



Speyside Area Forum  
[www.undiscoveredspeyside.org](http://www.undiscoveredspeyside.org)  
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### Minutes of the Meeting held at The Cottage, Rothes, Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013

**1. Welcome:** Bill Burgess, Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and wished them a Happy New Year.  
**Apologies:** Brenda Cooper, Craigellachie Village Council; Derek Clark, Glenrinn Community Centre; Hugh Fraser, Treasurer; Debbie Smith, Cabrach Community Enterprise Ltd; Rita Marks, Glenlivet and Inveravon Community Association. **Attending:** Bill Burgess, Chairman; Jean Grimshaw, Vice Chairman and Rothes Council; Sgt Graeme Allan and PC Roy Thomson, Grampian Police; Ian Todd, Community Support Unit, The Moray Council; Cllrs Pearl Paul, Fiona Murdoch and Mike McConnachie, The Moray Council; Sandy Henderson and Mabel Donald, Aberlour Community Association; John Fleming, Dufftown and District Community Association; Andrea Fuller and Patricia Shanks, Edinville Community Hall Council; Patricia Grant and Jenny Herschell, Kirkmichael and Tomintoul Community Association; Martin Sheed, Cabrach Community Enterprise Ltd.

### 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (October 2012 double meeting with AGM):

Proposed: Martin Sheed    Seconded: Andrea Fuller

### 3. Matters Arising:

- Andrea Fuller said that the previous Minutes should show that Bill Burgess (as the newly elected Chairman) and not Sandy Henderson welcomed members to the meeting.
- Patricia Grant expressed concern to the Grampian Police present about cars parking outside and therefore causing a possible obstruction to fire engines at the new amalgamated Fire/Police Station in Tomintoul.

**4. Police Matters:** Sgt Graeme Allan and PC Roy Thomson gave the Local Policing Report (attached) and answered related questions. They have no objection to the report being posted on the website. Bill Burgess thanked them for keeping Speyside safe. Police representatives then left the meeting at this point.

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

- Patricia Grant reported that the Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust Local Development Officer has now been appointed. Jenny Herschel said there is to be a public meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> January of the Trust with upgrading of the Broadband service one of the priorities to be considered.
- In reply to a query regarding the poor (or no) digital radio reception in Dufftown raised by John Fleming and following a discussion, Martin Sheed agreed to research and report on this for the next meeting. The Forum could then decide whether to press for an improvement in the service based on information received.
- Martin Sheed led a discussion about poor road surfaces in the area experienced over the winter, (his car was written off on Boxing Day due to black ice on the road) despite resurfacing, worsened by the lack of drainage (ditches need to be dug/landowner Moran Family or Moray Council responsibility issue) causing severe icing of the road and consequent very dangerous driving conditions. Cllr Pearl Paul will raise this as a matter of urgency at the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January between Moray Councillors and the Trunk Roads Authority and report back. Bill Burgess, Chairman, will write a letter of concern on behalf of the Forum to the Moray Council Roads and Transport Department.
- Cllr Pearl Paul reported that the Biomass Plant at Rothes is now operational. (It uses co-products from distilleries BenRiach, Chivas Brothers, Diageo, Edrington, Glen Grant, Inver House and John Dewar & Sons. to generate electricity and feed for animals.)
- Martin Sheed reported on the latest developments regarding the windfarm (59 wind turbines) plan on the Glenfiddich Estate owned by Christopher Moran. They have until December this year to begin building the windfarm. Cllr Fiona Murdoch said that Christopher Moran is changing the specifications in order to increase the capacity by having bigger and more modern turbines and the company is also trying to take into account opinions expressed by people living locally. (There is a consortium of businesses against the

turbines – Glenfiddich owned by William Grant and Sons, Walkers Shortbread of Aberlour and Grant's of Glenfarclas Whisky.)

