



**Mid Deeside**  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (held at Aboyne Library)

### Attending

#### Community Councillors:

Steven Lindsay (SL/Chair), Martin Ogden (MO/Vice Chair), Grahame Wilson (GW/Treasurer)

Mike Brown (MB), Volha (Olga) Druhakova (VD), Alastair Brodie (AB / Acting Secretary), Bill Sutherland (BS), Alison Pollock (AP), Fiona Sawyer (FS)

#### Aberdeenshire Councillors

Anouk Kloppert (AK), Sarah Brown (SB)

#### Others:

2 members of community also attended

### Apologies:

Andy Overton (AO/Secretary), Geva Blackett (GB), Bernie Cassie (BS)

### 1. **Minutes of Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

Approved as a true record.

### 2. **Matters Arising/Actions Status**

Please see below 'MDCC - Actions Tracker' for updates

#	Topic	Action Item	Status	Resp.	Opened	Status
1	Who's Who for Aboyne	Create a list of representation of groups, organisations, clubs in Aboyne.	10/23 - To think about how to do effectively 01/23 – FS is gathering information about all the community groups (including local housing groups).	FS / AP	Sept '22	Open
2	Local Energy	Explore community options for windfarms (or other). Team engaging with Huntly Development Trust for ideas, support etc	11/22 Visit made to Huntly where community owned wind turbine provides income for town improvements 01/23 – First meeting held at Victory Hall to explore options for similar local energy project for Aboyne	JL/MB/AB	Aug '22	Open

#	Topic	Action Item	Status	Resp.	Opened	Status
3	Road Safety	A93 Aboyne to Dess incidents	10/23 - awaiting camera unit, deployment road safety enquiry raised with Council. To be continued updates in MoM 01/23 – SB advised that road surface improvements have been made. Still plans for speed monitoring camera to be installed in this area AB to place a paper notice on Community Notice Board on process of reporting road faults	FS	Sept' 22	Reopened
4	White Line painting in Dinnet	To follow up on previously confirmed line painting agreed with council	11/23 - Registered with council (categorised as low priority but it is in the system) - Cllr S Brown following up. Completed 01/23 – MO advises that the paint is lifting and he will report this to council through official routes	FS/MO	Sept '22	Reopened

### 3. Correspondence & Communications

#### Aberdeenshire Flag

has been communicated by MDCC

#### Aboyne Hospital / Strategic Needs Assessment / Keep Care In Our Communities

No change to provision at Aboyne Hospital or Linn of Dee Hospitals. This has been well communicated

#### Planned Cycling Event

Events company, Doon the Brae, are planning a cycling event for the roads around Aboyne on 25th June 23. They have permission to use Aboyne Green for parking up to 250 vehicles arriving and departing over a number of hours so it is unlikely the event will lead to congestion. They will use the entrance on Charleston Road and have 3-4 marshals assisting. There will be a benefit to the village in tourism. MDCC do not have any objections to this event.

#### Community Wealth Building Project

Aberdeen Council asked E3 to host the above event in Inverurie which will be presented by 'The Circle'. This training/networking event is for all Community Groups. Groups at ideation stage should attend on (14, 21, 28 February) and more established groups (7, 14, 21 March). Both to help with project planning, business planning. The event is fully funded (free of charge)

### 4. Reports

#### Police

Sgt Allan Masson (AM) sent report on 5<sup>th</sup> January where he shared crime statistics, news about November flooding event and Fatal RTA in December. The update did not cover the recent events at former Huntly Arms Hotel.

### Treasurer (GW)

GW reported accounts. No questions were raised.

### Aberdeenshire Councillors

#### AK Report

AK sent a report to MDCC ahead of the meeting. AK reported that there are some issues with maintenance of council housing and Tenants can report issues online. She also reported that Ballater business were frustrated with short term lets licencing issues but April deadline is extended to end October

#### SB Report

The most recent Local Development Plan has been accepted.

Improved skid resistance has been applied to the road surface East of Aboyne where there have been a number of road traffic accidents. There will be a temporary 'safety camera' to monitor road usage and driver behaviour on A93 East of Aboyne near Lodge on the Loch.

Additional A93 zebra crossing to be installed near Kinord Drive

Roadworks at Tarland Road. Tarland Road now accessible (single file) and Ballater Road will be fully complete on 2nd Feb ahead of schedule. Many questions about the communications regarding the closures and poor signage. Also potential damage to detour and responsibility. SB would continue to escalate issues raised by residents and MDCC as well as confirming what the processes were and whether they could be improved to give householders more notice of this type of road closure.

#### GB Report

No report

## 5. Resilience Planning

### Feedback on adverse weather 17/18/19 November

Aboyne and Glen Tanar hubs are set up and fully equipped. The generators for Kincardine O'Neil or Dinnet have been ordered and delivery is expected in the next few weeks. The resilience team were not 'stood up' for the recent flooding events in KoN and Aboyne (Low Road) in November as Aberdeenshire Council opened (and then closed) the Aboyne Community Centre. There is a need for a formal process to know when the hubs are initiated. There is also a need for a formal list of volunteers. There needs to be a notification system to show when hubs are open. There is a meeting with Scottish flood forum who can provide advice to residents to help them prepare for flood events.

