



Speyside Area Forum
Minutes
Tuesday 26 April 2011
Archiestown Village Hall

1 Welcome and apologies

Attending:

Bill Burgess, vice chair
Hugh Fraser
Steve Oliver
Patricia Grant
Jenny Herschell
John Fleming

Carron Community Association
Aberlour Community Association
Archiestown Village Council
Kirkmichael & Tomintoul Community Association
Kirkmichael&Tomintoul Community Association
Dufftown & District Community Association

In Attendance:

PC Brian Forsyth
Cllr Pearl Paul
Anne Oliver, secretary

Grampian Police
The Moray Council

Apologies:

Sandy Henderson, chair
Cllr Michael McConnachie
Rhona Patterson, Community Support Worker
Mhairi McBain, treasurer
Andrea Fuller,
Pat Shanks,
Daivid Tierney
Derek Clark,

Edinvillie community Hall council
Edinvillie Community Hall Council
Glenrinnes Community Centre

2 Approval of Minutes 26 April: approved – Patricia Grant;
Seconded – Hugh Fraser

- Changes noted: 6 Tomintoul VisitScotland “and Cairngorm National Park” added;
- 10 Moray Economic Strategy “members” expressed dissatisfaction. “Cllr Paul was to ask for an evening meeting”
- 11 Aberlour Market – 30 April not 13

3 Matters arising:

- Roadside signage – letter sent to Moray Council indicating Forum’s concern about the need for planning permission for signage – guidance for size of the signs and typesize would be helpful.
- Plants – It was agreed that each community would make their own investigations and decisions.
- Economic Strategy meeting - Cllr Paul noted that Moray Council had agreed to an evening meeting; this did not happen owing to illness. Bill Burgess and Sandy Henderson attended the meeting in Craigellachie
- NHS meeting – The “meal breaks” issue is in hand – It is a national issue and there will be a White Paper
- Tomnabent water problems – Cllr Paul reminded the meeting that the houses involved were not those built by Mr Strathdee.

4 Police Matters:

- PC Forsyth noted that his colleague was in touch with the Tomintoul hotels' solicitor about the problems there.
- He informed the meeting that the Ben Aigen Guest House, Rothes will be closing and put up for sale soon. Cllr Paul noted that though there had been reservations about the use of the former hotel as a hostel, there had never been any trouble there.
- Bridge – There is no “low bridge” sign on either the A95 or the A941 ahead of the junctions to Blue Hill Quarry and Aberlour Caravan Park warning of the low bridge by Aberlour House. This has resulted in high sided vehicles having to reverse back onto the main road to go the alternative route. Cllr Paul will pursue the problem with Moray Council.

5 Updates from Community groups:

- **Aberlour** – The Station Tearooms and The Fleming Hall have had direct feed water heaters installed. Hugh Fraser said they are excellent from a health and safety point of view and cost £522. He invited members go and see how it works.
- Coat of Arms handover on Saturday 10 September
- **Archiestown** – Auction Friday 20 May, and Fete 18 June

8 Treasurer's Report – There was no report as the treasurer was unable to attend.

9 Community Issues:

- **Environment** - with the loss of village officers, toilet cleaning, litter and over full dog bins have become a problem in some communities. There were also grass cutting problems and grit clearing issues owing to Moray Council cut backs. It was considered that individual communities should monitor the situation. There was a plea for more active police or community warden presence in problem areas which might ease the litter problem.
- **Raw sewage** - Raw sewage has been overflowing on to the river bank at the Creepie, Aberlour. Although Scottish Water and SEPA have been regularly notified nothing has been done. The meeting directed the secretary to contact Walter Polson for more information and to write to Environmental Health.
- **Spirit of Speyside** – Concern was expressed that this Speyside event was being hijacked by Elgin.

10 Correspondence –

- A reply to the Forum's letter re Cairngorm National Park's Moray Representative from Chief Exec Alistair Keddie was read out. It was considered to be unsatisfactory.
- **Local Plan timetable** – Mark Cross to be asked to speak to the Forum
- Each community should consider compiling a dossier of their needs

11 AOCB:

Community Support Worker – concern was expressed that Rhona Patterson had been told by her superiors not to attend meetings because of ill health. Rhona is still keen to attend meetings and the committee felt that she should be there as it was an opportunity for her to meet with community officers in this far-flung Speyside Area Forum.

HMEi Report – Members were very satisfied with the full report on the area.

Meeting Closed at 9.30pm

Next meeting: **Cabrach Village Hall Tuesday 21 June 2011 at 7.30pm**