



**Minutes of Meeting held on 24 April 2025**  
(at Aboyne Library)

**Attending**

Community Councillors

Steven Lindsay (SO) (Vice Chair acting as Chair), Grahame Wilson (GW) (Treasurer), Chris Grieve (CG), Alastair Brodie (AB), Fiona Sawyer (FS), Rose Bradford (RB)

Aberdeenshire Councillors

Cllr Sarah Brown (CSB)

Others

Andrew Fyfe (AF) (MDCC Associate Member)

**1. Welcome, apologies and conflicts**

**Apologies:** Martin Ogden (MO) (Chair), Alison Pollock (AP), Mike Brown (MB), Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB), Cllr Anouk Kloppert (CAK)

**Absent:** None

**Any conflicts of interest declared:** None

**2. Minutes of meetings – for approval**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2025 were discussed. Approved as a true record subject to one agreed amendment.

**3. Matters arising/actions status**

#	Topic	Action Item	Status	Resp.	Opened	Status
1.	Invitation to discuss community approaches to landscape regeneration	FS to get in touch Cambridge University to explore. May integrate with Aboyne Green Spaces, in which	No action to be taken.	FS	Feb 25	Closed.

#	Topic	Action Item	Status	Resp.	Opened	Status
		case CG to take to MDCT				
2.	K'ON resident request for assistance	CG to take to K'ON Community Association to investigate further.	CG has emailed.	CG	Feb 25	Closed
3.	Phone box removal on A93	Response to Marr Area	Email sent objecting to the removal but no response  CSB noted that public consultation period is open until 28 April 2025.  <b>Action – MO to check whether MDCC response has been included.</b>	MO	Feb 25	Open
4.	Glenskinnan Renewable Energy Park Proposal	CG to contact Feughside CC to clarify their position on this	Feughside CC are aware of significant opposition to the development  CG has contacted. FCC are going to oppose the development	CG	Mar 25	Closed

#### 4. Correspondence and Communication

##### a. SEPA consultation, open until 30<sup>th</sup> June

**Action – AP to publicise on MDCC social media asking for feedback and for interest in submitting a response.**

##### b. Update on Aboyne Parkrun – for information

Parkrun in Aboyne has been confirmed. Will become known as “Castle Woods Aboyne Parkrun.” Will go live in May 2025 following a number of trial events and slight revision to the route.

**c. Marr Area Committee Budget Grants 2025/26 – email 16<sup>th</sup> April**

Confirmation of Marr Area Committee Budget Grant process for this year. Priorities are similar to previous years, although reduction in allocation and change to single £3k fund. Retaining £500 Local Place Plan (LPP) fund for communities to use on preparing LPPs.

**d. Marr 20mph Statutory Consultation**

Aberdeenshire Council is implementing the Scottish Government’s national 20 mph strategy. Noted that Aberdeenshire Council made the policy decision several years ago to go to 20mph before Scottish government brought into effect national requirement. Marr Area Committee has approved Aberdeenshire Council proposals for implementation.

Aberdeenshire Council now consulting communities. Currently statutory consultation of “interested parties” such as community councils – closes 19 May 2025. MDCC has been consulted. Following the statutory consultation, there will be a 21-day public consultation – likely through Aberdeenshire Council’s “Engage” website.

The current consultation is on the locations of proposed 20mph zones. It was noted that any objections must have “sound legal basis” and must be around where the proposed 20mph should be. It was noted that the meaning of “sound legal basis” is not clear.

Noted that Aboyne and Dinnet are only communities from Banchory westwards where the A93 will not reduce to 20mph through the centre of the village. The A93 will reduce to 20 mph through the centre of Kincardine O’Neil, Banchory, Ballater and Braemar.

Also noted that the Tarland Road in Aboyne will remain at 30 mph.

Noted that no roads in Dinnet will reduce to 20 mph.

