



Speyside Area Forum
Chairman: Mr Bill Burgess
Strathalban Cottage, Carron
AB38 7QP Tel: 01340 810683

Email: linda@burgess319307.wanadoo.co.uk
Website: www.undiscoveredspeyside.org

**Minutes, Meeting at Dufftown-Mortlach Memorial Hall, 7.30pm Tuesday 23rd October 2012
Immediately following the AGM**

1. Welcome and Apologies: Sandy Henderson, Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. **Apologies:** Fiona Herd, Community Learning and Development Worker, The Moray Council ; Jenny Herschell, Kirkmichael and Tomintoul Community Association ; Mabel Donald, Aberlour Community Association ; Deborah Smith, Cabrach Community Enterprise Ltd ; Steve Oliver, Archiestown Village Council ; Cllr Pearl Paul ; Margaret Stuart, Rothies Council ; Inspector Alan Armit. **Attending:** Sandy Henderson, Chairman; Hugh Fraser, Treasurer; Cllr Fiona Murdoch, The Moray Council; William Burgess, Carron Community Association; John Fleming, Dufftown and District Community Association; Andrea Fuller and Patricia Shanks, Edinville Community Hall Council; Patricia Grant, Kirkmichael and Tomintoul Community Association; Jean Grimshaw, Rothies Council; Rita Marks, Glenlivet and Inveravon Community Association; Martin Sheed, Cabrach Community Enterprise Ltd; Insp. Paul McCrudden and PC George Kirton, Grampian Police; **Guest:** Margaret Cowie, Volunteer Development Officer, Education and Social Work, The Moray Council.

2. Minutes of 21st August at Glenrines Community Centre: Proposed Hugh Fraser Seconded: Sandy Henderson

3. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

4. Police Matters: (The October Policing Report is on the undiscoveredspeyside website). Inspector Paul McCrudden and PC George Kirton gave their reports and entered into discussions with several Forum members present. The Inspector then spoke about proposals to rationalise and improve services in Tomintoul by accommodating the Police Officer and providing an office for the Scottish Ambulance Service in a new extension at the rear of the Fire Station. It is further proposed that the existing Police house will be sold to fund the new extension. The planning application is pending and feedback is invited. The Inspector said that this improvement was a significant one and the Police trusted that they would receive community support for it. The Police representatives left the meeting at this point.

5. Update from Community Groups: Andrea Fuller said that the Undiscovered Speyside in Bloom report was on the website. She expressed disappointment at the lack of interest in the results shown by Forum members. Very few 'hits' had been noted on the website. However, arrangements were made at the meeting regarding the distribution of winning certificates which had been produced and donated by Bob Fuller. Bill Burgess expressed appreciation for the work carried out by the team and Bob Fuller. The team were invited to submit expenses claims.

6. Treasurer's Report: Hugh Fraser, Treasurer, read from the Financial Statement which had been distributed. The financial year ended with a healthy balance of £2,837.42. He requested that members remember to invoice the Forum £30 for hall hire when meetings are held there.

7. Update from Community Groups and Community Issues: **Rothies** – Jean Grimshaw reported that the Grant Hall upgrade funded by a £250k Lottery Grant was underway with completion due in February 2013. The Flood Alleviation works had won a prize from the Saltire Society which Cllr Pearl Paul and Jean Grimshaw would go to Glasgow to collect. **Aberlour** – Sandy Henderson reported that their Bicentenary weekend was a great success with many visitors from abroad as well as the UK. HRH Prince Charles had been present and gave special attention to children and older people which was much appreciated. Hugh Fraser had carried out much of the work and this also was appreciated. Hugh Fraser praised the discreet Police presence. **Glenlivet** – Rita Marks reported that they had raised £9k and hope to raise £10k next year. In addition £8k was taken by stallholders. A discussion followed regarding the impact of a proposed gas pipe line which would go through three distilleries in the area. **Kirkmichael and Tomintoul** – Patricia Grant spoke about the Moray Council Spending Priorities Roadshow. A discussion followed and Cllr Fiona Murdoch distributed a leaflet giving the timetable and venues. Patricia Grant reported that the post of Development Officer had been re-advertised as the chosen candidate declined to accept. Hopefully there

would be someone in place soon. She also wondered whether The Forum members could have village signs like the one Nethy Bridge has giving information on visitor attractions. **Dufftown** – John Fleming asked about the traffic calming method of the ‘smiley faces’ electronic signs. The procedure for funding and installation is complex members were advised, but Cllr Fiona Murdoch would investigate and report back on these two latter matters.

Cabrach – In response to a query raised by Martin Sheed about the driving hazard represented by trees growing over the road at the church turnoff, and who was financially responsible for their cutting back, the owner or the Moray Council, Cllr Fiona Murdoch said she would look into this and report back.

8. Correspondence: As most correspondence is now by email, relevant emails are forwarded to members by the Secretary and put on the website by the Webmaster as they are received.

9. AOCB. Guest: Mrs Margaret Cowie spoke about her work as Volunteer Development Officer, and encouraged Forum members to ‘spread the word’ about the necessary and vital work which could be undertaken by volunteers in the Speyside area. Training and supervision would be given, and recognition of the work by volunteers would take place in June 2013 during Volunteer Week. Mrs Cowie gave out ‘Hands Up to Volunteering’ leaflets and read out a list of current initiatives. Further information is on the Moray Council website or can be obtained from Mrs Cowie at volunteering.CC@moray.gov.uk.

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

Date and venue of next meeting: Tuesday 8th January 2013, The Cottage, Rothes.

Eileen Fitzpatrick
Secretary