



Speyside Area Forum
www.undiscoveredspeyside.org

Chairman: Mr Bill Burgess
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Minutes of the Meeting held at The Fleming Hall, Aberlour 7.30pm Tuesday, 23rd April 2013

Attending: Bill Burgess, Chairman; Jean Grimshaw, Vice Chairman and Rothes Council; Hugh Fraser, Treasurer and Aberlour Community Association, Eileen Fitzpatrick, Secretary; Ian Todd, Community Support Unit, The Moray Council; Cllrs Pearl Paul and Mike McConnachie, The Moray Council; Charles Alexander, Knockando Community Association; Patricia Grant and Jenny Herschell, Kirkmichael and Tomintoul Community Association; Rita Marks, Glenlivet and Inveravon Community Association; Jean Oliver, Speyside Paths Network Group; Margaret Stuart, Rothes Council; Patricia Shanks, Edinville Community Hall Council; John Fleming, Dufftown and District Community Association; Sandy Henderson, Friends of Fleming Hospital, Aberlour; Mabel Donald, Aberlour Community Association. **In attendance:** Jane Martin, Chair, Keith Community Council; Gordon Methven, Secretary, Elgin Community Council. **Apologies:** Cllr Fiona Murdoch, Andrea Fuller, Martin Sheed.

1. Welcome: Bill Burgess, Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (12th March 2013): Cllr Paul requested that the following amendments be made as the views expressed had been attributed to her incorrectly:

- **Community Council Elections:** Cllr Pearl Paul reminded the meeting that we have no option other than to *advertise* (not 'have') them as Community Councils are a statutory requirement.
- **Library Closures:** Cllr Pearl Paul said that the Moray Council had found that school children use libraries. (please remove 'but relatively few other people do'.) ...However she realised that closure was very unfortunate as, for instances in Rothes computer classes had been particularly successful in the library. (please remove 'this was in the school but was now closing and it would be used as a classroom.').
- **Approval - Proposed:** Pat Shanks **Seconded:** Hugh Fraser **Approved.**

3. Matters Arising:

- **Forum Constitution Review:** The sub-committee (Bill Burgess, Andrea Fuller and Jean Grimshaw) met and have some suggestions for small changes which will be discussed at the next meeting. In the meantime these suggestions will be sent out to members for feedback.
- **Cabrach Icy Road:** Bill Burgess reported that no remedial action by The Moray Council has been taken.
- **Planning applications not being distributed by The Moray Council:** Bill Burgess is now receiving planning reports.

4. Police Matters: Please see attached report which was also read out by PC Crawford Reay and he confirmed that the telephone number 101 can now be used for non emergencies. Essentially there is no major change although they are now called the Police Service of Scotland and are no longer Grampian Police. Bill Burgess thanked PC Reay for attending and he left the meeting at this point.

5. Community Issues and Update from Community Groups (please also see the Diary on the website)

- **A9 Road works:** Rita Marks said that she also attends Cairngorm National Park Communities who have reported that the A9 will be subject to major road works for the whole of the summer which is likely to have a negative impact on tourism.
- **Knockando:** Charles Alexander reported that The Hall Committee and Community Association in Knockando are amalgamating.
- **Road Signage - Low Bridge update:** Cllr Paul reported that the Allahoy Road is officially called the Bluehill Quarry Road. The Moray Council agree that there is a problem and will repaint the sign on the bridge with the low height warning and contact Transport Scotland regarding the signage on the A95 as

traffic is still getting stuck from the Dufftown side. Following further discussion, Cllr Paul said she would report to the next meeting feedback from The Moray Council.

- **Library Closures:** Bill Burgess had offered Speyside Area Forum help with library closure protest campaigns to several communities including Burghhead and Dufftown but this help was not felt to be needed by them at this stage. In reply to a protest letter a reply had been received from Stuart Cree, Convenor, The Moray Council. Bill Burgess was advised that the proposed library closures are currently subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) the outcomes of which are expected in June 2013. Cllr Paul said that the EIA also applies to proposed transport cuts and public convenience closures. Jean Oliver raised the question of possible repayment of EU funding for libraries if closures take place.
- Patricia Grant was sad to report that Jane Reilly has died. She had always been very helpful and knowledgeable on transport matters.
- **Library Speaker:** Jean Grimshaw reported that Rothes Council had recently had a speaker from the Robert Gordon University, Head of Librarianship who advised that volunteers would be unable to run a library without professional help.
- **Tattie-bogle Competition:** Bill Burgess and Patricia Grant volunteered to judge the forthcoming Tattie-bogle competition during the weekend of the Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival (2nd-6th May).
- **Speyside in Bloom 2013:** As the original sub-committee of Rita Marks, Jean Grimshaw and Andrea Fuller (Rita Marks reported) were willing to continue this year, members present confirmed their approval.
- **Rothes Council - Grant Received:** Jean Grimshaw said that Rothes Council has received a grant of £250,000 however they need another £2,500 to meet Health and Safety issues (only advised after the grant had been made) otherwise they will be penalised.

6. Treasurer's Report:

- Hugh Fraser reported that a payment of £140 had been received from the Moray Council stating that it is to assist with additional insurance costs. Ian Todd said that the Moray Forum had in the past raised the question of the need for public liability insurance cover for Forums and the money set aside for this had lain dormant but was now being distributed. The next Moray Forum meeting is 29th April - Bill Burgess will attend. **Approval of Accounts:** Proposed: Cllr Pearl Paul Seconded: Patricia Grant **Approved.**

7. Any Other Business

- **School Crossing Patroller Vacancy:** Cllr Mike McConnachie reported that it was his understanding that the vacancy for the Rothes School Crossing Patroller had now been filled.
- **Community Council Elections October 2013:** Jane Martin, Chair, Keith Community Council and Gordon Methven, Secretary, Elgin Community Council had volunteered to give a slide presentation on the benefits of forming Community Councils. Jane Martin spoke about the Notice of Review of the Moray Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils available online at www.moray.gov.uk/communitycouncils and she encouraged Forum members to participate in the review. There are 16 Community Councils in Moray and 140 Community Councillors. A question and answer session followed. Many Forum members felt strongly that as Community Associations were already providing this service to their communities, and had access to The Moray Council, there would be no apparent advantage in setting up Community Councils.
- **Notice of a Proposed Traffic Order:** Bill Burgess had received a letter from James Smith, Engineer, Environmental Services, the Moray Council dated 10th April, regarding the proposed waiting restrictions in Rothes with a plan and schedule of what is proposed. The plan also shows proposed traffic signals for the A941 High Street junction with Seafield Square. The signals will be erected in conjunction with the proposed waiting restrictions. The deadline for reply is 8th May and following a discussion Cllr Paul said that as the Rothes community have no objection to the proposals Bill Burgess could reply to The Moray Council to this effect. Copies of the proposed traffic order are on display in various locations in Rothes including The Cottage.
- **CCTV Aberlour:** Hugh Fraser reported that there are three or four cameras in Aberlour which seem to be monitoring the traffic and he wondered whether this was in connection with a proposed street crossing. Sandy Henderson said that Aberlour had been campaigning for many years to have a street crossing with flashing lights. Cllr Paul said that they had also been campaigning in Rothes for this for a long time.

Members of Speyside Area Forum appreciated the use of The Fleming Hall for their meeting.

Date and venue of next meeting: 7.30pm, Tuesday, 4th June. Mortlach Memorial Hall, Dufftown

Attachment: Police Report

Eileen Fitzpatrick, Secretary, fitzpatrick.eileen1@googlemail.com