**Minutes of Meeting 28 September 2023**

**(held at Aboyne Library)**

**Attending**

Community Councillors

Steven Lindsay (SL/Vice Chair) (Acting Chair), Grahame Wilson (GW/Treasurer), Chris Grieve (CG), Mike Brown (MB), Fiona Sawyer (FS) (Acting Secretary), Alison Pollock (AP), Volha (Olga) Druhakova (VD)

Aberdeenshire Councillors

Cllr Sarah Brown (CSB)

Others

Paul Gibb, Sgt Alan Masson

1. **Welcome, apologies and conflicts**

**Apologies:** , Bernie Cassie (BC), Alastair Brodie (AB), Martin Ogden (MO/Chair), Cllr Anouk Kloppert (CAK)

**Absent:** Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB)

**Any conflicts of interest declared:** None

1. **Resilience Planning - Comms Strategy**

Pre-read included the following information:

* 1. Working group to be set up for marketing/communications to cover:
     1. Facebook group
     2. Promotion of plans
     3. Call for volunteers
     4. Capturing names of people to check
  2. Grant Thomson has agreed to handover Facebook group to MDCC
  3. Presentation to Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire community groups 3rd October

Paul Gibb noted that working procedures have been prepared for each hub. Starting procedures prepared for all hubs save for Glen Tanar. Letter written to go into next issue of The Fountain calling for volunteers. MDCC to put call out for volunteers through MDCC networks.

SL to forward information to AP for adding to Facebook.

Need to update the resilience page of the MDCC webpage - SL/MO to let FS know what changes need to be made.

Volunteers - have lists of both core-group with main jobs and additional list of names to be called on the day to carry-out other various duties.

ID for volunteers - hi-vis jackets with MDCC name, badges and laminated sheet to show status as MDCC resilience group volunteer.

1. **Police Report and Q&A**

Sgt Alan Masson talked to the Upper Deeside Police Report – Q2 2023.

Wild camping - nothing particularly concerning to report in the Upper Deeside Area.

Trialling new system of non-investigation of crimes that cannot be solved - where at point of report it is clear that there are no lines of enquiry, new system being trialled by which a decision is made and communicated earlier on in the process that a report will not be investigated (as soon as possible following the initial report). Anticipated that new system should improve the quality of the service to the public. Would apply to low level indicents, eg unwitnessed damage to car being reported for insurance purposes.

1. **Minutes of previous meeting - for approval**

Subject to correcting the date of the next meeting, the minutes of the MDCC meeting held in August 2023 approved as a true record. AP proposed, GW seconded.

1. **Matters arising/actions status**

Actions status:

