



DRAFT Minutes of Meeting 24th November 2022 (held at Aboyne Library)

Present:

Community Councillors: Fiona Sawyer (FS/Chair), Mike Brown (MB), Volha (Olga) Druhakova (VD), Alastair Brodie (AB / Acting Secretary), Bernie Cassie (BC), Steven Lindsay (SL/Vice-Chair), Bill Sutherland (BS),

Aberdeenshire Cllrs: Anouk Kloppert (AK)

Other: Sgt Allan Masson (Police Scotland), James Littlejohn (JL)

1. Welcomes & Apologies

To All

Apologies – Andy Overton (AO/Secretary), Martin Ogden (MO), Sarah Brown (SB), Grahame Wilson (GW/Treasurer), Alison Pollock (AP),

Absent – Geva Blackett (GB)

2. Police report

Sgt Allan Masson (AM) attended the meeting. He explained that Garry Christie (Aboyne Community Cop!) would be seen more in Aboyne. AM will in future attend MDCC meetings quarterly and will issue Upper Deeside police reports. Hopes to attend January 2023 meeting. He provided an email for direct contact¹. Nothing specific to report at this meeting.

FS asked on behalf of a local business whether there was a police report number that could be shared regarding the reported actions of the driver of a Range Rover which caused further flooding during the recent flooding of the Low Road. This was for the purposes of the business' insurance claim. AM will investigate whether details of the report can be shared.

Introductions concluded AM left the meeting. He will endeavour to stay throughout future meetings if possible.

3. Chair Position – Proposed Way Forward

Aberdeenshire Council 's Scheme of Establishment (SoE) defines rules for community councils. MDCC Constitution must comply with the SoE. It was noted that the drafting of MDCC's Constitution is now slightly out of step with the drafting of the SOE following the adoption by Aberdeenshire Council of the new SoE in January 2022. However MDCC's Constitution still complies with the SoE.

Currently, both MDCC 's Constitution and the SoE only permit appointments of Chair and Vice Chair at the meeting immediately following community council elections (MDCC Constitution) or at the AGM (SoE). Neither permits the appointment of the Chair or Vice-chair during the year in the event that either person leaves the community council (whether voluntarily or as required under the Constitution) or dies in post. In practice, Aberdeenshire Council would likely permit a Special

¹ allan.masson@scotland.police.uk

Meeting to be held to appoint a new Chair/Vice-chair (as was the case in January 2022). For the sake of certainty, this should be formalised in MDCC’s Constitution.

It was agreed that MDCC will write to Aberdeenshire Council to advise that a Special Meeting will be called immediately prior to the MDCC ordinary meeting in January 2023 to:

- a. amend MDCC’s Constitution to permit the appointment of Chair and/or Vice-chair at a Special Meeting²; and
- b. subsequently appoint a new Chair and Vice-chair.

It was noted that Aberdeenshire Council had previously rejected the suggestion that MDCC could have a rotating chair. This new arrangement as proposed does not involve a rotating chair but simply the appointment of a new Chair and/or Vice-chair from time to time as required.

It was also noted that SL is prepared to stand as Chair in January 2023 and that MO has indicated he will stand as Vice-chair. At the AGM in June 2023, these appointments can be reconsidered as required.

All community councillors present at the meeting agreed to this approach.

4. Member Confirmation – Mick Mallett (for Switched On Aboyne)

It was noted that Mick Mallett (MM), who manages ‘Switched On Aboyne’ (Christmas Lights) (a subgroup of MDCC created in 2009 and affirmed when the community council subsequently re-started) was appointed by MDCC as an Associate Member several years ago. For the avoidance of doubt, MM’s position as an MDCC Associate Member was confirmed. All community councillors present at the meeting agreed.³

5. Minutes of Meeting 27th October 2022

Approved as a true record. BS proposed, MB seconded.

