**Minutes of Meeting 22 June 2023**

**(held at Aboyne Library)**

**Attending**

Community Councillors

Martin Ogden (MO/Chair), Steven Lindsay (SL/Vice Chair), Grahame Wilson (GW/Treasurer), Chris Grieve (CG), Volha (Olga) Druhakova (VD), Alastair Brodie (AB), Mike Brown (MB), Fiona Sawyer (FS/Acting Secretary)

Aberdeenshire Councillors

Cllr Anouk Kloppert (CAK)

Others

Chris Grieve, KCA (CG)

1. **Welcome, apologies and conflicts**

**Apologies:** Cllr Sarah Brown (CSB), Alison Pollock (AP)

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

**Any conflicts of interest declared:** During the meeting, FS declared conflict regarding unauthorised fencing in conservation areas.

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

Minutes of MDCC meeting held in May 2023 approved as a true record subject to adding BC to attendees list. GW proposed, SL 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. | Not yet actioned. | FS / AP | Sept ‘22 | Open |
|  | Dog fouling - Aboyne | MDCC social media - ask for community’s help.  FS to Check MDCC account to see what work was done by Nick Moore with Aberdeenshire Council - check who contact at council was/which team.  SL to discuss with Aboyne Paths and Tracks group to check which team at the council they liaised with to get new dog bins.  Extra bins were discussed to encourage dog walkers to use bins | Issue for Council is cost of emptying the bins, therefore need to ID areas people leave bags of dog waste to ensure that any new bins are targeted. Bins also need to be accessible to vehicles for collection.  CG also to discuss with KCA. KCA have installed milk cartons containing dog bags around the village so availability of bags is not the problem - problem in KON is that people do not dispose of the bags.  Note - Aboyne Paths and Tracks Group produced map of Bellwood showing where bins are - will ask whether they can update map to show where dog bins are. | SL  CG | Mar ‘23 | Open |
|  | Request for participation in the development of Councils new Local Transport Strategy (19 May 2023) - consultation closes 23 June 2023 | AP to post on social media.  AB to gather responses and respond to consultation. | Survey very long, questionnaire not fully completed..  AB to analyse consultation responses once available. CAK to ask that survey responses be made available. | AB  CAK | May ‘23 | Open |
|  | Scottish Government consultation updates (11 May 2023) - views and comments on the Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods: draft planning guidance - consultation closes 20 July 2023 | FS and LPP group to review. |  | FS | May ‘23 | Open |
|  | 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. | MDCC to arrange meeting between MDCC community councillors and Aberdeenshire councillors to discuss approach to planning enforcement. | FS | May ‘23 | Open |
|  | Defibs | MO to apply to the Rotary Club for funding. | FS to forward updated figures to MO. (Done) | MO  FS | May ‘23 | Open |
|  | Bedding plants | AB to ask MDCT Green Spaces group when the bedding plants for the MDC communities will arrive (which include Kincardine O’Neil and Dinnet allocations). | 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. | AB | May ‘23 | Open |
|  | Transport Strategy Reviews | At bus forum was noted that Stagecoach need feedback in order to improve services. MDCC to encourage community to contact Stagecoach to report all issues, also for members of public to attend Marr Area Bus forums in future. | AP to add to social media | AP | 22/6/23 | Open |
|  | Community Secretaries Group | Review whether MDCC wants to join | AB to review | AB | 22/6/23 | Open |
|  | 50th anniversary toolkit for community councils | For information and use with MDCC social media | AP to action | AP | 22/6/23 | Open |
|  | Deeside Way meeting | To discuss missing link and storm damage. | SL to attend | SL | 22/6/23 | Open |
|  | Place Strategy | Meeting 27 and 28 June 2023, and survey | FS to attend meeting and review survey | FS | 22/6/23 | Open |
|  | Community Council webinar - Carbon Literacy Project |  | CG to attend | CG | 22/6/23 | Open |
|  | Aberdeenshire Community Council Networking Event - Saturday 4 November 2023. |  | Revisit nearer the time | All | 22/6/23 | Open |
|  | Hill of Fare Wind Farm proposal | Upcoming public exhibitions | AB to write to request copies of posters for community noticeboard and social media | AB  AP | 22/6/23 | Open |
|  | Library meeting - new charges from Live Life Aberdeenshire | MDCC meetings free, sub-groups now charged £12.05 per hour. | CAK to follow-up with council | CAK | 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 for discussion at next MDCc meeting (24 August 2023) | CSB | 22/6/23 | Open |
|  | New fencing in Aboyne Conservation Area | Propensity for new high, solid fencing to be erected in Aboyne conservation area without prior consent, and for council to grant retrospective consent despite negative impact on character and appearance of conservation area. | AB to draft letter to council querying why support being given for such fencing despite negative impact. | AB | 22/6/23 | Open |
|  | Enforcement action | Closed meeting required to discuss enforcement of planning breaches in Aberdeenshire area | FS to arrange closed meeting between MDCC community councillors and ex-officio members | FS | 22/6/23 | Open |