| **#** | **Topic** | **Action Item** | **Status** | **Resp.** | **Opened** | **Status** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Who’s Who for Aboyne | Create a list of representation of groups, organisations, clubs in Aboyne. | Aboyne-Dinnet Church have prepared a list - to review. | FS / AP | Sept ‘22 | Open |
|  | Dog fouling - Aboyne | Aboyne Paths and Tracks Group produced map of Bellwood showing where bins are - to ask whether they can update map to show where dog bins are.  CG to discuss with KCA.  Map discussed at last MDCT meeting. Dale Kitching discussed progressing updating the map. | SL discussed with APTG Committee. Update - no intention to id locations of dog litter bins on the APTG map because the Council can move the bins which means that the map will be out of date. | SL | Mar ‘23 | Closed |
|  | Request for participation in the development of Councils new Local Transport Strategy (19 May 2023) - consultation closes 23 June 2023 | Survey very long, questionnaire not fully completed..  AB to analyse consultation responses once available. CAK to ask that survey responses be made available. | Consultation was extended to 30 September 2023. | AB  CAK | May ‘23 | Closed. |
|  | Darroch Wood – planning issues | FS to forward comments on TRE/2023/0049 to planning officer as noted in planning report and VD email of 25/5/23.  CSB to request all-parties meeting with Aberdeenshire Council to discuss both TRE/2023/0049 and enforcement request. | CSB has written to planning team. Response awaited. | CSB | May ‘23 | Open |
|  | Defibs | MO to apply to the Rotary Club for funding  Rotary have donated £600 to MDCC defibs fund. Intention is to donate £600 next year as well.  SL to investigate possible assistance of MDCT. | MO and SL met with Chair of MDCT. As a charity, MDCT have access to various funds which could support the Defibs maintenance.  MDCT have agreed to take Defibs under the MDCT remit as an MDCT project from hereon. MDCC to pass on the £600 contribution from the Rotary and the current MDCC Defibs team will continue maintenance and checking but under the MDCT umbrella as an MDCT sub-group.  GW to discuss management with MDCT.  SL to email Brian Rae (MDCT Chair), MO, CG and GW to confirm new arrangement and ask how to take forward the administration (eg checklists, purchasing consumables).  Many thanks expressed to GW for all his hard work managing the defibs team and ensuring that the defibs are kept in working order. | SL/GW | May ‘23 | Open  (but almost closed!) |
|  | Community Secretaries Group | Review whether MDCC wants to join | MDCC Secretary role currently vacant. | AB | 22/6/23 | Closed |
|  | 50th anniversary toolkit for community councils | For information and use with MDCC social media | AP has checked the toolkit and taken on board opportunities. | AP | 22/6/23 | Closed |
|  | Aberdeenshire Community Council Networking Event - Saturday 4 November 2023. |  | SL to forward the invitation email to AP. | SL | 22/6/23 | Open |
|  | Speeding at Darroch Wood | Regarding CAB report to 22/6/23 meeting - average figures have been given. Would be useful to see range of figures recorded for analysis.  CSB to request distribution graph showing range of speeds recorded. | CSB reported that officers may have a solution to the problem of intermittent operation, ie connection to a battery to allow operation during the day. Counter will be re-run next year once the sign has been operating fully.  MDCC will revisit this once the sign has been fixed and the numbers have been re-run.  CSB regularly prompts the officers on this topic for this area. Many thanks expressed to CSB for her help with this. | CSB | 22/6/23 | Closed. |
|  | Bedding plants | Note for 2023/24 - MDCC to complete next plant order form from council with the same plant numbers as ordered in 2022 and 2023 and place the order.  Remember - plants ordered for all MDCC communities.  MDCC to order the plants - now need to action the request. | MDCT have supplied plant list. FS has forwarded to the Council. At MDCT’s request, FS has requested council to forward future plant requests directly to MDCT. | FS | May ‘23 | Closed. |

1. **Correspondence and communications**
   1. **Closure of the Bank of Scotland branches in Braemar and Ballater, AB35** - CSB reported. Branch closures in Ballater and Braemar are going ahead. BoS are going to provide community bank provisions in both Ballater and Braemar, which should provide all services except cash transactions. May be temporary or permanent - tbc. Link has done an access to cash assessment; BCCC are going to lead a piece of work to apply for a community banking hub (which various banks can use). Link have explained that this service is not generally set up for rural areas due to number of cash taking front-facing shops that have to be in vicinity - Ballater will apply. BCCC need information and feedback to demonstrate that wider catchment will depend on these services.

It was stated that there is a belief that Banchory Post Office may be closing down because Banchory Co-op is closing.

NB on 12 weeks’ notice Link can add extra cash into cash machines in time for the events such as the Highland Games.

* 1. **Deeside & Upper Donside Project - Community Links Information** AP to share on social media.
  2. **Association of Cairngorms Communities 2023 AGM Notice** - Meeting on 10 October 2023.
  3. **Road Closure - C20m, Kincardine O'Neil - 12/10/23** - Noted.
  4. **Aboyne Christmas Event** - Some businesses in Lower Station Square interested in organising Christmas Event and have queried what help might be available. MDCT have discussed - no objection to idea.

Discussed that ideally such an event should be held in Station Square rather than on the Green - better surface, and also would benefit surrounding businesses. Discussed that Farmer’s MArkets held on Green because of difficulties with organising event in Station Square.

CG to speak to organiser of Banchory Farmers Market to find out what procedures are required (eg road closures, electricity supply, licences, health and safety, fire access (NB Bonty Court)) and put in touch with the enquirer for them to discuss the requirements.

Noted that Aboyne Business Association (ABA) is currently defunct. CSB is prepared to support anyone wanting to re-establish the business association.

CSB supportive in terms of connecting interested parties and having conversations.

SL to reply to enquirer, cc-ing CSB, confirming MDCC support for publicising such an event.

* 1. **My Place Awards 2024 Open for Entries** - open for entries. AP to share on social media.

