**DRAFT Minutes of Meeting 24 August 2023**

**(held at Aboyne Library)**

**Attending**

Community Councillors

Martin Ogden (MO/Chair), Steven Lindsay (SL/Vice Chair), Grahame Wilson (GW/Treasurer), Chris Grieve (CG), Alastair Brodie (AB), Mike Brown (MB), Fiona Sawyer (FS), Alison Pollock (AP)

Aberdeenshire Councillors

Cllr Sarah Brown (CSB)

Others

None

1. **Welcome, apologies and conflicts**

**Apologies:** Volha (Olga) Druhakova (VD), Bernie Cassie (BC)

**Absent:** Cllr Anouk Kloppert (CAK), Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB)

**Any conflicts of interest declared:**

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

Minutes of MDCC meeting held in June 2023 approved as a true record. SL proposed, GW 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. | Aboyne-Dinnet Church have prepared a list - to review. | FS / AP | Sept ‘22 | Open |
|  | Dog fouling - Aboyne | Aboyne Paths and Tracks Group produced map of Bellwood showing where bins are - to ask whether they can update map to show where dog bins are.  CG to discuss with KCA. | Map discussed at last MDCT meeting. Dale Kitching discussed progressing updating the map. | SL | Mar ‘23 | Open |
|  | Request for participation in the development of Councils new Local Transport Strategy (19 May 2023) - consultation closes 23 June 2023 | Survey very long, questionnaire not fully completed..  AB to analyse consultation responses once available. CAK to ask that survey responses be made available. | Results not yet received. | 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. | Noted KON not included in the Aboyne LPP, but intention to prepare plans for other MDCC areas once Aboyne LPP has been completed with lessons learned. | FS | May ‘23 | Closed. |
|  | 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 | Rotary have donated £600 to MDCC defibs fund. Intention is to donate £600 next year as well.  SL to investigate possible assistance of MDCT. | SL | May ‘23 | Open |
|  | Bedding plants | 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. | Bedding plants were delivered in mid-June.  Email has arrived in MDCC account to re-order the plants - now need to action the request. | AB | May ‘23 | Closed |
|  | 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 | Closed |
|  | Community Secretaries Group | Review whether MDCC wants to join | To discuss | 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. | All ward councillors attended and SL. Problems regarding section east of Aboyne which is not formally part of Deeside Way and not maintained. At area past Kirkton Cottages where council have worked with landowners to fund assessments and work to reinstate route is progressing. At other parts of the route, difficulties working with landowners.  CG reported improvements to Deeside Way at KON, improving accessibility. | SL | 22/6/23 | Closed |
|  | Place Strategy | Meeting 27 and 28 June 2023, and survey | FS attended meeting. Very positive. | FS | 22/6/23 | Closed |
|  | Community Council webinar - Carbon Literacy Project | CG to attend |  | CG | 22/6/23 | Closed |
|  | Aberdeenshire Community Council Networking Event - Saturday 4 November 2023. |  | Revisit nearer the time | MO | 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 | Closed |
|  | 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 | Closed |
|  | 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 wrote to council in personal capacity. | AB | 22/6/23 | Closed |
|  | 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 | Closed |
|  | Bedding plants | 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. | MDCC to order the plants - now need to action the request. | FS | May ‘23 | Open |

1. **Correspondence and communications**
   1. **Mid Deeside Area Map** - Request from Andrew Fyfe for approval for approximately £400 to print a large version of the new update of the MDCC area map for the community noticeboard. Agreed approved from open fund. Discussed potential to include location of defibs in the relevant area on the map - agreed to take up the offer. Leaves open the discussion of whether to produce a map of the location of remaining defibs in the wider MDCC area.
   2. **Request for from Ballater CC to facilitate meeting with MDCT for strategy discussions** - MO to contact BCCC and MDCT.
   3. **The Big Bulb Plant** - request has also come into the Rotary. Looking for volunteers for planting bulbs. Noted that groups such as Aboyne Kids 4 Climate Action might be interested. 600 bulbs are being planted at KNO through the school. MO to send information to AP to publicise on social media requesting interest by mid-September.
2. **Reports**
   1. **Police**

No report this month - next due in September.

