience Plan

VC reported meeting took place. Draft contains contact details of who can access Town Hall for emergency use. VC is lead. Looking at option to persuade Coop to be source of emergency food and water rather than stockpile. MW mentioned resilient communities conference in October and asked for volunteer attendees.

Speeding/Parking Issues

PS reported back on the activities of the Road Safety Sub Group (RSSG). Mentioned continued efforts to progress work agreed earlier in the year and a number of meetings that had taken place to that end. Also, the start of the pop up character campaign. More detail in written report attached.

Other Agenda Items:

Cottage Hospital: Research into Deeds

JeD reported there had been little progress, as to be able to pay for getting copies, one needed a deed number and that had not been located.

Community Choices Fund -Application news – Pat Spicer

Application rejected outright. Fund over-subscribed by factor of c 6. Offered Feedback. Offer accepted. No word yet. VC thanked those involved in making the application.

Action Partnerships (AP) (added item)

MJ reported back on his attending the first mtg of new Highland AP. Community Investment Fund (CIF) looking for bids for £50K pot. Aim is for projects to address genuine inequalities in the area affecting significant portion of the community, not just the purposes of a vocal minority. Particularly looking for projects with potential to be sustainable and become self or other sourced funding. No criteria yet

Regeneration of Town Square

VC reported that efforts on-going to see if further capital can be found to enable this to proceed. Mike Morgan has supplied a written statement with more detail. Attached.

Insurance

PS reported that the requested quote for insuring our RSSG assets had not been received, so a decision on whether to proceed would need to be taken by e-m vote during September. Work on main form largely complete.

Griffin Community Benefit Panel

LR reported 2 applications for micro grants would be considered after the mtg and that the next panel mtg was on 6/9. PS noted he would be presenting on the work of the RSSG.

Reports

Chair

Recorded that following on from the Caravan Park issue DC had decided to step down from the ACC. Several voices were raised in his support and regret expressed at this decision. It was recorded there was a possibility of his returning at some point in the future. An MOP commented that her research showed other local caravan parks (Blair Atholl particularly noted) has better facilities for less money.

Acting Secretary

Passed over for lack of time. Paragraph attached.

Treasurer

ACC currently has £595.60 in its main fund and £2175.00 in the Micro-Grant pot. Funds for speeding equipment - £971.51. £6,000.00 held towards cost of Community Warden.

Councillor's Reports:

XM: Had tour of PRI A & E unit. Conclusion already close to being only a Minor Injuries unit. Appears PRI being progressively downgraded to facilitate NHS Tayside plan to move ever more services to Ninewells. LDP2 passed the council. Goes to Scottish Government for adoption next. Noted that in passing LDP2 rules introduced to prevent excessively dense housing schemes in future. Also, our elected representatives (ERs) had supported the ACC and site developers position on re-zoning the Fishers site to enable the planned development to be re-considered.

MW: Noted he had progressed some initiatives: repairing/replacing rubber ferrules for those needing a walking stick at the Library and Safety Hub (in Aberfeldy) but equivalent places across Highland Perthshire also. Working on similar system for hearing aids. Progress of Lamb on school menu pilot: successful.

JD: Progress of repair to Steeple on Locus Centre. Funds secured for additional repair found to be required during execution of originally planned works.

AOCB

Dementia Friendly Aberfeldy Event – PS reported on high attendance and success of event

Tay Valley Timebank (Formerly Deeds for Needs) – PS reported on brainstorm event

Nominee for Breadalbane Community Campus Management Group. Request for a nominee to represent all community councils in its catchment area tabled. Agreed that this be taken to next AP meeting to enable easy

consultation with other CCs. JeD volunteered to stand. Noted easier for an ACC rep to attend the daytime meetings.

ACC Accessibility for those not able to come in the evenings. PS reported on request from an MOP that the ACC consider holding some daytime meetings, so as to engage with those members of the community unable to attend in the evenings. The problem of running such meetings with 4 of the current ACC unavailable during the day was highlighted by VC. A number of folk suggested ways of informing those members of the community other than through meetings. Comment boxes received support. Avril Taylor (AT) offered her shop as one location. The Co-op was suggested as another. A stall at the Farmer's market was another suggestion. PS was given support to try to organise a pilot event.

Invitation to Transforming Tayside NHS event Perth, Sept 15th : VC not a priority for us.

