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**Minutes of Meeting 27th April 2023**

**(held at Aboyne Library)**

**Attending**

Community Councillors:

Steven Lindsay (SL/Chair), Martin Ogden (MO/Vice Chair), Grahame Wilson (GW/Treasurer), William Sutherland (WS), Alan Masson (AM), Mike Brown (MB), Volha (Olga) Druhakova (VD), Alastair Brodie (AB)

Aberdeenshire Councillors:

Sarah Brown (CSB), Anouk Kloppert (CAK)

Others:

Lyn Esslemont

1. **Welcome, apologies and conflicts**

**Apologies:** Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB), Fiona Sawyer (FS), Alison Pollock (AP)

**Absent:**

**Any conflicts of interest declared:** None

1. **Aberdeenshire Council Engagement**

Request to complete the council engagement survey, which will be used to gain feedback on council services and gauge community engagement/needs. [Customer Service Survey | Engage Aberdeenshire](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fengage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk%2Fcustomer-service-survey&data=05%7C01%7C%7C0f27aab91eb6401e958308db474f850d%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638182179081605673%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vE1D1Imr04qHCkqyOnpAnU55W%2FD1WwCJv%2Bz2rLWCgzY%3D&reserved=0)

**Minutes of previous meeting - for approval**

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

1. **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 | AB to place a paper notice on Community Notice Board on process of reporting road faults  SB Updated that there is a commitment to deploy the mobile safety camera to the loch on the lodge area. We await an update.  Chair proposed that this action now be closed. | SB | Sept 22 | Closed |
| 3 | 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). | See Cllr Brown email 17/04/23. | SB | Mar‘22 | Open |
| 4 | Dog fouling - Aboyne | 1. MDCC social media - ask for community’s help. 2. 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. 3. SL to discuss with Aboyne Paths and Tracks group to check which team at the council they liaised with to get new dog bins. 4. Extra bins were discussed to encourage dog walkers to use bins | 1. Done 2. Done - not clear what work done and who contact at council was. 3. Complete. 4. SL to follow up with contacting council on the advice of the Paths and Tracks group. | SL | Apr ‘22 | Open |
| 5 | Cafe 93 | SL to take up with Aberdeenshire councillors | SB has taken an action to investigate | SB | Mar ‘22 | Open |

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 has started a campaign to advertise for new members and post of Secretary.

1. **Correspondence and communications**
2. **Marr Community Council Catch up**

Viaa Teams call 10/5/2023 AB Requested a link to the meeting and will attend if available. Request that the link be circulated

1. **Draft Marr Area Plan**Plan circulated and no comments forthcoming
2. Place Plan would like to apply for funds from the Marr area Grant   
   SL asked if any other groups would be likely to apply for funding, none forthcoming.
3. **Reports**
   1. *Police*

AM ran through the latest report

A question was submitted prior to the meeting to ask if the report could be made public, through our social media channels. AM took an action to check if this was possible or if a redacted report would be a better option.

The Aboyne primary school was trained on the use of speed detectors on the A93 with training from the Police, no significant offences were recorded.

* 1. *Treasurer (GW)*

GW reported accounts.

MO reported that a request has been made of SSEN to ring fence funds for the purchase of diesel in the event of a weather warning being issued rather than storage.

SL Thanked GW for the work on the NESCAN fund

GW has completed the end of year report and has found a new auditor to verify the final accounts.

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

None received.

* + 1. *CSB Report*

No questions were raised.

* + 1. *CAK Report*

No questions were raised.

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

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

Resilience team to prepare information for communications strategy.

* 1. *Planning*

1. **APP/2023/0625 - Listed Building Consent for Alterations to Dwellinghouse - Westerton Farmhouse, Dess, Aboyne, AB34 5AY - Comments by 11 May 2023** (<https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>)   
     
   **Proposed action:** No comment
2. **APP/2023/0666 - Listed Building Consent for Internal Alterations - Kincardine Castle, Kincardine O'Neil, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, AB34 5AE - Comments by 11 May 2023** (<https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>)   
     
   **Proposed action:** No comment.
3. **APP/2023/0699 - Full Planning Permission for Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse - Cruachan Beann, Ballater Road, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, AB34 5JE - Comments by 4 May 2023** (<https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>)   
     
   **Proposed action:** No comment.
4. **APP/2023/0583 - Full Planning Permission for Extension to Bike Park (Renewal of Previously Approved APP/2018/2809) - Aboyne Bike Park, Bellwood, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire - Comments by 27 April 2023** (<https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>)   
     
   Renewal of previously approved consent. An extension of time for any comment that MDCC might wish to make has been requested (for Friday 28 April, after the MDCC meeting).  
     