1. **Correspondence and communications**
   1. **MDCC leaflets (Andrew Fyfe)** (16 June 2023) - Consent requested for minor update of MDCC area business map/leaflets and reorder of another 2,000. Agreed.FS to revert to AF with confirmation to proceed. (Done.)
   2. **DB - LAPREM/00001/23 - Lys Na Greyne, Aboyne - New Premises Licence** (16 June 2023) - objections or representations should be submitted by 7 July 2023. No objections noted.
   3. **Bank of Scotland Closures** (5 June 2023) - closure of Bank of Scotland Ballater branch. Agreed to add MDCC name to Braemar CC and Ballater & Crathie CC letter. Agreed to note that community hub services need to offer full service - unlike TSB not being able to add signatories. Noted also that need to ensure that there are enough cash machines. Nearest bank now Banchory - not good for rural communities and bus users. (Done.)
   4. **Transport Strategy Reviews** (14 June 2023) - consultation closes 23 June 2023. See actions tracker. Cllr Brown raised issues at bus forum - has been noted that they need feedback in order to improve services - encourage community to contact Stagecoach to report all issues, also for members of public to attend Marr Area Bus forums in future. AP to add to social media.
   5. **Community Councils Secretaries Group** (14 June 2023) - for information. AB to review.
   6. **SSEN Resilient Communities Fund 2023 - Now open for applications** (14 June 2023) - for information. Noted.
   7. **50th Anniversary Toolkit for Community Councils #CelebrateCCs** (12 June 2023) - for information and use with MDCC social media. AP to action.
   8. **Deeside Way** (8 June 2023). Two issues: (1) missing link; (2) storm damage causing impassibility. Aboyne Paths and Tracks Group working to restore access. Teams meeting with Council Tuesday 27 June 2023. SL to attend.
   9. **Place Strategy** (7 June 2023) - survey (closing date not clear - end June 2023?), two online Teams meetings 27 and 28 June 2023 6.30-8.00pm (email [leanne.robertson2@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:leanne.robertson2@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) to attend). FS to follow up.
   10. **Webinars in June for Community Councils - Playlist for Life, Rural Child Poverty, Carbon Literacy Project** (5 June 2023). CG to attend webinar on 30 June on Carbon Literacy Project.
   11. **Aberdeenshire Community Council Training/Events - Save the Dates** (5 June 2023) - Community Council Induction and Planning Training - 13 and 27September 2023 (evening); MO to attend. Others encouraged to attend also. Aberdeenshire Community Council Networking Event - Saturday 4 November 2023. To come back to.
   12. **Hill of Fare Wind Farm Proposal - upcoming public exhibitions** (2 June 2023) - update letter. AB to write back requesting copies of posters for Aboyne and KCA community noticeboards.
2. **Reports**
   1. **Police**

No report since last meeting.

No change since May 2023 minutes (ie - Awaiting confirmation from AM as to whether the report could be made public, through our social media channels or if a redacted report would be a better option. AM response awaited.)

* 1. **Treasurer (GW)**

GW reported accounts.

SL reported that the booking system for Aboyne Library has changed, now booked through Live Life Aberdeenshire rather than the Library.

