**DRAFT Minutes of Meeting 23 November 2023**

**(held at Aboyne Library)**

**Attending**

Community Councillors

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

Aberdeenshire Councillors

Cllr Sarah Brown (CSB),

Others

Sgt Allan Masson, Ethel-May McCreaddie (EM), Mick Mallett (Associate Member) (MM)

1. **Welcome, apologies and conflicts**

**Apologies:** Martin Ogden (MO/Chair), Alison Pollock (AP), Cllr Geva Blackett (CGB), Cllr Anouk Kloppert (CAK)

**Absent:**

**Any conflicts of interest declared:** FS recused herself during meeting in relation to neighbour’s retrospective planning application

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

The minutes of the MDCC meeting held in October 2023 approved as a true record. GW proposed, OD seconded.

1. **Upper Deeside Police Report**

Sgt Allan Masson explained some of the detail from the latest Q3 report, which was submitted prior to the MDCC October 2023 meeting.

Discussion regarding how the mountain rescue teams across the region work together for the safety of our residents and visitors. Much thanks given.

Thanks given to Sgt Masson. Next report will be at the February 2024 meeting.

1. **Matters arising/actions status**

Actions status:

| **#** | **Topic** | **Action Item** | **Status** | **Resp.** | **Opened** | **Status** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Who’s Who for Aboyne | Create a list of representation of groups, organisations, clubs in Aboyne. | AP to contact Aboyne-Dinnet Church to request ilink to list on Aboyne-Dinnet Church website, or include list on MDCC website or to use information from list to include on website.  AP can regularly post on MDCC social media asking new groups and old groups with contact changes to let MDCC know for purposes of keeping list updated. | AP | Sept ‘22 | Open |
| 2. | 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. | CSB has written to planning team. Response awaited. | CSB | May ‘23 | Open |
| 3. | Defibs | MDCT taking over responsibility for defibs as new group within MDCT. | GW awaiting email from Brian Rae (MDCT Chair) to confirm new arrangement and administration (eg checklists, purchasing consumables). Until arrangement with MDCT confirmed, MDCC responsible for defibs. | SL/GW | May ‘23 | Open |
| 4. | LLA and Community Centre | Chair to email our ward Councillors to raise MDCC concerns about the impact of the reduced opening hours on the community.  MO sent email and had responses from Cllrs Brown and Kloppert | New Community Centre manager has been working with Community Centre Users Group to make CC more available to users. Theatre Group now keyholders. New manager keen to see results of community centre survey. Constructive working relationship. | SL | Oct’23 | Closed |

1. **Correspondence and communications**
   1. **Community Bulb Planting - Sat 25th November**

Noted. OD has put a poster up on the community noticeboard to advertise. It has also been advertised on Facebook through Aboyne Local.

* 1. **Latest Consultations**

Noted

* 1. **Request for help from Ethel-May McCreaddie**

Ongoing issue with maintenance of land (including highway) to east of village. Current dispute regarding ownership. **FS** to visit site with EM to understand issue for purposes of assessing whether MDCC might be able to assist with bringing the parties together for discussions.

* 1. **Request from Glen Reynolds (SNP Westminster Candidate) to attend meetings**

It was discussed that the Ward 15 councillors actively seek to understand needs of and represent the interests of the MDCC community, attending meetings regularly and taking actions as discussed in the meetings. CSB recommended that MDCC contact the Marr Area Office to ascertain protocol. It was noted that MDCC meetings are public and that anyone is welcome to attend.

* 1. **Update on Cherry trees pruning, Aboyne Green – email correspondence**

CG and MO attended Aboyne earlier in November for the purposes of being shown which of the cherry trees along the south side of the Green need to be pruned/removed, as discussed between MDCT (Dave Marshall) and the Aberdeenshire Council trees department. It was agreed that MDCT would put out a notification to the public through the Aboyne Local Facebook page that the Council would soon be undertaking the works, and that there were plans to replace the trees, so reinstating the avenue, details of which would be agreed and confirmed by MDCT in due course.

* 1. **Bus Forum Thursday 7 December at 7.30pm until 9.00pm**

CG to attend. Issues with buses discussed in outline for purposes of CG reporting to the forum.

* 1. **Marr Area Grants available - up to £5000**

Noted

* 1. **Tarland - Banchory Bus feeder service**

Noted. Aberdeenshire Council is funding this service.

1. **Switched On Aboyne**

MM reported that, after many years of organising Switched On Aboyne (SOA) (the Christmas lights for the village), he will be stepping down from this role after the lights are taken down in January 2024. He was thanked for years of hard work and dedication – fundraising for, purchasing, installing and maintaining the lights, purchasing and maintaining the necessary equipment, including the cherry picker, organising storage of the lights and the equipment, liaising with the council for the purposes of obtaining all necessary consents, and managing the team which helps with the erection and taking down of the lights etc year. In undertaking this significant role as a volunteer, MM has brought much pleasure to the village for years and his service was deeply thanked.

Another volunteer needs to be found to take on this role from 2024 onwards. The volunteer needs to be a fully qualified electrician and will need the support of a team.

MDCC to advertise on social media and noticeboards with MM assistance. **AP**.

Regarding storage of the SOA lights and equipment, this is currently stored in the Games Shed. A copy of the MDCC insurance policy is to be forwarded to the Games Committee Secretary.

1. **Reports**
   1. **Treasurer**

See Treasurer’s Report.

Noted that various items have been purchased for the resilience hubs and for use by volunteers during an emergency.

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

Noted.

* + 1. CSB Report

Noted. Thanks given.

* + 1. CAK Report

N/A

* 1. **Planning applications**

APP/2023/2032 - **AB/OD** to prepare response to council on retrospective application.

APP/2023/2088 – KON Community Association positively support this application. MDCC to notify council of MDCC support.

1. **MDCC sub-groups**
   1. **Defibrillators**

The Boat Inn defib was found disconnected from the power supply. Now reinstated. To be monitored.

Ambulance Station defib and community centre defib potentially taken for use and returned. To be reviewed for reasons.

* 1. **Resilience**

Equipment purchased for hubs and for use by volunteers during emergency as discussed.

* 1. **Youth Engagement**

BC updated on progress with the group.

* 1. **Communications**

No further report this month.

* 1. **Local Energy**

Discussions ongoing with Gliding Club.

* 1. **Local Place Plan Group**

Survey evaluation continues.

* 1. **MDCT**

CG updated on recent MDCT news.

1. **Any Other Competent Business**

Lengthy discussion regarding the emergency closure of Aboyne Bridge in November 2023, which has been confirmed will last at least 18 months while investigations are completed by Aberdeenshire Council. CSB reported all the actions that she has taken to ascertain as much information as possible from the council regarding the reasons for and length of the closure, and to alleviate hardship caused by the closure, eg working with the council to enable parking as close to the bridge as possible for residents to the south for foot access across to the services and facilities in Aboyne. Questions were raised regarding the background to the closure, including whether there had been a programme for maintenance and review of the bridge condition. CSB noted that she is trying to arrange a community meeting.

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

**Next general meeting** - 7-8.45 pm Thursday, 25 January 2024 at Aboyne Library (upstairs in the Library)