Noted that Initiative #12.1 of the LPP for Aboyne registered on 24 February 2025 asked for the A93 to be reduced to 20 mph through the centre of the village and around the community campus, and requested that all other roads in the village be reduced to 20 mph including the Tarland Road. This plan was prepared following community engagement and consultation.

Noted that Kincardine O’Neil Community Association (KCA) had been pressing for 20 mph throughout Kincardine O’Neil including the A93 through the centre of the village.

Discussed cost to council of implementing the 20 mph limits – time and resources, potential impact on other highways services.

Discussed proposed signage in relation to new 20 mph limits. Signage only, signs at entry to each zone, repeater signs. Discussed number of signs that will be needed in Aboyne at junctions of roads with A93 if A93 to remain at 30 mph – queried whether will cost more or less in terms of signage if A93 to remain at 30 mph.

Noted that police will not enforce new 20 mph limits.

Clarification needs to be sought on questions including: what the national requirements are; what the Aberdeenshire Council approved policy is; and why Braemar and Aboyne are being treated differently as regards speed limits on the A93.

Agreed that MDCC shall respond to the consultation showing support where appropriate but concern where the community is concerned. Agreed to publicise the proposals through social media and hold community meeting on Thursday 1 May 2025 to inform and engage with community to enable MDCC to respond to the consultation. Agreed to encourage public to respond to public consultation when open on Engage website.

**Actions:**

- FS to engage with Aberdeenshire Council to seek clarification on: what the national requirements are; what the Aberdeenshire Council approved policy is; why Braemar and Aboyne are being treated differently as regards speed limits on the A93.
- FS to invite Roads Team representative to community meeting on 1 May 2025.
- AP/FS to circulate details of meeting on social media.
- FS to prepare posters advertising meeting for display around community.
- FS to invite community to meeting Thursday 1 May to discuss speed limits – community groups, business association, parent council and schools, and general public invitation – unrestricted meeting. Invite to Aboyne and Dinnet communities.
- CG to engage with KCA to confirm representations that MDCC should make on behalf of Kincardine O’Neil.
- FS to prepare response to consultation on behalf of MDCC following community feedback to reflect community views. Deadline to respond is 19 May.

## 5. Reports

### a. Treasurer

Report noted with thanks.

Liability insurance and insurance cover for resilience generators at both hubs (at £646.63), paid out of general fund and resilience fund.

No other change to accounts. Year-end reports to be signed off at May meeting in advance of June AGM.

### b. Aberdeenshire Councillors

#### i. Councillor Sarah Brown

Report noted with thanks.

Noted Council review of Council’s sheltered housing. Some facing risk of closure, although *not* Bonty Court in Aboyne. Sheltered housing revenue account is self-

contained and unsustainable in current form – consistent low demand and high level of voids. Working on redefining the fund – reducing capital spend, reviewing locations. See Engage page for more information. Part of review of sustainability of council tenant plan. Confirmed that all tenants would be relocated, and no one will be left without a home.

**c. Planning applications**

Planning report noted without comment.

**d. LPP Report**

- **Business Association** – Andrew Fyfe and Graham Colclough (GC) working with Joyce Welsh and Mo Cormack. Have involved AC economic development team. Much progress made, compiling directory of businesses and organising regular meetings throughout year. Conscious decision to be light touch and simple to manage. 125 businesses are now on the directory from across the area (Dinnet, Dess, KON, etc). For use by and at request of businesses, but also useful for community. Interest across range of businesses including large rural estates, small wfh businesses and visible village centre businesses. Directory to go live early May, publicly available, single page landing site for business directory. ABA aims are support, collaboration and collective voice. Three further networking meetings to be held this year. Having an active ABA will reinstate third limb of community governance – community council, community trust and business group. Noted that people involved in previous ABA are being very supportive. Fountain article to be published next edition.
- **Community hub** – progress being made. Working with Mid Deeside Community Trust (MDCT) and Highland Games Committee. Will be an MDCT sub-group – Steve Albon joining MDCT as a director. Funding from Games committee but also making applications for other funding, eg national lottery for which demonstration of community support needed. Can be demonstrated by the LPP but also reaching out to community groups and public to ask what would like to see at hub. MDCT tackling communications – planning to host a calendar on website which will serve as initial response to LPP identified requirement. Group undertaking systematic review of potential sites for hub in village – Victory Hall is one option but other locations also being investigated.
- **Alternative local transport options** – new NESTRANS fund not suitable for LPP proposal because short term, limited funding aimed at small, one off, contained projects. GC continuing to explore.

