



**Speyside Area Forum**  
[www.undiscoveredspeyside.org](http://www.undiscoveredspeyside.org)

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**Minutes of the Meeting held at  
The Fleming Hall, Aberlour 7.30pm Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2014**

**Present:** Bill Burgess, Chairman; Martin Sheed, Vice Chair, *Cabrach Community Assoc (Scottish Charity Incorporated Organisation)*; Hugh Fraser, *Treasurer and Aberlour Community Association*, Alison Wilson, *Secretary*; Gillian Bailey, *Community Support Unit The Moray Council*; Cllrs Pearl Paul, Mike McConnachie and Fiona Murdoch, *The Moray Council*; Charles Alexander, *Knockando Community Association*; Patricia Grant and Jenny Herschell, *Kirkmichael and Tomintoul Community Association*; Rita Marks, *Glenlivet and Inveravon Community Association*; Margaret Stuart, *Rothies Council*; John Fleming, *Dufftown and District Community Association*; Mabel Donald and John Milne, *Aberlour Community Association*; Bunty Campbell and Rob Lewin, *Glenrines Community Centre*, Patricia Grant and Jenny Herschel, *Kirkmichael and Tomintoul Community Association*.

**Apologies:** Sandy Henderson, *Friends of Fleming Hospital, Aberlour*; Alister Laing (*Archiestown*), Ian Todd (TMC), Sgt Graeme Allen; Deborah Smith, *Cabrach Community Assoc*; Brenda Cooper, *Craigellachie Village Council (email arrived late)*.

**1. Welcome:** Bill Burgess, Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and introduced Alison Wilson the new Secretary.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (October 2013): Still awaited.....**

**Approval** – Not possible due to lack of minute of the previous meeting.

**3. Matters Arising:**

None - due to lack of minutes of previous meeting.

**4. Police Matters:** Please see attached report, the main points of which were also read out by PC Moar - opportunist thieves are the most notable things. Some theft of sheep has occurred in the last few weeks. The most positive note is the opening of the new Police Office in Tomintoul. The Police Officer (Andy Maine) has just moved in. It is a local, joint building with Ambulance and Fire Services. There will be full time manning, with the same shifts as Rothies Police Office, working as a part of the local team with a dedicated vehicle. This is a very positive report due to low incidence of crime. 'Be alert for the opportunist.' Also noted - an insurance scam using local addresses. Generally it is a good overall situation.

The Chair thanked PCs Moar and Thomson for their attendance.

## 5. Community Issues and Update from Community Groups

*(please also see the Diary on the website)*

Glenlivet and Inveravon - Rita Marks reported that the Tomnavoulin Shop will be closing on the 25th of Jan, 'for a while' something may happen yet, but seems unlikely. There are too many projects for the Tomintoul Area Trust to take it on as a community shop. It is hoped that a post office service will continue at some level.

The Post Office service arrangements in Dufftown are settling down, but undelivered parcels must now be collected from Keith. Some have to travel even longer distances to collect undelivered parcels. Cllr Paul said that folk are pleased to have a Post Office left in Rothes. In Aberlour, Cattanach's is to be the venue with longer opening hours. Similar issues in each community. Cllr Paul said that it is good to know that they do at least look for options and do their best to keep services going in some form.

Rothes - Library closure - Cllr Paul said that Rothes is now to be the only library to close, they hope to get e-books and similar things to keep some form of lending service. A mobile might be a possibility. Only one mobile library left in the Moray Council area. Many areas seem to get one visit in six weeks. Locally, Rothes Council are going to work towards this. There appeared to be some confusion about flyers about library services that had been in circulation.

The Grant Hall is nearly done, some unforeseen issues had cropped up, but extra money was found from other sources. A couple of events have been held, but no official opening yet.

Cabrach - Martin Sheed reported that it is now officially a Scottish Charity Incorporated Organisation. Acorn is back into community management and 'New Cabrach Developments' are looking at the school - Acorn. The community is too small to cope with it the new set up should be able to manage it.

Aberlour - The low bridge warning signage at Allahoy road end from A95 (Bear Scotland) was mentioned. Cllr Paul had brought it up at a meeting, a letter had been sent and still nothing done as yet. It will be followed up on Friday at the next meeting of the Roads Dept. Better signage is also needed at the A941 end of the same road.

John Milne reported that discussions are still ongoing about the trees on the High Street, aimed at replacing the fallen and damaged trees. Another issue is a 'dropped' manhole cover outside the Speyside Dental Surgery as well as the sign to the Car Park down Elchies Road. This has been raised with Bear and they are aware. There is also a pothole across the carriageway outside the hairdressers at Elchies Road.

Carron - No Parking signs have been put in at the historic parking area and lay-by areas at the Carron Bridge. There is a concern that this will stop the canoeists parking. Moray Access Forum should be able to help with this issue. Perhaps it is a temporary measure while the Imperial Distillery works are ongoing.

A95 - Can they remove the traffic lights on the A95? Fiona Murdoch –said that better flow of traffic should be being effected through Hi-Trans for extra overtaking places. Could the unofficial lay-by at Bulwark/Dandaleith Farm area on the A941 area be adopted and then upgraded? It is apparent that many issues are caused by farmers hauling bales on long, low loaders and that there are too few places for them to pull off the roads to allow overtaking. It was suggested A9 overtaking issues could be sorted by Policing and preventing lorry convoys from forming. Acknowledgement

was made of the pressures that some HGV drivers also face in meeting their deadlines. Charles Alexander pointed out that the Trunk road is not wide enough Craigellachie to Maggieknockater and that speeding still an issue in that area. Cllr Murdoch suggested that the Police might be asked to conduct a speed check in Maggieknockater.

## **6. Treasurer's Report:**

Hugh Fraser circulated the financial report. The donation for funding for the Speyside Way Visitor Centre has been switched to the Aberlour Cty Assoc. as they are now taking the lead on this project. The only real expense is travelling expenses.

Balance £3,157.25

## **7. Any Other Business**

Cllr Paul said that in respect of the Speyside Way Visitor Centre, a meeting was being held on 15th Jan to explore the possibilities. The project is progressing.

Tomintoul Police Office opening - invites to opening near the end of February, names were asked for. The email will be circulated for folk to put their own names in.

Flowers and Bedding – Mabel Donald asked if there were any ideas for raising bedding plants now that The Moray Council had closed their bedding facility. It was thought that the glass houses at Forres may be taken over by the Forres in Bloom Group and there may be a surplus that could go to other communities. It was suggested that a letter be written from the Forum to the Northern Scot to thank Mr Tom Bagley for his advice and assistance to the area's communities. **AGREED**

Glenlivet are going to buy in bedding plants again this year. A general discussion ensued on planting numbers and how to find a source of plants. Mabel had spoken to at Cove Bay Plant Nursery, who would be willing to give a quote. And contact also to Colin Green at Green's Nurseries near Nairn.

Martin Sheed said that the Cabrach Community Assoc is writing to The Moray Council about the works at Mortlach Distillery to ask for widening of the corner of Fife St. Could the Forum encourage all local residents to ask for improvements to that part of Fife Street?

Cllr Paul said that a lot of positive things are going ahead in the Speyside area between new distilleries and expansions, hotels being upgraded. It all gives the area a high profile.

## **Date and venue of next meeting**

7.30pm, Tuesday, 4th March - venue The Grant Hall, Rothes *tbc*

**Attachment:** Police Report

*Alison Wilson - Secretary aliwilson@aol.com 01340 881764*