   One comment received from the public through the website. This comment has been forwarded to the planning officer as a comment received by a member of the public.

Olga commented that the ecological report submitted with the plan was outdated. Olga agreed to pass this information to FS

**Proposed action**: No comment from MDCC.

1. **APP/2023/0746 - Part Reduction In Height Of Wall And Pier West Boundary - Kincardine O'Neil Parish Church North Deeside Road Kincardine O'Neil Aberdeenshire – comments by 18 May 2023** (<https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>)  
     
   Views of Kincardine O'Neil Community Association sought. Not clear from application, but seems to be related to access to the property for its new use as an antiques centre.  
     
   **Proposed action:** Kincardine O'Neil Community Association to reply to FS supporting the application.
2. **APP/2023/0721 - Installation of Solar Panels - Hillview Ballater Road Aboyne Aberdeenshire AB34 5HN – Comments by 25 May 2023** (<https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=RT96FXCAH2O00>)   
     
   **Proposed action:** No comment.
3. **APP/2023/0706 - Alterations and Extension to Dwellinghouse - Post Office Thistle Bank Charlestown Road Aboyne Aberdeenshire AB34 5EJ – Comments by 18 May 2023** (<https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=RT0F4ICAGTG00&activeTab=summary>)   
     
   APP/2022/2410 for Change of Use from Class 1 (Shops) to Class 3 (Food and Drink) and Class 9 (Dwellinghouse) was approved on 17 March 2023. This new application is to convert a storage area at the ground floor at the rear of the property into a kitchen with decking area.  
     
   **Proposed action:** No comment.
4. There is an ongoing issue regarding a site at the Darroch Wood Estate. This was raised by an application to remove and prune trees (ref TRE/2023/0022) – discussed at our last meeting.

* + 1. *Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan*

Nothing to report this month.

* + 1. *Aboyne Local Place Plan*

The Steering Group met on Thursday 13 April 2023.

Aberdeenshire Council has now issued an invitation to local communities to prepare a Local Place Plan – see <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/apps/news/release.aspx?newsID=9033>. Although an LPP can prepared and submitted at any time, communities are being asked to submit LPPs by the end of 2023 if possible for incorporation into the next Development Plan.

A timetable for the LPP process has been agreed, starting with pre-survey engagement during June and July, followed by a public survey to be undertaken online, in paper copy and through public meetings, using the Place Standard Tool. We are setting up a Facebook account and a simple website for the Local Place Plan work.

LPP group to apply to the Marr Area Committee for funding for a Survey Monkey subscription and for promotional materials, including a banner for events.

* 1. *Defibrillators*

Kinord Hotel Defib clarified that the hotel’s defib maintenance should be covered by MDCC.

Community Centre, Boat, Strachans defibs have had new pads fitted.

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

Funding will be available from MDCT & Rotary once a formal application is completed by GW

* 1. *Youth Engagement*

SB Reported MDCT has agreed to umbrella a project to start work with youth engagement

**Action:** None for the moment.

* 1. *Communications*

Nothing to report.

* 1. *Local Energy*

Meeting held early March, draft constitution created with agreement at the next meeting.

Contact has been made with the gliding club to review the possibility of building a joint solar farm at the club.

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

AB attend last meeting request for support for community buses service as the council are not able to provide this service any longer. AK to raise with the council.

MDCT has also requested the MDCC assist with submitting planning applications, this was agreed.

Requested assistance for a tree survey within Lady wood.

* 1. *Victory Hall Trustees*

No update.

* 1. *Rotary*Activity update
  2. *Community Groups Gatherings*

Next meeting due June 2023.

* 1. *Marr Area Forum*

Marr area has set up a community council meeting

* 1. *Paths & Tracks Group*

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

1. **Any Other Competent Business**

AGM will be in June, vacancies will need to be publicised. AB Asked for a poster to put on the notice boards.

WS Will be standing down from CC at the AGM, however he is confident a replacement candidate will be forthcoming.

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

7-9pm Thursday, 25th May 2023 (Venue: Aboyne Library)