6. Matters Arising/Actions Status

Please see below ‘MDCC - Actions Tracker’ for updates

#	Topic	Action Item	Update 24/11/22	Resp.	Opened	Status
1	Who’s Who for Aboyne	Create representation of groups, organisations, clubs in Aboyne	To think about how to do effectively	FS / AP	Sept ‘22	Open
2	Wind Turbines	Explore community options for windfarms. Team engaging with Huntly Development Trust for ideas, support etc	Visit to Huntly planned for Sun 6th Nov – report at Nov meeting. Visit rescheduled for 27th Nov – report at Jan 2023 meeting	JL/MB/AB	Aug ‘22	Open
3	Road Safety	A93 Aboyne to Dess incidents	27/10: awaiting camera unit, deployment road safety enquiry raised with Council. To be continued updates in MoM	FS	Sept’ 22	Closed

² Post-meeting note – see Appendix for suggested drafting [not discussed at meeting].

³ Post-meeting note – Aberdeenshire Council records to be updated if required.

4	White Line painting in Dinnet	To follow up on previously confirmed line painting agreed with council	Registered with council (categorised as low priority but it is in the system) - Cllr S Brown following up. Completed	FS	Sept '22	Closed
5	Alcohol Licensing Policy	Engaging with community on policy	See 7(b) below	SL/BC	Nov '22	Open

7. Correspondence & Communications

a. Coall woodland Long Term Forest Plan consultation (31/10/22)

30/11/22 closing date for responses. Posted on Facebook. No comments received from members of the public.

No comments from MDCC about the proposals.

b. Invitation to Engage and Share - Alcohol Licensing Policy - (02/11/22)

06/01/23 closing date for responses. FS and AB attended an online meeting hosted by Aberdeenshire Council. FS asked for more time to look at licensing as there is a need to advertise in the community and respond. Council are asking how to engage people in this policy consultation. SL and BC will follow up on this subject

c. Marr Log Bank (04/11/22) MDCC is being asked to support as a trusted referrer

It is proposed to involve local churches, schools, Young at Heart (Deeside), Community Shed. BS advised that logs are being delivered already to the churches.

d. Scotland Loves Local Gift Card (07/11/22)

Alison has put this on MDCC Facebook page and promoted through E3. MDCC may be able to do work on purchase and dispersal of these cards – to bear in mind if hear of need in community. There is some money available in unreserved funds.

e. A93 East of Aboyne – Cllr Brown email (07/11/22)

SB report advised that improvements have been completed (signage). The safety unit is preparing paperwork for resurfacing

f. Boundaries Commission 2023 Review - Revised Consultation (08/11/22)

AO has reviewed and advised that West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine is not affected by the proposed boundary changes

g. Emergency TPO request - land adjacent to Brownburn Cottage, Aboyne (13/11/22)

Closed.

h. Deeside Way, nr Kinord Drive (18/11/22)

A resident reported (through the website) three issues about local paths which FS reported to Aberdeenshire Council and SB:

- i. Deep pot holes on path between Kinord Drive and Deeside Way – Council has confirmed this privately owned.
- ii. Ladywood path lights not working - now fixed by Council.
- iii. Deeside Way – bank cleared and structure built. Council investigating.

Resident has been informed and requires no further action from MDCC.

8. Aboyne Hospital / Strategic Needs Assessment / Keep Care In Our Communities

SL reported that the Health Social Care Partnership will hold a meeting next week and there should be an update next month.

9. Reports

a. Police

See 2 above.

b. Treasurer (GW)

GW report provided as pre-read to meeting. No questions about state of funding

c. Aberdeenshire Councillors

AK Report

Regarding recent flooding, AK noted reports of issues with sandbags which could have been better organised. Discussed that Dess depot did not have any sandbags when there was a need and persons were directed to Banchory. There was no access after hours to get to additional sand.

Discussed potential for:

- MDCC acquiring equipment to help with flooding, e.g. sandbags, water pumping equipment, dehumidifiers. (Noted that it would be useful for MDCC to keep a log of which funds/grants become available throughout the year so that there is an awareness of when monies might be there, e.g. also for defibs.)
- Flood preparation once flood warning received. Should speak with Low Road residents and businesses about whether they would leave to go to resilience centres, etc, in time of flood – may want to stay behind to protect property.
- Storing sand for bags in village at Low Road.
- Reviewing current infrastructure to assess whether helps or hinders flood-risk on Low Road, e.g. course of Tarland Burn upstream, course of the Burn where it meets the Dee, previous flood defences on Low Road (the 'speed bump'). Noted that Aboyne is identified in the North East Local Flood Management Plan as a priority area for a feasibility study in relation to flooding.

