

Speyside Area Forum

Minutes of Meeting

Held in Tomintoul School, Tuesday 26th October 2011

1. Welcome:

The chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everybody to the meeting
Nigel Engstrand was introduced as the new Rector of Speyside High and a letter will be issued to David Tierney thanking him for the support he had given the Speyside Forum in the past.

Attending:

Sandy Henderson, chair, Aberlour Community Association
Hugh Fraser, Aberlour Community Association
Mhairi McBain, treasurer, Cabrach Community Association
Martin Sheed, Cabrach Community Association
Steve Oliver, Archiestown Village Council
Bill Burgess, vice chair, Carron Community Association
Jean Oliver, Speyside Paths Network
Andrea Fuller, Edinvillie Community Hall Council
Pat Shanks, Edinvillie Community Hall Council
Rita Marks, Glenlivet & Inveravon Community Association
Derek Clark, Glenrinn Community Centre
Patricia Grant, Kirkmichael & Tomintoul Community Association
Jenny Herschell, Kirkmichael & Tomintoul Community Association
Jean Grimshaw, Rothes Council

In Attendance:

Cllr. Pearl Paul, The Moray Council
Cllr. Fiona Murdoch, The Moray Council
Cllr. Michael McConnachie, The Moray Council
Mr Roddy Burns, Chief Executive, The Moray Council
Pamela Harty, The Moray Council
Gillian Bailey, The Moray Council
Nigel Engstrand, Rector, Speyside High School
PC Craig Danner, Grampian Police

2. Apologies:

Margaret Stuart, Rothes Council
John Fleming, Dufftown & District Community Association

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Approved: Pat Shanks
Seconded: Rita Marks

4. Matters Arising:

a) Ballindalloch – It was confirmed that improved signage would be incorporated into Bear Scotland's schedule.

b) Village Officers: No reply has been received from Ian Bruce – the Forum requested a further letter be sent to him requesting he attends our next meeting.

5. Moray Economic Strategy:

Roddy Burns congratulated the Office Bearers on re-election/election to their posts. He explained that Moray Council was trying to engage with the community because they needed to establish what the issues were in Speyside.

Issues discussed included:

- a) Traffic Congestion: Certain roads should not be classified as “A” roads e.g. A941
- b) Tourism: Speyside needs to be promoted better; concerns were expressed about the waste of money that had been previously spent on tourism projects. An example of this is the Speyside Community Web who had received European financial assistance to establish themselves and it was felt that they were not complying with their remit which included “contributing to the economic stability in the area of Moray” and “improving the quality of life for those in rural areas”. Roddy Burns agreed to look into what, if any, influence Moray Council had over the Web group. Cllrs Paul and Murdoch also agreed to research the matter.
Other Tourism issues included the inability to obtain any Tourism qualifications within Moray.
- c) Transport: It was felt that tourists were unable to travel around Speyside and consideration should be given to a weekly bus service between Tomintoul and Grantown and also Aviemore to Elgin. People living in the outlying areas were also prevented from undertaking college courses in Elgin due to the limited bus services available.
- d) Broadband speeds and mobile phone coverage: This is a real issue to rural areas and more emphasis needs to be placed on people’s ability to work from home. All BT exchanges need upgrading.
- e) Arts & Culture: The Forum were not happy that the Music and Culture Centre for Speyside is destined to be in Keith – Roddy Burns explained that this was the view of the consultant and consequently it was necessary to consult with Speysiders on this issue. It was noted that the Whisky Festival is no longer confined to Speyside and that Speyside High needs an extension to its building to enable arts and music to develop further.
- f) Sports Facilities: Proper sports training facilities are needed in Moray.
- g) Other issues included: cost of postage for IV and AB postal addresses and that the licence fee applicable for Farmer’s Markets needs to be removed – Roddy Burns agreed to review the licence position.

Roddy Burns thanked the Forum for their positive thoughts and ensured the meeting that he would do everything possible to assist Moray and that barriers would not be put in the way of Speyside. Cllr Paul noted that Speyside was not short of initiatives at community level but we could do more if we had more support.

The question of the Speyside Community Support Worker was raised with Roddy Burns as the Forum remained unhappy about the CSW no longer being allowed to attend meetings due to cost implications. Cllr Paul reminded the Forum that the CSW was a link between Moray Council and Speyside and that we had recently received an excellent report following the inspection on Speyside with regards to community

involvement. Roddy Burns acknowledged this and agreed that Moray Council would provide secretarial support for the Forum at their meetings pending the appointment of a secretary.

6. Secretary's Honorarium

It was agreed that we would pay the previous secretary £300.00 for her period of office but that the honorarium for any newly appointed secretary would be £50.00 per meeting

It was then agreed to carry all further agenda items over to the next meeting.

7. Date & Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday 6th December 7.30 p.m.
Fleming Hall, Aberlour