



Speyside Area Forum
www.undiscoveredspeyside.org

Chairman: Mr Bill Burgess
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Minutes of the Meeting held at Mortlach Memorial Hall, Dufftown 7.30pm Tuesday, 4th June 2013

Attending: Bill Burgess, Chairman and Carron Community Council; Jean Grimshaw, Vice Chairman and Rothes Council; Hugh Fraser, Treasurer and Aberlour Community Association; Ian Todd, Community Support Unit (CSU), The Moray Council; Cllr Mike McConnachie, The Moray Council; John Fleming, Dufftown and District Community Association; Andrea Fuller, Edinville Community Hall Council; Patricia Grant and Jenny Herschell, Kirkmichael and Tomintoul Community Association; Sandy Henderson, Friends of the Fleming Hospital, Aberlour; Rita Marks, Glenlivet and Inveravon Community Association; Margaret Stuart, Rothes Council.

In attendance: PC Andy Main and PC Doug Darling, Police Scotland; Mary Bourne, Sculptor, Guest Speaker.

Apologies: Mabel Donald, Aberlour Community Association; Patricia Shanks, Edinville Community Hall Council; Cllr Pearl Paul, The Moray Council; Deborah Smith and Martin Sheeds, Cabrach Community Enterprise Ltd.

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

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (April): Proposed: Sandy Henderson Seconded: John Fleming Approved.

3. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Constitution Review Sub Committee:

The Sub Committee (Bill Burgess, Jean Grimshaw and Andrea Fuller) had met and produced a preliminary list of proposed amendments but would need to meet again. As the old Constitution is on the website, members will be sent a copy of the one provided by the CSU so that they could comment upon the proposed amendments. It was also proposed that an Equality Opportunities clause be incorporated into the Constitution. This review is the first step towards having a Community Action Plan.

Speyside in Bloom:

- The Sub Committee (Andrea Fuller, Jean Grimshaw and Rita Marks) have produced a draft plan which is similar to the 2012 plan but without individual gardens as this is too time consuming for the Judge.
- It was agreed to allow Drummur to enter this year.
- Schools will be given entry information shortly so they will have time to prepare before they break up for the summer.

Support Worker for Community Associations: Rita Marks had been in correspondence with The Moray Council and Richard Lohead MSP who confirmed that the Moray Council this year has agreed to provide Community Associations with the same support given to Community Councils. Ian Todd said support continues to be available through the CSU and Gillian Bailey despite budget cuts, and he spoke in some detail of staffing levels and work with halls e.g. Knockando and Cabrach, being undertaken. There followed a discussion during which members expressed their deep concern about recent redundancies at the CSU and in particular on losing Rhona Patterson, Community Support Worker. Hugh Fraser said that Speyside Area Forum, at the very least and as a matter of courtesy, should have had a letter letting them know Ms Patterson would be no longer on the staff. Bill Burgess will write a letter of complaint on behalf of the Forum.

Community Councils: At the presentation during the April meeting on Community Councils, members present made it clear that there is very little interest in setting up Community Councils in Speyside as this need is covered by Community Associations. Cllr Mike McConnachie disagreed with this view and he said that there are people wanting to stand for election to Community Councils in the area and they have entered into negotiations with The Moray Council.

4. Police Matters: PC Andy Main and PC Doug Darling gave the latest Police Report. *(Please see attached report)*
If a Police Station is unmanned then the public can get in touch via email or by phoning 101. All calls are logged centrally and then passed to the appropriate local station. .

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

Carron: Bill Burgess reported that repairs to the Cabrach Road and ditches have been attended to. Building works at Glencarron Distillery have started.

Aberlour: Hugh Fraser strongly expressed his concern that there was no bus service on the Bank Holiday Monday and no prior notice of this change despite this being the major festival of the Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival. Bill Burgess will bring up the matter to the next meeting of The Moray Forum.

Roths Council: Jean Grimshaw thanked the Tattie Bogle competition judges. The works at Grant Hall, which is covered in scaffolding, have stopped pending the resolution of Health & Safety and Legal issues.

6. Treasurer's Report: Hugh Fraser, Treasurer handed out his report and said that the balance stands at £3,810.46. The accounts have been audited as at the end of April. The Moray Council grant of £1,118 is slightly less than for 2012. **Approval of Accounts:** Proposed: Jenny Herschell Seconded: Sandy Henderson Approved.

7. Any Other Business:

Climbing Wall Update: An email from Gareth Wignall, Speyside High School asking for further funding so that the project can go ahead had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. A lengthy and detailed discussion followed, during which some members said that they would take the matter to their Community Councils. Cllr Pearl Paul had emailed Mr Wignall advice on prospective funders. Meanwhile, as the deadline for funding is the end of June it was agreed that Bill Burgess will write to the CSU on behalf of the Forum to support this project as a matter of urgency.

Mary Bourne, Sculptor, Guest Speaker - gave a slide presentation on the proposal put forward to Creative Scotland that a Speyside Performing Arts Centre be constructed at Speyside High School. For further information on her work members could look at <http://www.marybourne.co.uk/recentwork.html>. It is proposed that this be a model project to serve for other projects in the future. Mary Bourne envisaged two-phases; research and construction. Pupils would develop the brief, draw up an advert, select the artist and follow the artist through the initial commissions for the entrance and footpath. At the research stage, the Forum could be invited to comment on the designs. The application is for £24,000 with 10% match funding. The proposed timeframe is one year, starting this summer. In response to a request from Hugh Fraser, Mary Bourne agreed to email a Project Description to the Secretary to be sent to members.

Public Entertainment Licence Update: Following a discussion, Cllr Mike McConnachie agreed to provide the Secretary with feedback to be forwarded to members following the next Licensing Committee meeting.

Members of Speyside Area Forum appreciated the use of Mortlach Memorial Hall for their meeting.

Date and venue of next meeting: 7.30pm, Tuesday, 30th July, Tomintoul. Patricia Grant will email the Secretary with the venue.

Attachment: Police Report

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