Noted MDCC Resilience Group meeting next week to discuss lesson learned from the rain / flood event.

SB Report

Charlestown Road - The roads team monitoring for traffic numbers type, speed and direction has concluded. Results indicated there was a very high number of bikes passing by the counter over the period of time it was in place. All of the results have been assessed and officers are in the process of looking at potential solutions along with colleagues in Road Safety.

A93 East of Aboyne – Two new SLOW markings have been added to the road, and semi-permanent slippery road signs on poles have been erected at the location. The Road Safety Unit have recommended that resurfacing works will be carried out and officers are currently preparing the necessary paperwork for this, further details to follow.

Aboyne Business Association (ABA) – AP, Alan Emslie (MDCT), David Robinson (DR) (Red Evolution, a member of the previous ABA) and SB had a positive first meeting. AP update:

- Discussed various points about if and how the ABA could be resurrected, with help and support from E3.
- Decided to advertise a 'brainstorming Strategy meeting' for people to come along on Monday 12th December 2022 (venue TBC depending on numbers) to see what they thought the business association should look and feel like.
- DR issued the invite to the 80/100 old members of the association, and AP sent an invite to E3 clients and others suggested by SB. DR and AP will touch base tomorrow and communicate the numbers interested in attending so that venue can be confirmed.
- Next step is to record the brainstorming results and feed back to the wider business area, then arrange another meeting for how to take it forward.

Aboyne Youth Activities – Very positive last meeting with agreement to do some engagement with young people at the forthcoming Academy Christmas Fair. Hilary the Community Planning Officer also mentioned that Community Learning and Development have indicated they would be able to hold an engagement event with young people to ascertain views and ideas and also evidence need for future funding applications etc. BC also attended the last meeting – see 15 below.

Please note thanks to MDCC for the **new bench outside the playpark area** on behalf of the constituent who made the request, the new bench is very much appreciated.

Also to note thanks to the resilience group and all volunteers for their work and support over the weekend.

GB Report

No report

10. Ward Forum – 23/11/22, Victory Hall, Aboyne

Nobody from MDCC attended this online event.

11. Resilience Planning

Feedback on adverse weather 17/18/19 November

The rest centre at the community hub at the school was opened and staff called in however was shut down at 6pm despite the Low Road having rising floodwaters. We need to know what support the property owners on the Low Road require in practical terms. It seems they have pumps and prefer to stay home to ensure they are operating. They are unlikely to use the rest centres.

See also 9a above (AK report).

Update on work of Resilience Planning Group

Last meeting on 31st October. A table-top test was carried out to know how actions would work.

Engagement with MP's office

MO wrote to MP but no information on reply

12. Ballater & Crathie Community Council Flooding Issues Group (FIG) – Follow Up Activity

FS recalled the last meeting where BCCC presented and explained options to protect Ballater. Option 3a was to build a wall around the river bank. This may solve the immediate problem in Ballater but will not stop flooding in other areas of the river. BCCC has asked for support from other bodies to look at wider picture and write a letter to Scottish Government. There is agreement that MDCC will support BCCC. JL commented the valley is basically driven grouse moor which does not help the matter. FS to copy JL into draft correspondence circulating.

13.Planning

Planning Applications

APP/2022/2258 - Heath Cottage, Ballater Road, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, AB34 5HY – Request planning permission in principle for erection of dwellinghouse. It is proposed that MDCC oppose the planning permission on the basis that the site is cramped and will be overdeveloped. There will be an impact on the conservation area. FS will call planning officer tomorrow to discuss the matter

APP/2022/2422 - No objection to signage at new carry out restaurant

APP/2022/2219 - Proposed air conditioning unit at Coop - No objection as long as noise is controlled and units are properly obtained

Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan

Nothing to report

Local Place Plan

The MDCC Local Place Plan sub-group met by Zoom on Thursday 10th November 2022 – are meeting the second Thursday of every month. We welcomed a new member, Alastair White. Next meet Thursday 8th December 2022.