Noted that at Paths for All (Scotland-wide charity) annual awards, APTG won path group of the year and volunteer of the year award was given posthumously to Jonathan Kitching. Congratulations were expressed for a thoroughly deserved award for work much appreciated by our community.

* 1. **Upcoming webinars for Community Councils: Carbon Literacy Toolkit Training + Democracy Matters Conversations** - 5 October and 10 October 2023. AP may attend.
  2. Community resilience conference - Monday, 2 October 2023 from 9.30 am – 3.00 pm. Noted.
  3. **Well Woman Aboyne** - MDCC to reply to indicate support for their services.
  4. **MDCC area map** - PDF map to be updated on MDCC website when available and link provided to Aberdeen Considine. MDCC to respond accordingly.
  5. **Prohibition of Waiting - Huntly Road, Ballater Road and Charlestown Road - 11/11/23** - Bonfire night. Noted.

1. **Reports**
   1. **Police**

No report this month - next due in September.

* 1. **Treasurer (GW)**

See Treasurer’s Report.

New LPP fund up to £500 - CSB checking whether applications can be retrospective; FS to check with Lucy Styles whether the limit on one application per LPP applies per LPP or per financial year.

* 1. **Aberdeenshire Councillors** 
     1. CGB Report

None received.

* + 1. CSB Report

Noted, and thanks given.

* + 1. CAK Report

None received.

1. **MDCC sub-groups**
   1. **Planning applications**

See planning report for 28 September 2023.

APP/2023/1685 - Query the use of the material being proposed for use on the pitched roof. Noted that council heritage team will advise.

**Huntly Arms Hotel** - Listed building and planning applications for change from retail use to residential use as ancillary hotel accommodation. Discussed potential impact on parking, although noted that retail use also attracted parking. Support attempts to renovate the hotel. Noted that visually acceptable. No objections raised.

No further comments on planning report.

**Notice of review** - No further comment to make.

AP to add the planning applications to social media.

* 1. **Defibrillators**

Defibs have been checked. Will need to purchase another couple of spare batteries in due course. Now under umbrella of MDCT - see Actions Tracker above.

* 1. **Youth Engagement**

MDCT are taking forward.

* 1. **Communications**

Sub-group to meet to discuss communications strategy and progress the actions, particularly relating to the work of the Resilience Group.

AP has programme of social media posts scheduled. Resilience campaign to be next.

* 1. **Local Energy**

Investigating suitable systems for gliding club solar project. Discussing funding models. Considering sitting under MDCT for funding purposes. Next meeting is 12 October 2023.

* 1. **Local Place Plan Group**

Survey is now open. Paper copies have been delivered to all letterboxes in Aboyne and Birsemore. Initial problem with printing caused delay in opening the survey but this was rectified - many thanks expressed for the help given with this. Group sessions are scheduled for: Saturday 7 October 2023 from 10.15 - 11.45 am at Aboyne Library; Thursday 12 October 2023 from 7.30 - 9 pm at The Boat Inn; and Tuesday 17 October 2023 from 7 - 8.30 pm online (joining details to be provided on registration). Posters have been placed around the village advertising the survey and the group sessions. The LPP team have been working with Aboyne Academy to ensure that pupils are encouraged to complete the survey. Collection boxes and materials have been supplied to Allachburn Care Home, Bonty Court, Aboyne-Dinnet Church and St Thomas’ Church to assist with people who may find it difficult to complete the survey or see promotional material elsewhere. Collection points for paper surveys are at The Paper Girls, Corner House, Strachans and Deeside Refill. Emails have been sent out to every group in Aboyne which we have a contact email address for (using a contact form on their website where appropriate) asking them to distribute information about the survey and the group sessions to their distribution lists. The team has had advice from the Place Standard Team and Aberdeenshire Council. So far, many positive comments have been received that people know about the survey and the Local Place Plan, and are supportive. The survey closes on 14 October 2023.

* 1. **Kinkardine Community Association (KCA) Update**

Community meeting - committee being set up to build a new hall. Play park being set up. Deeside Way has been widened between Aboyne and Kinker. Looking at a safe route to school. 20 mph petition = biggest issue in village - Aberdeenshire council is trailing behind other Scottish local authorities eg Perthshire.

1. **Any Other Competent Business**

None.

1. **Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

**Next general meeting** - 7-8.45 pm Thursday, 26 October 2023 (Venue: Aboyne Library)

Next MDCT meeting and AGM = 18 October 2023 - CG to become Director.