Hipshire Speed Networking lunch Monday Sept 10th: Campus Café area (Please confirm attendance to dunkeldcomlearn@pkc.gov.uk or 01738 459702) Goal is to connect communities in Highland Perthshire. VC not a priority for us.

Recycling: An MOP raised the issue of new rules which prevent on foot deliveries of garden waste to skips in recycling centres. ERs responded that rules brought in due to H&S fears regarding mixing of vehicular access to sites with pedestrian access. Origins in problem in Blairgowrie due to long queues of vehicles being by-passed on foot by frustrated drivers. It was suggested rules might be reviewed and relaxed over time.

Funding Opportunity: Enchanted Forest looking for options for community funding from profits. XM mentioned already offered to replace lost Mountain Rescue equipment from break in.

M2I: the placing of a memorial plaque to Ian Campbell, in the Lower Birks, was noted.

M2I: Roy Cannon (Chair) reported on current project to put in a Reflection Garden which will be located between the Memorial Arch and the recent re-development of the Lower Birks.

Road Closure: An MOP reported on a road closure notice in respect of the Strathtay Road to deal with land slips. Comment was also made that there is a long history of inadequate maintenance of the verges, with overgrowing of the vegetation effectively narrowing the road and causing side swipe accidents.

Community Noticeboard Facebook Page: complaint made regarding the posting of information regarding recent RTA in Dull that was felt to be premature.

Gritting/salting of pavements: move by PKC to make 14 spreaders available for self-help treatment of pavements in winter months, particularly by business owners/operators on the main street with amounts of salt to be supplied. No clarity about how this would work and whether liability had been properly looked into.

First Responder Team: appealed for more volunteers as finding sometimes not enough to cover all sickness, vacation and work driven absences.

Cultullich Bridge: MW reported that in a meeting with Barbara Renton (director, Housing and Environment) assurance had been given that PKC are actively working on plans for the repairs next year and she was asked to ensure community consultation occurred before xmas.

Double Yellow Lines (DYLs) in town: an MOP commented again on terrible state and their impact on poor parking and congestion in town. PS highlighted action by RSSG and JoD to get reinstatement moving. Another MOP commented that without enforcement to back it up, restoration was a waste of time and money.

Apologies were recorded for the October meeting on behalf of the Treasurer and PS. With DC stepping down, VC urged the rest of the members to try to be there.

Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 3rd October 2018, 7.30 p.m. in the Town Hall

APPENDIX 1

Town Square Re-development – Statement from Mike Morgan

The paper to the Senior Management Team is likely to be submitted next week, as it focuses on the overall placemaking capital programme, of which, Aberfeldy is an identified project. We are having to look at the overall allocation of resources to ensure we deliver certain projects, with Aberfeldy currently having the biggest shortfall. As previously mentioned, there is an appetite to deliver the project and we will recommend this in the paper. Unfortunately, we have finite resources and it's how we position the delivery/removal of other projects, which is causing the delay to date.

In the meantime, I'm meeting with the project team tomorrow to finalise the tender documentation, which will enable us to go out to tender as soon as resources are finalised. The reality of the delayed programme is that we will be starting late winter/early spring, which will take us into the summer season. This will cause an issue with the local bus company located just off the square and I'll keep them up to speed on this, but measures to try and mitigate the impact on their business – use of a PKC depot – have fallen short. There is no other way to say that there will be some disruption to their business during the works.

If we can do it whereby we undertake the works nearest to them early in the programme, we will endeavour to do this, but we will be relying on input from the appointed contractor on how best to proceed with the programme.

An outline programme is provided below and is likely to be subject to change.

Secure additional budget	-	September
Submit planning application	-	September
Secure planning approval	-	November
Initiate tender process	-	October/November
Appoint contractor	-	January
Start on site	-	February/March

Best,
Mike Morgan

APPENDIX 2

RSSG Report back

Meetings

August 14th: members of the RSSG and Brenda Roddy from GrowBiz. Brenda contacted us having heard about a number of initiatives that were going forward in Aberfeldy with offer of help. Principal recommendation was we might do better to look into the Placemaking initiative and get help to develop a project plan for Aberfeldy, joining up initiatives on town centre parking, speed reduction and generally making the town active travel friendly.