Noted that MDCC LPP group will be disbanded once initial actions on list are more self-sustaining – by end of 2025. At this point, remaining Community Action Plan (CAP) items within LPP to be recovered into main body of MDCC as CAP initiatives which the community has said it wants to see progressed through making the LPP. Discussed that for purposes of agenda and minutes this section will be renamed as CAP update to keep track of what elements are being progressed and what need attention. MDCC to make concerted effort to attract four new members to assist with taking forward CAP items.

**Farmers Markets** - Attended Farmers Market 12 April 2025. Will also attend Farmers Market 10 May 2025. Help from MDCC would be appreciated to spread word of MDCC and attract new MDCC members – extra volunteers needed to raise awareness of help needed to progress LPP CAP items in particular (i) flooding and river erosion and (ii) speeding and traffic. Help needed to represent community needs and interests with organisations such as Aberdeenshire Council, the Cairngorms National Park Authority (particularly in relation to flooding and river erosion), Scottish Government, SEPA, Deeside Catchment Partnership etc.

Attending **Aboyne Primary School Fair** Saturday 17 May at request of Parent Council.

[Note – in future minutes and agendas remove and replace with new section “LPP Community Action Plan projects”]

## 6. Aboyne Bridge

Community transport links to south of the River – noted engagement between Birse and Ballogie Community Council (BBCC) and CSB. CSB discussed with BBCC chair who will again revisit appetite for surveying community to assess demand for community transport beyond demand responsive MDCT transport for duration of bridge closure.

## 7. MDCC sub-groups

### a. Resilience (SL)

No update.

### b. Communications (AP)

No update. **FS to liaise with AP regarding social media advertising of various meetings.**

### c. Local Energy (MK/AB)

AB and MB to attend meeting with Local Energy Scotland to discuss shared ownership to access fund of up to £490k.

### d. Local Place Plan Group (FS)

See Item 5d. [Note – in future minutes and agendas remove and replace with new section “LPP Community Action Plan projects”]

### e. MDCT (CG)

Report noted with thanks. MDCT is formerly changing name to Aboyne Community Trust (ACT). Aboyne Paths and Tracks leaflets to be updated with ACT branding, and maps may also include locations of defibs. Deeside Way has now been cleared, needs resurfacing and drainage work. Bike Park now has insurance.

### f. Kincardine O’Neil CA (CG)

Pop-up pub in KON Friday 25 April.

## 8. Any Other Competent Business

### a. Next Marr Community Council Forum

To be held Wednesday 2 July 2025 – open to all community councillors.

### b. Marr Area Office

Janelle Clark, Area Manager for Marr Area, retires next week. Thanks given to Janelle for her service.

### c. Wednesday 7 May 2025 – next meeting of bus forum. Hybrid.

Discussion includes 201/202. **Action - SL to circulate email.**

### d. MDCC/BCCC/BCC new regular meetings

MO and FM met with BCCC and BCC in first of regular meetings between the three community councils. Discussed issues of mutual interest in each community council's CAP/LPP/draft CAP, including flooding/erosion (the agreed aim being to "smooth the flow" of the River Dee to tackle the three main problems of flooding, erosion and drought) and affordable housing. To meet three times per year, next meeting to be arranged.

## 9. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7 – 8.45pm, Thursday 22 May 2025, Aboyne Library (upstairs).