Now only MDCC meetings are free, sub-groups are to be charged for use. Charge is £12.05 per hour, ie standard 2 hour meetings cost £24.10. CAK to follow-up with council.

Reminder that meetings should be booked in name of Mid Deeside Community Council.

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

None received.

* + 1. CSB Report

CAK noted concern regarding loss of council funded after-school care at the end of this year. In Alford, private after-school care will be stopped in August - have to go to parent-run facilities which will now be under more pressure. Agreed misogynistic and not acceptable - greatest impact on single parents and working parents. AK to contact Aboyne after school club to see how will be impacted - self-funding run by volunteers.

Speeding at Darroch Wood. Averages do not give full picture. Average 34 mph still major impact for vulnerable users. Deeside Way crosses A93 just outside village. Could we have a distribution graph of the figures? To revisit at August meeting.

* + 1. CAK Report

Discussed after-school care as above.

1. **MDCC sub-groups**
   1. **Resilience planning**

Next meeting on Monday 26 June to sign-off final plans for each plans. Now have three functional hubs; now need: (1) list of people who want to be listed/checked on; and (2) lists of volunteers.

Currently have £3,000 left from 2022/23 SSEN award - discussing appropriate expenditure. Future expenditure could include protective cover for generators (not waterproof) and new banner.

Noted current drought and fire risk.

* 1. **Planning**
     1. Planning applications

Planning report noted. No comments on any applications.

Discussed propensity for new high, solid fencing in Aboyne conservation area - being erected without prior consent, most receive retrospective permission. Discussed negative impact on character and appearance of conservation area - overwhelming, excluding. FS noted personal conflict on this issue. AB to draft letter to council requesting action/querying why no action being taken.

* + 1. Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan

Planning report noted.

* + 1. Aboyne Local Place Plan

Planning report noted.

* + 1. Enforcement action

FS to arrange meeting between MDCC community councillors and Ward 15 Councillors to discuss.

* 1. **Defibrillators**

New lid on Boat Inn defib.

New checklist for each defib.

* 1. **Youth Engagement**

Youth group has been set up as sub-group of MDCT. Four people elected to set up hub. Will start to look for locations once paperwork from MDCT has come in. MDCT to initiate funding for equipment etc. To be open to all young people Academy age.

* 1. **Communications**

No report.

* 1. **Local Energy**

Working with Gliding Club to install solar energy. Gliding Club has received quote £60,000 for roof system; Local Energy Group could install ground solar system at significantly lower cost. Aim is to learn from this project to generate revenue for community from this and other future projects.

Scottish funding available to assist with initial outlay. Many tariff options to maximise solar capability.

1. **Outreach update**
   1. **MDCT**

CG attended 21 June 2023. CGB has resigned from MDCT.

MDCT are selling their eBikes - 8 bikes for sale @ £500 each.

Funding model for community buses next year will be difficult.

Planting 16,000 trees to replace storm damage in community woods. Discussion regarding protection from deer.

APTG (Paths and Tracks) - accessibility at entrances to Castle Woods from Deeside Way to be upgraded end 2023/early 2024; connection to Glen Tanar; investment into pump track in Bell Wood (using funded allocated to Skate Park).

Bike park - to become part of MDCT for funding purposes.

Huntly Arms - £30,000 to be invested - see reports in Deeside Piper and Herald. Noted that this is not a significant amount. Noted concern regarding supervision of works to ensure that works are being done properly. Report says that planning application has been submitted - MDCC not yet notified.

Attended June Farmers Market

* 1. **Victory Hall Trustees**

Community Day on 1 July 2024.

James Littlejohn has stepped down as trustee. Victory Hall AGM was well attended, but no volunteers as new trustee.

* 1. **Rotary**

Nothing to report – delete from next agenda.

1. **Any Other Competent Business**

BC needs copy of insurance documents for storage of resilience equipment. (Done.)

Access to be given to AB and MO to Google account. (Done.)

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

**Next general meeting** - 7-9pm Thursday, 24 August 2023 (Venue: Aboyne Library)