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**DRAFT Minutes of Meeting 23rd March 2023**

**(held at Aboyne Library)**

# Attending

Community Councillors:

Steven Lindsay (SL/Chair), Martin Ogden (MO/Vice Chair), Grahame Wilson (GW/Treasurer), Fiona Sawyer (FS), Alastair Brodie (AB), Alison Pollock (AP), Bernie Cassie (BS)

Aberdeenshire Councillors:

None.

Others:

One member of the public attended.

# Welcome, apologies and conflicts

**Apologies:** Mike Brown (MB), Bill Sutherland (BS), Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB), Volha (Olga) Druhakova (VD), Cllr Sarah Brown (CSB), Cllr Anouk Kloppert (CAK)

**Absent:**

**Any conflicts of interest declared:** None

# Minutes of previous meeting - for approval

Minutes of MDCC meeting 23 March 2023 - approved as a true record. MO nominated, SL seconded.

# 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 | Road Safety | A93 Aboyne to Dess incidents | See 5(c)(ii) below.  AB to place a paper notice on Community Notice Board on process of reporting road faults | FS | Sept’ 22 | Open |
| 3 | White Line painting in Dinnet | To follow up on previously confirmed line painting agreed with council | 23/3/23 - Martin has reported the lifting of the white lines. | FS/MO | Sept ‘22 | Closed |

Matter arising

No replacement yet for Secretary post. Andy Overton has done handover with SL.

Now have three vacancies for CC role. Marr Area Office are to advertise the vacant posts in advance of the June AGM.

AP to prepare communication campaign to advertise for new members and post of Secretary.

# Correspondence and communications

1. **Aberdeenshire Community Transport Initiative Funding** [16/03/23] - survey closes 02/04/23

**Action:** FS to respond

1. **Community and Active Travel Workshops for Community Councils** [15/03/23] - free online workshops for community councillors, 6-7.30pm Wednesday 19 April and Wednesday 17 May

**Action:** AP and AB to attend

1. **PR - Comments on Draft Engagement and Participation Guide - 29 March 7-9pm** [14/03/23] - Hybrid meeting (online and at Woodhill House, Aberdeen)

**Action:** SL attending online

# Reports

* 1. *Police*

Report due next quarter.

* 1. *Treasurer (GW)*

GW reported accounts. No questions were raised.

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

None received.

* + 1. *CSB Report*

CSB submitted report on speeding issues discussed at previous meeting and raised by CSB with the council.

Discussed CSB feedback regarding speed camera checks. Agreed camera should be located in same place as previous checks. Disappointing no timeline for next speed check. Noted would be helpful to move 30mph sign west.

Discussed mannequin or dummy camera. Response from roads department - not keen on dummy camera - purpose of speeding camera not to catch speeding but to reduce accidents. FS to go back to CSB/roads department to ask for clarification as to why dummy cameras will not reduce accidents (rather than catch speeding).

Discussed possibility of “Welcome to Aboyne sign coming from West”, and/or signs asking people to slow down and/or art/installations portraying Aboyne activities, eg Highland Games, Canoeing, Mountain biking, etc.

* + 1. *CAK Report*

No questions were raised.

# MDCC sub-groups

* 1. Resilience planning

MO reported that the generators at Dinnet and Kincardine O’Neil hubs are up and running, that the hub equipment has been distributed, and that the hub stand-up instructions have been revised. Next step is to collate and distribute the processes for stand by, for standing up the hubs and the watchlists (lists of people who would like to be checked on). Next following step is a campaign asking for volunteers so that lists can be kept of people who would like to help in an emergency.

Noted that MDCC resilience processes are triggered by Met Office amber warnings and SEPA flood warnings. Work to be done to ensure that communications through Facebook reflect this. Current “Resilience Aboyne” Facebook page not managed by MDCC.

Resilience social media campaign - likely to be approved after next group meeting.

Discussed COTAG 4x4 group. Main purpose is availability to level 1 responders, eg health care partnerships.

Resilience team to prepare information for communications strategy.

* 1. Planning
     1. Planning Applications

**APP/2023/0277 - Erection of Dwellinghouse - Site Adjacent To Broomfield Dess Aboyne AB34 5BJ. Comments by 23 March 2023**. (<https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=RQ8GJPCAJBS00>)

**Action:** FM to respond to council to note that the proposal does not comply with the local development plan or national planning policy and that MDCC therefore opposes the application. If the council is minded to grant permission, MDCC requests that a condition be imposed whereby the dwelling must be demolished if sold separately to the business.