* 1. **Treasurer (GW)**

LPP group has spent £113 on banner and Farmer’s market. Request for £20 for September Farmer’s market.

£240 spent on new battery for ambulance defib.

£600 subsequently received from the Rotary, used to re-open the restricted defib fund.

Need to submit the draft minutes of this year’s AGM and the financial report to Aberdeenshire Council to receive this year’s funds. FS to submit.

£3,000 available in the SSEN fund. CG to request resilience group for funding for hi-vis vests.

£1,000 available in the NESCAM fund.

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

None received.

* + 1. CSB Report

No policy committees currently sitting - vacation.

Zebra crossing to be connected end September following issues regarding power supply. CSB asked for report regarding reasons.

Venue users group meeting took place on 28 June 2023. Following this meeting Live Life Aberdeenshire (LLA) have rationalised the hours that the community centre is open and have announced a new timetable (using data-led decision making which has not taken into account many groups using the venue). Includes closing the community centre on a Sunday. CSB to follow up regarding the venue user group meeting - raised questions regarding theatre user group and noted concerns regarding leaving out all users other than leisure services users. Requested that for Aboyne Community Centre the figures by ALL users should be captured and fed into the analysis. CSB has chased for response but no response received yet. Strength of feeling amongst the community is strong - including after school club, etc. The building is currently a community centre not a leisure centre but is not being treated as such by LLA. User groups such as Upstage Aboyne are objecting. They have also not yet had any response to their correspondence.

Answer awaited and needed. MDCC to consider response once available.

Noted that the community users development group has been trying to establish a memorandum of understanding since 2018.

Noted that the impact is biggest on those who can afford it least.

Noted that there are limited options for truly accessible meeting spaces in Aboyne for groups, particularly those who cannot afford to pay hourly rates.

MDCC to encourage public to use available leisure services through social media. MDCC also to consider blog through website on what you can do in the village (facilities and services available) - AP to action.

* + 1. CAK Report

None received.

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

Paul Gibb has drafted an article for the next issue of the Fountain seeking volunteers for the resilience effort and reaching out to citizens with vulnerabilities who would like to be checked on in the event of an emergency. AP to add to MDCC social media.

Aboyne Resilience facebook page - not run by MDCC and not an MDCC resilience group page. Several administrators. Discussion around whether MDCC to request that MDCC take over the administration of that Facebook page. Intention is to rename the page as the Aboyne Resilience page and widen its reach to the whole of the MDCC area. MO to speak with Grant Thompson who initiated the Facebook page.

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

See planning report for 24 June 2023.

* + 1. Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan

See planning report for 24 June 2023.

* + 1. Aboyne Local Place Plan

See planning report for 24 June 2023.

SL note - MDCC notified of works to Edgewood Place (a private road) including upcoming closure. Local residents not yet notified. MDCC could share links to council information on road closures on MDCC social media. MDCC to ask Aberdeenshire Council for clarification regarding the process for local notification of road closures.

* 1. **Defibrillators**

See report of 24 June 2023. Defibs have been taken, although not used, three times since last meeting - exceptional. One time was because an ambulance not available so instructed to take defib to hospital in case needed on the journey.

Discussed location of defibs. Rose Lodge defib not well known about. MDCC to approach the Co-op to ask whether could put sign up at the Co-op directing the public to the Rose Lodge defib - MO to follow-up.

SL to approach MDCT to discuss defibs funding going forward.

* 1. **Youth Engagement**

Meeting being held this evening.

* 1. **Communications**

Sub-group to meet to discuss communications strategy.

* 1. **Local Energy**

Next meeting coming up.

1. **Any Other Competent Business**
   1. **Planning Lead**

FS has stepped from role of Planning Lead. Vacancy to be advertised on social media. AP to action - FS to forward job description.

* 1. **Secretary** – non-minuting part of the role

AB has stepped down from role of Secretary. Vacancy to be advertised on social media. AP to action. FS to notify Marr Area Office.

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

**Next general meeting** - 7-9pm Thursday, 28 September 2023 (Venue: Aboyne Library)