August 21st: PS and Lucy Shahbaz who has volunteered to help lead an effort to generate ideas for improving safety in the vicinity of Victoria Park, recently a hot topic on Facebook, with a view to adding this into the overall RS agenda.

August 21st: PS and Martin Hill of the Upper Tay Paths Group. Action from a previous meeting was to connect to those interested in promoting path development or improvement that might overlap with our aim to promote Active travel as part of the STP. This was a get to know you meeting. Much information was provided and we will endeavour to work with him as the STP work advances.

August 22nd: PS and Cllr John Duff on ways to progress sluggish elements of our plans and to update him on the further work done on DYs and loading bays.

August 30th: PS and Roddy Ross (TL: Safer Communities). Various aspects of moving forward on the agreed agenda. In particular trying to unlock information on loading bay design and the issue of the RSSG VASS aspiration.

September 3rd: Available members of the RSSG. Griffin Fund Presentation Prep. Exhibition Brainstorm, progressing towards meeting with ASBA on loading Bay idea. New recruits.

Actions:

Kiddies have arrived. With figures arrives and chain and padlocks acquired, deployment could begin. The Risk Assessment document was reviewed, updated and revised to be more of an operating plan. Jim deployment started on August 17th and he was out every day until August 30th. On a break at present. Thanks to volunteers who helped with the programme. One of the Kiddies has been loaned to the ABC nursery, for deployment in their vicinity. One was placed with the Breadlabane nursery, but was taken back after a misunderstanding on deployment plans. Hopefully we will sort this and re-engage later. Presently being deployed by group volunteers adjacent to the campus – Kenmore Street and Crieff Road principally. Positive response so far.

Looking into holding exhibition and community consultation event, most likely in the Coop entrance way (where the foodbank operates). Hoped for end September, but not likely to be ready in time – need a couple of weeks’ notice.

Feedback to Blair Watt on VASS plans: document discussed with Cllr John Duff amended slightly and John has passed this onto the team. We understand the equipment has been purchased, but have had no feedback on whether our suggestions are to be acted on.

Speed Zone Changes: Believe these are progressing through the system and should go to Committee this month. Have had no feedback on comments made or on attempt to get the third change resurrected. Topic for meeting with RR.

Prep for Presentation to Griffin Fund Panel. This is to establish basis on which panel might support our work including big money, if and when appropriate. September 6th.

Still trying to get OK to locate shed on Safety Hub grounds. Approved in principle by Fire Service, but cannot get a response from local commander to turn this into reality.

Need help on the deployment team....

APPENDIX 3

Secretary's report

Continue to monitor info stream for distribution via e-m or Facebook as appropriate. Any feedback on the Facebook postings? The more important items where should perhaps have someone get involved, will be raised under AOCB. Had some meetings this month to learn how Greenspace in Aberfeldy is managed and work prioritised. Firstly, with Jeannie Grant and latterly with M2I. In the longer term this is to prepare for a review and discussion at a future ACC, following requests for change from community members.

APPENDIX 4

ABERFELDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

September Meeting Paper

Information Flow from The ACC to our Community

For Discussion and Decision

Context: We have been challenged by members of the community attending a couple of our recent meetings to up our game in sharing information with the community, with a goal of wider engagement in the work we do. This paper is provided as the basis for a discussion of the role of our minutes and their distribution, as part of our response to that challenge.

Historically, minutes have been designed to be compact (a target of no more than 4 pages has been mentioned) comprising a concise summary of each agenda item, minimal discussion and an action list. Design has been driven by being a complete, but readily digested record of the event.

More recently an attempt has been made to expand the level of detail to make the minutes more informative to those unable to attend, at the expense of being less of a concise record for those that were. The addition of written reports where there is more to be said than can be crammed into our meetings has been adopted to further help information flow.

Not everyone agrees that this is the right way to proceed. It has been decided that this should be a topic for consultation and debate, leading to the ACC adopting a policy for going forward.

For distribution, we are aiming to get draft minutes out that have been agreed by the ACC and other relevant folk at the respective meeting, within a week. This target is set so that the wider community, many of whom could never attend our meetings, can know what is happening and potentially contribute material for the agenda of the next. It also ensures no ambiguity on recorded actions and will help to ensure these are completed by the appropriate date. The agenda is supposed to be published well before the next meeting. Compiling a workable, prioritised agenda for publication takes time, but is essential for good meeting management.