**TRE/2023/0026 - Trees in Conservation Area for Felling of 1 Rowan Tree, 4 Birch Trees and 1 Laburnum Tree, and Pruning of 1 Sweet Chestnut Tree - Manorway, St Eunan's Road, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, AB34 5HH** - Comments by: N/A for this type of application. (<https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RR7HNPCAL4R00>)   
  
**Action:** No comment

**TRE/2023/0022 - Trees Condition of Planning Consent for Pruning of 2 Beech Trees and Felling of 4 Silver Birch Trees - 4 Darroch Wood, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, AB34 5FY** – Comments by: N/A for this type of application. (<https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=RQUANJCAKD700>)   
  
**Action:** FM to contact planning officer noting conditions 4 and 6 of planning permission APP/2006/1066 and therefore that area to be maintained as amenity woodland, asking to check that trees need to be removed and, if so, to be replanted and maintained with appropriate trees. Also to report breach of conditions 4 and 6 to enforcement team.

* + 1. *Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan*

Noted that local communities are being asked by Aberdeenshire Council to let them know through the Engage Aberdeenshire LDP Hub of any previously developed sites that should be assessed for inclusion as an opportunity site in the Local Development Plan.

FS to notify LPP team.

[Meeting post-script - AP to post on social media?]

* + 1. *Aboyne Local Place Plan*

Noted.

* 1. Defibrillators

MO has spoken with Rotary re funding. Rotary member asked how many times the defibs have been used - to best of our knowledge some have been taken for use but have not been used.

SL speaking with MDCT re funding.

Community Centre, Boat, Strachans defibs to have new pads fitted. New pads have been fitted to Ambulance Station and Rose Lodge.

Rose Lodge spare set of pads now out of date, therefore need to order a new set in due course.

Dinnet have raised money to purchase new defibrillator to be located at Dinnet Hall with funding for three years maintenance - to be managed by Dinnet rather than MDCC. Once new Dinnet defib has been installed, MDCC can discuss future of Loch Kinord Hotel defib maintenance. Noted that the Dinnet defib will have over-the-counter batteries.

**Action:** SL and MO to follow up funding conversations with Rotary and MDCT.

* 1. Youth Engagement

Next meeting to be held online 30 March 2023 with Hilary English.

**Action:** None for the moment.

* 1. Communications

Slowly increasing social media audience. Linking to other information sources.

**Action:** AP to arrange next group meeting.

* 1. Local Energy

Next meeting last week of March 2023. Local resident (Ken Morrow) is developing a hydrowheel - renewable energy project. Local Energy Group have reached out to him.

Local Energy group may establish themselves as an independent entity, eg community company, rather than sub-group of MDCC.

**Action:** Communications on MDCC social media.

# Outreach update

* 1. *MDCT*

AB unable to attend last meeting.

* 1. *Victory Hall Trustees*

No update.

* 1. *Community Groups Gatherings*

Next meeting due June 2023.

* 1. *Marr Area Forum*

AP at meeting at Victory Hall of halls across Aberdeenshire - Marr Area setting up forum for Marr Area halls to get together.

* 1. *Paths & Tracks Group*

Planning consent granted for Castle Woods Project. Funding received from Paths for All for work to ramps.

Proposed Glen Tanar-Aboyne link - ongoing negotiations with Glen Tanar estate and owner of Craigendinnie. £100,000 awarded from Paths for All.

* 1. *Ballater & Crathie Community Council Flooding Issues Group*

Unable to attend last meeting.

# Any Other Competent Business

Dog fouling

Problem in Aboyne and surrounds. Even where picked up, sometimes put into bags which are left on the ground/at side of paths/hanging on trees. Filled bags have been left in people’s gardens.

Potential solutions:

* Make dog bags available? (see Torphins’ upturned bottles stuffed with dog bags for people to use.)
* More dog bins, eg at each entry and exit point to woodland? (Council empties the dog bins.)
* Publicity campaigns? - Education. Communications on MDCC social media - where are the dog bins now (plan), linking to other litter campaigns - if getting new bins can ask where members of the public would like to see them.

**Action:**

* 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.

Cafe 93 @ car park at gliding strip

Food truck permanently parked at Gliding strip car park but has not been open for months. No internet footprint. Why is it there? Who has given permission for it to be there?

Licenced? (Street licence.)

**Action:** SL to take up with Aberdeenshire councillors.

# Date and Venue of Next Meeting

7-9pm Thursday, 27th April 2023 (Venue: Aboyne Library)