- Patricia Grant asked if there were any developments regarding the The Delnashaugh Hotel Ballindalloch which appears to be closed.
- Bill Burgess outlined the history and said that plans for the new distillery to be built at Carron by Chivas Brothers (owned by Pernod Ricard) are making progress. The local community is in favour of it. Cllr Mike McConnachie said that the planning application is being considered by the Moray Council.
- Ian Todd from the CSU reported on recent work carried out by the unit. Gillian Bailey and the team are supporting Community Asset Transfers by Cabrach Community Enterprise Ltd and Dufftown Clock Tower Committee; a lottery application by Aberlour Community Association; The Fleming Hall, Dufftown funding application; Grant Hall, Rothes to develop a marketing strategy; Craigellachie Village Council working on Keystone Awards and various communities with the new OSCR regulations concerning charitable status; Speyside Climbing Wall (Speyside High School) funding applications; Craigellachie Senior Citizens' Group restart; Knockando Community Association's plan to amalgamate several community groups into one. The CSU will also be reviewing Support Agreements over the next three months. Ian Todd plans to regularly attend Speyside Area Forum meetings on behalf of the Community Support Unit.
- Jean Grimshaw said that CSU help was appreciated in furthering the upgrading of the Grant Hall, Rothes.
- Cllr Pearl Paul and Jean Grimshaw were pleased to report that they had received on behalf of Rothes from the Saltire Society an award for Civil Engineering 2012 - Commendation for the Moray Flood Alleviation scheme which required community goodwill and ingenuity. They had travelled to Glasgow to receive it.
- Bill Burgess said that the situation regarding planning permission to expand the number of pumps available at the petrol station at Aberlour was ongoing and he outlined some of the difficulties they are experiencing.
- Mabel Donald raised the question of the need for information on the supply of and prices charged for plants from The Moray Council Lands and Parks Department. A general discussion followed and Cllr Fiona Murdoch who has asked several times for price lists, will continue to do so and report back.
- Patricia Grant and Jenny Herschell were pleased to report that the Speyside Community Car Sharing Scheme is very well used and well funded though they do not have enough drivers.
- Cllr Fiona Murdoch reported that the Post Office is due to move into the newsagent in Dufftown in the Spring. The plan is to have longer trading hours though some services (e.g. international parcels) are likely to be withdrawn, and she has written a letter of objection asking for an itemised list of reasons for the decision. The concern is that the proposal will adversely affect local businesses trading online with other countries that at present have to go to Craigellachie Post Office with parcels.

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

- Hugh Fraser who was sadly unable to attend through ill health, had kindly prepared a report which was read out by Bill Burgess. The balance as at 23<sup>rd</sup> October was £3,122.65. Approval of Treasurer's Report – Proposed: Sandy Henderson, Seconded: Patricia Grant.
- In answer to a query regarding website costs, Andrea Fuller advised the meeting that no further payment is due at present to webmaster Bob Fuller as the account is still in credit.

## **7. Any Other Business:**

- Andrea Fuller prompted a discussion resulting in the general feeling that the Forum needs to be more proactive, work to the Action Plan and set 6 monthly or annual targets. The Forum also needs to engage more with local groups to encourage a broader spectrum of participation. It was decided to begin by reviewing the Constitution and a sub committee was formed with Bill Burgess, Jean Grimshaw and Andrea Fuller supported by Ian Todd, CSU who will bring examples of other Action Plans.
- Cllr Fiona Murdoch spoke about public consultation meetings on the Moray Local Development Plan Main Issues Report 2012 (3pm-8pm drop in sessions at Aberlour on 29<sup>th</sup> January and Dufftown 17<sup>th</sup> January). The Forum should make an overall plan for the Speyside area so that each town e.g. Dufftown, would know what they are working towards especially in terms of bringing visitors to the area. How would we like to see Speyside in 10 years time and how do we achieve that? A holistic approach is needed. Cllr Murdoch said that the report does not cover Speyside properly, is has rather an urban approach, so it is very important that the Forum make representation to the Moray Council. There are many questions to be answered. We are not being given the options we need and the documents, prepared by the Planning Department, do not cover what is needed to be covered. Bill Burgess will write to the Moray Council on behalf of the Forum.

- Ian Todd said his understanding is that the Moray Community Planning Partnership is reviewing itself and there may be implications for the Forum for instance there could be more Community Asset Transfers.
- Andrea Fuller, who has been elected Vice Convenor of MFCHA reminded members that the next MFCHA meeting is due to take place on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2.30pm The Fleming Hall, Aberlour.

Members of Speyside Area Forum appreciated the use of The Cottage, Rothes for their meeting.

**Date and venue of next meeting:** 7.30pm, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, (please note change of date)  
Carron Community Hall

2 Attachments: Policing Report and Treasurer's Report (to follow)

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