



Speyside Area Forum

Tuesday, 16th November, 2010

Roths, The Cottage

MINUTES

1. Welcome & apologies

Attending:

Chair: Sandy Henderson
Hugh Fraser
Bill Burgess
Martin Sheed
Mhairi McBain
Jean Oliver
John Fleming
Andrea Fuller
Pat Shanks
Rita Marks
Derek Clark
Patricia Grant
Jenny Herschell
Jim Anderson
Margaret Stuart

Aberlour Community Association
Aberlour Community Association
Carron Community Association
Cabrach Community Association
Cabrach Community Association
Dufftown
Dufftown
Edinvillie Community Hall Council
Edinvillie Community Hall Council
Glenlivet & Inveravon Community Association
Glenrinnes Community Centre
Kirkmichael & Tomintoul Community Association
Kirkmichael & Tomintoul Community Association
Roths Council
Roths Council

In attendance

Rhona Patterson
Sgt Sean Jones
Cncllor. Pearl Paul
Jim Hart

Community Support Worker
Grampian Police
Moray Council
Secretary

Apologies

Rob Lewin
Cncllor. Fiona Murdoch

Glenrinnes Community Centre
Moray Council

2. Minutes of previous meeting – 5th October, 2010

These were approved by Rita Marks and seconded by Bill Burgess

3. Matters Arising

i). Meeting with BEAR Scotland. Councillor Paul will take forward to her meeting with BEAR Scotland on November 19th, the following issues.

- Speeding, street lighting and general road safety in the area of Maggieknockater
- A dropped manhole cover in the vicinity of Aberlour Square
- A lost car park sign on the A95 in Aberlour
- Egress onto the A95 at Ballindalloch filling station
- Egress onto the A95 at the "Vets" premises near the Glenallachie distillery road.
- Additional concerns raised by Councillor Murdoch will also be raised.

ii) More Choices, More Chances. Mr David Tierney is to come back to the Forum when he has a more specific request to make of the Forum.

iii) Developer Contribution. It was agreed that Speyside Area communities should prepare a list of projects within their communities which would be collated by the SAF secretary to be passed to the appropriate planning authorities with a view to receiving a contribution (Developer Gain) in respect of their projects. It was suggested that the scope of the possible projects was wide and should include those in the SFN. Councillor Paul will try to access a DVD about the scheme and she has the appropriate planning contact within Aberdeenshire Council.

iv) Towns Partnership. Following a brief discussion in which it was clear that there was some confusion about the specific detail regarding permissions to conduct a Farmers or Continental market within communities, it was agreed that Rhona Patterson would invite Mrs Mhairi McIntosh, (Environmental, Development and Planning Chair) to the next SAF meeting in February to clarify the position.

4. Consultations

- a) Budget Consultation: Varied and diverse comments pertaining to the experiences of those who attended the Budget Consultation meeting at Speyside High School on November 9th were expressed.

With regard to the preference questionnaire, Rhona Patterson provided the current response ratings

Services which could be Reduced

- 1) Parks and Open Spaces
- 2) Planning & Development
- 3) Economic Development

Services which should be Protected

- 1) Community Care
- 2) Schools and Nurseries
- 3) Arts, Sports and Leisure

It was considered prudent that Speyside should try to present a united front and that a consensus response on behalf of the area forum should be made to Moray Council. An appeal to include provision for the D of E programme was made. To that end a meeting has been arranged in the Aberlour library on Nov 29th at 2.00pm to develop that response.

- b) Tomintoul: Concern was expressed that there seemed little positive outcome for the Museum, with the contention that the building needed significant repairs. Brief discussion centred on the possibility of the community taking over the museum and also applying for Lottery Heritage Fund grants.

- c) Cabrach School Closure: An informed discussion took place concerning the recent publication of the **PROPOSED CLOSURE OF CABRACH PRIMARY SCHOOL** consultation report. The reported opinions of SAF and CCA are shown below.

"The Speyside Area Forum supported the closure but also expressed a desire to maintain the building for a period of time [unspecified] to afford the recently appointed local development worker an opportunity to support regeneration efforts. The Cabrach Community Association opposes the closure but also asks, that in the event of the closure proceeding, for the building to be retained for some period of time to see whether or not they will be successful".

It was agreed that there were some inaccuracies in the report and that it had been written from the perspective of the Education Authorities. SAF agreed to prepare a letter supportive of the CCA for MC to reconsider the longer term use of the facilities by the community. Letter would be sent to MC Chief Executive, Elected members, MSP and MP

5. Update Community/Action Groups

It was noted that work instigated by the Rothes Parent Council on the new playground equipment had started. Funding had been provided through the Windfarm fund and Lottery programmes.

6. Treasurers Report

Rhona Patterson advised that there had been little change since last meeting and that the account stood at £3,840.95.

The Treasurers books will be passed to Mrs Mhairi McBain who will assume the role of Treasurer.

7. Community issues

No community issues were reported

8. Correspondence

e-mail incoming : i) Budget Consultation documents ii) Advisory about new Financial Advisory Service (Inclusion Network) iii) Survey about adult learning and activities in community facilities (Moray College) iv) Regional report from Grampian Police v) VAM Bulletin vi) Advice about next Vol. Sector Task Force Meeting – Lossie Dec 2nd	
Outgoing	Incoming
To MSP re. closure of airbases	Letter from MFCHA to Moray Council Lossie Petition Moray Task Force Action Steps Letter from MP concerning fuel duty in rural areas.

All correspondence, which had been widely distributed was taken as read and selectively discussed.

Sgt Jones from Grampian Police, in reference to item (iv) above explained about the restructuring and staffing throughout Speyside. He further updated SAF on recent thefts from the Imperial Distillery at Carron. A brief discussion then took place concerning recent intimidating scams throughout the area in which individuals present themselves as stranded motorists in order solicit money, often menacingly, for petrol or in exchange for some worthless jewellery. The unfortunate message to take from this is Dont Stop for Strangers.

A letter was in process of draft, awaiting further input, concerning the appointment of the Councillor to the CNPA. It was noted that Glenlivet & Inveravon Community Association had received numerous responses on the matter and this would be passed to SAF for information and use as appropriate.

9. Any Other Competent Business

- a) Moray Forum Representation: The secretary informed SAF that in his role in various Voluntary groups throughout Moray it was apparent that The Moray Forum, of which SAF is a member, was increasingly being used a vehicle through which MC and CPP solicited community opinion and consultation advice. Based on the minutes of MF, it was noted that SAF had been able to attend only 3 of the 12 meetings from January 2009 until end August 2010. The secretary offered to represent SAF at future meetings in order that the opinions of SAF are more consistently presented. The chair commented that attendance was limited to Chair and Vice-Chair.
- b) Impact of Community Engagement Funding arrangements: Rhona Patterson informed the group that future allocation of admin funds to SAF would be £1,034.33
- c) Voluntary Sector Partnership Moray: the secretary drew the attention of SAF to the increasing role that this group is likely to play in the Voluntary Sector in Moray.

Next meeting:

The next meeting is proposed to be held on Feb 8th, 2011 at Aberlour High School.