GB wrote to Community Councils regards feedback on lack of snow clearing in December. It is suggested that the 'Snow Wardens' system is not working. MDCC does not know about Snow Wardens. FS asks for council policies regards road clearing. It had been suggested that the Resilience Team could clear roads however this is not in their remit.

It seems a miscommunication between roads dept in Banchory who did not know the conditions up the valley. There has been a reduction in council resources.

## 6. Ballater & Crathie Community Council Flooding Issues Group

FS and MO discussed with Andrew Bowie on 9th December. The option 3a (wall) for Ballater flood defence. Feasibility study done and now at government for approval. The BCCC does not want this option and request that all Deeside Community Councils get together for a more holistic approach.

## 7. Planning

### Planning Applications

APP/2022/2666 Erection of housing behind Castle Park development (Change of House Type). No comments from MDCC.

APP/2022/2410 Post Office Thistle Bank, Charlestown Road. No comments from MDCC.

A water bottle refill tap is proposed to be sited next to Notice Board / Bus Stop in Aboyne Centre. MDCC have no objection with this proposal.

### Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan

The 2023 plan has just been adopted. Scottish Government are changing planning system. National Planning will have priority over ALDP. Aberdeenshire Council are making a new Local Development Plan to be adopted from 2028.

### Aboyne Local Place Plan

Regular meeting to be held each month with working sub-group (2nd Tues of each month), Met recently by zoom, Alistair White is new member of LPP sub group, Next steps to consult with 'Next Place' to make Local Place Plan. Need to get community groups to support Local Place Plan. New service to access good maps for free. Next meeting on Thursday 2nd Feb.

## 8. Defibrillators

Seven sets of new pads have been purchased to replace a number that are due to expire. There is no remaining funding to purchase all the required pads. It was agreed to use General Fund to maintain defibs in the short term. Suggestions for medium and long term funding were made, including requesting funds from the Rotary Club for funding. It was agreed that communication be made with MDCT to consider how best to seek funding.

## 9. Paths are tracks group

MDCC have applied for planning permission for improvements to the tracks in Castle Woods behind Community Shed.

MDCC are aware of the proposed footpath between Aboyne and Glen Tanar where planning shall be submitted shortly with delivery expected Q4/23

## 10. Communications

Growing Facebook communications. Need better present on Instagram for younger audience.

## 11. Youth Engagement

BC will update at next meeting

## 12. Outreach

MDCC is one of several community groups and there is a desire to have closer relationships between groups. Groups include Mid Deeside Community Trust (MDCT), Rotary Club, Resident Associations, Victory Hall Trustees.

MDCT - <http://www.mid-deeside.org.uk/>

MDCT are a charity that owns and/or maintains several local assets including woodland at Bellwood and Ladywood, local paths and tracks, local transportation (buses and transport for hospital visits) along with a number of local projects.

AB attended MDCT meeting 18th January 23 to represent MDCC.

#### Aboyne Local Energy Group

A group of interested parties attended a first meeting at Victory Hall to discuss what can be done in Mid Deeside to generate local energy and use profits to help with community projects. Date of next meeting is planned for February 2023 (date to be agreed)

#### Victory Hall Trustees

Nothing to report as meetings now clash

#### Rotary Club

The Rotary Club recently hosted a Quiz and more recently a Burns Supper and invited several Community Groups to participate. It is reported that this was a very successful to improve communication between the groups

### 13. Any Other Competent Business

#### Road safety West of Aboyne

For some time the Darroch Wood Resident Association have had concerns about the speed of traffic in the section from the school to the crossing of the Deeside Way. Most of this is 30mph but the speed limit is often not respected. The resident association has had a lot of correspondence with Aberdeenshire Council over the years with a view to improving road safety along this section.

Their desire is to extent the 30 mph to the Deeside Way crossing, reinstate the flashing 30 mph sign, extend the crash barrier from last house to Dykehead Farm and introduce other speed calming measures

Councillor SB advised that there are plans to introduce to 20mph in all Scottish towns however did not expect this to include the A roads through village which would remain at 30mph. It is agreed that more must be done to reduce speeds in this section of road

Suggestion to have community speed cameras. There is a request from the Darroch Wood Resident Association that MDCC lobby for road improvements. There is also a suggestion to define this section of road in Aboyne Local Place Plan.

#### Notice Board

There is a request to put an additional leaflet holder on the MDCC Aboyne Notice Board – this was agreed.

### 14. Any Other Business

The subject of Dog Fouling on Deeside Way and Ladywood was raised, for consideration at future meetings.

First responders – what more can the community do more given problems with the provision of Scottish Ambulance Service.

### 15. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7-9pm Thursday, 23rd February 2023 (Venue: Aboyne Library)