Next steps being discussed with reference to the 'Our Place' draft 'How to' guide. The main next step is to reach out to the Aboyne community to put together a Steering Group to take forward the Place Plan work together with MDCC. Are preparing a list of community groups/businesses/organisations to approach with a view to assembling a Steering Group which represents the range of interests in the area, and a 'presentation pack' to send/present to those groups to explain the purpose and value of a Place Plan for the area and why the wider community should be involved. Also starting work on gathering background information to help with preparation of the draft Place Plan in due course.

14.Defibrillators

Referred Looks like battery on community shed defibrillator need replacing quite soon GW will look at historical funding. Expect report in next few weeks

15.Youth Engagement

BC will attend Aboyne Academy Fair and engage with youths for feedback on Saturday 26th November to gauge the thoughts for Youth Club. Community Centre, Victory Hall and Scott Hut are all potential venues. Issue can be PVG checks.

16.Communications

AP submitted report on progress:

- Have started to schedule daily posts on Facebook at 7pm and a few ad hoc posts as required.
- Also going to schedule in daily Instagram posts to mirror Facebook posts as seems to be a problem linking them together – to be investigated. Instagram followers are up to 15.
- Should start social media campaigns on various parts of what we do for the community – e.g. Resilience Group, De-fibs, planning etc. Communications team to prepare.
- Photographs are also really important – request to everyone to send AP photos or video clips (minimum 7 seconds long for editing purposes) of MDCC related activities for social media posts - AP has now completed video training courses and can prepare 'reels' for MDCC Instagram and Facebook pages. Owing to the number of absent community councillors, it was agreed to take photos and videos of next community council meeting.

17. Outreach Update

MDCT

AB attended MDCT meeting (held third Wednesday every month). MDCT asked for support to reach out to community for volunteer drivers for both minibus or using own car (45p/mile expenses paid) to support persons meeting transport for hospital appoints etc.

Picnic benches completed on Aboyne Green

Request to know who is responsible for cutting back vegetation on south side of Aboyne Bridge.

Victory Hall Trustees

Nothing to report

KCA

Nothing to report

'Like Minded' Groups Meeting (17/10/22)

Next meeting 28th Nov – will include quiz night

18. Any Other Competent Business

Broadband

Proposal to bring Full Fibre Broadband to Marr Area. Keen to target a pocket of Marr for FFB trial. Encouraging residents to register details. To be discussed at next meeting.

Share on Facebook, share with local businesses if possible, forward to Aboyne Local.

Insurance and GDPR

Ongoing work regarding registration for data protection. Also confirming insurance cover for resilience work and SOA.

Licensing of Long Term Let landlords – Aberdeenshire Council webinars

Noted. To be added to Facebook.

Bridges Project

Poster to be added to noticeboard. Advertise on Facebook.

Community Councillor Training

Sessions are recorded and will be put on council learning hub. Will be repeated next year. We are free to call Marr area contact in case of questions.

Association of Cairnqorms Communities meeting, Wed 30 November

FS to contact them to say that no community councillors can attend. Meeting since cancelled.

19. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7-9pm Thursday, 26th January 2023 (Venue: Aboyne Library)

Appendix

MDCC Constitution – proposed amendment

[Note – exact drafting not discussed at meeting of 24th November 2022]

OFFICERS OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

6.1

- a. The Community Council, at its first meeting after the initial and subsequent elections or at a Special Meeting, shall elect one of its members to be Chairperson and may elect one of its members to be Vice-Chairperson. Provided that office bearers may serve for a maximum of three years.
- b. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall continue in office until their respective successors are elected.
- c. The Community Council shall appoint and shall have power to dismiss a Secretary and a Treasurer whether or not from among its Community Councillors. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer, but no other office-bearers may be combined.
- d. The office of Chairperson shall not be combined with any other nor shall one person hold more than two positions.
- e. The Community Councillor or Community Councillors of the Community Council appointed as Secretary or Treasurer or Secretary/Treasurer shall not be entitled to remuneration but the Community Council may, at its discretion, award honoraria to such Community Councillors together with expenses actually incurred and supported by receipts or vouchers. The Community Council may pay appropriate remuneration to a Secretary and Treasurer or Secretary/Treasurer appointed outwith its own membership.
- f. The Community Council shall appoint a representative(s) to the local forum or equivalent who shall be entitled to vote in respect of any matters raised at a meeting of the forum or equivalent. Area based forums will facilitate engagement on local community planning issues.