**BANFF & MACDUFF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Wednesday 29 November 2023 – 7pm**

**Macduff Community and Sports Centre**

Present:

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| Mary Arnold | Chair |
| Kevin Ritchie | Vice Chair |
| Hazel Daniel | Secretary |
| Louise McCafferty | Treasurer |
| Reg Connon | Community Councillor |
| David Duguid | Community Councillor |
| Colin Robson | Community Councillor |
| John Will | Community Councillor |
| Dougie Thomson | Community Councillor |
| Paul Gleisner | Community Councillor |
| John Main | Community Councillor |
| Shona Watson | Community Councillor |
| Councillor Stuart Adams | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| PC Zubaj | Police Scotland |
| Jan Emery | Aberdeenshire Council |

Apologies:

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| Councillor Mark Findlater | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| Councillor Ross Cassie | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Councillor John Cox | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Councillor Glen Reynolds | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Councillor Richard Menard | Ward 2 Elected Member |

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| **1** | **Present and Apologies** |
|  | Mary Arnold, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies noted. |

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| **2** | **Declaration of Interests** |
|  | No declarations noted. |

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| **3** | **Approval of Minute of Meeting of Wednesday 29 November 2023.**  **Matters Arising from last minute** |
|  | Hazel advised that she had contacted Council regarding the trees on the Howe and has been advised that currently there are none which are considered a risk to the public and therefore no action is required.  John Will advised that he has contacted the Council regarding the flooding at the car park in Myrus Circle and is waiting for a response.  The minutes were approved.  Proposed by Dougie Thomson and seconded by Colin Robson. |

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| **4** | **Police Report** |
|  | PC Zubaj was unable to attend however he did provide a Police report, which was provided to Community Councillor members prior to the meeting.  **CCTV-** Mary queried whether this would solve the issue or disperse it. Dougie stated that this was not a high crime area. Cllr John Cox advised that there are fewer Police Officers, and CC TV may be helpful.  The toilets in St Mary’s car park are closed again due to vandalism and it was recognised that there are not enough resources for teenagers/ adolescents to access in the area and any money may be better spent in that area. The Cllr’s were clear that if the toilets continue to keep getting vandalised this may have an impact on the monies needed to continually repair them. CCTV and/ or signage may be required. |

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| **5** | **Treasurer Report** |
|  | Louise advised that the current bank balance is £1529.84  £2,400 has been awarded to Banff and Macduff from the Towns and Villages Amenities Fund.  Louise identified that there will be annual charges, such as Microsoft Package, Data protection Fee, and future Insurance, as this is a change from how it is currently provided.  The Local Authority has asked for the funds to be audited and produced before they are able to give the annual grant. Louise is to clarify given the time of year. John Will may know someone who is able to audit the account.  The CC agreed to reimburse Ian Williams for the cost of engraving of the Quaich, last year, and agreed that this years ones will also be paid for.  A pull up banner is to be purchased for the CC with the new logo on. The cost is £85. Proposed Kev Ritchie, Seconded by Hazel Daniel. |

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| **6** | **Councillors’ Report** |
|  | Cllr Cassie- Mary provided a report from Cllr Cassie. The Glass Bin lorry is not currently working and therefore the bins in St Mary’s car park and others cannot be emptied at the moment. Recycling Centre Macduff can still be used as normal.  Aldi application has been agreed but there is a 6 week period when any appeals can be submitted.  Cllr Cox – advised that the application for a Battery Plant has been approved, although like Aldi there is a period of 6 weeks where appeals can be made. There was no consultation with the Fire Service, which was challenged.  Cllr’s have tried to challenge the reason that the “objector” to Aldi’s plans has not been made public. There was a discussion as to the rights of the public to know who any objector is.  There has been some confusion around the picking up of the new orange bins, in that some streets seem to be having one side emptied one day and the other side another day.  Councillor Adam- advised that there will be budgetary restrictions and cutbacks, putting pressures on Local Authorities, which is inevitable.  Councillor Findlater- advised that the councillors have found the Aldi situation extremely frustrating and they have done everything to ensure that all of the proper channels have been followed.  He re-emphasised the use of Aberdeenshire’s app to report any concerns regarding roads etc.  <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/roads/maintenance/drainage/#:~:text=say%3A%20council%20budget-,Flooding%2C%20road%20gullies%20and%20drainage,Flooding,-Gullies> |

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| **7** | Correspondence/Communications |
|  | * Two Towns - Big Ideas Participatory Budgeting Fund Reference Group. David McCubbin is looking for a member of the CC to be part of group. Hazel agreed to take on this role. * Jan Emery—Re Coastal Path. Hazel attended meeting on the 14th Nov 2023 from Macduff. Louise to attend to discuss Banff. * Heraldic Stones- Mary has sent an email to the person who was responsible for previously painting them. Waiting for a response. |

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| **8** | Planning Matters |
|  | A Planning application has been submitted and the link is provided below.  https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=S3I8K9CAIVP00&activeTab=summary |

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| **9** | Update from B and M in Bloom |
|  | Flower bed at the bottom of Sandyhill Road has now been prepared for planting next year. |

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| **10** | **Good News** |
|  | Dougie Thomson presented the Quaich to Keith Newton on behalf of the Friends of Macduff Marine Aquarium (FOMMA) for all of the fantastic work that they do to promote the Aquarium and the surrounding area as well as the Calendar.  Keith was delighted to accept the quaich and acknowledged that there are other groups which also do a lot of work in the area to enhance both towns.  The Banff Quaich is to be awarded in January 2024.  The CC acknowledged the fantastic display of poppies in Macduff and the amount of people visiting as a result.  Congratulations to Macduff Men's Shed for winning Men's Shed of the Year, they were up against nearly 200 other Men's sheds throughout Scotland.  Congratulations to Enable Deveronside for the King's Award for Volunteering, a wonderful achievement.  Our thanks to John Main for developing a website for the Banff & Macduff Community Council. He stated that it is up and running however he would like CC members to send info to him which can be added.  Christmas Lights are now up and it is the biggest display in the area for some years. The communities of Banff & Macduff give our thanks to all the volunteers for a brilliant Christmas Lights display. |

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| **11** | **AOCB** |
|  | * Wendy Atkinson advised that she no longer wished to be co-opted onto the CC * Reg asked about the plants at the end of Low Street being cut back as it makes it difficult to see out beyond them. Hazel to contact David Mundie. * Shop in Duff Street Macduff in dangerous state of repair as the windows are falling out. Workers have been seen in the building. It is believed money has been awarded to the owner of the shop in the form of a Grant. Hazel to write to Building and Control. * Query re continual flooding in Myrus Circle car park. John Will, will contact Alistair Millar. * Mary and Kevin have met with Jakub Smolarz, RGU regarding an architectural development for the Highland Haven site. It was not known how likely this is to be. * John and Hazel attended the CC conversations at Crudie Primary and feedback to the group. They highlighted that the CC may be asked to give a feedback to their peers in the new year. * John had forwarded on a conversation from Whitehills CC and the possibility of linking in with them regarding the Windfarm and the possibility of funding as a result. * A decision was made that the Greenbanks Travellers site is to become a year round site for 10 stances. This meeting was not open to the public and therefore there are no minutes available to view. There was discussion around this being against Planning Decisions. There has been no consultation with the CC. Cllr Cox has asked for clarification from planning. Mary has written to Liz Hamilton regarding the processes which have been taken and the fact that this is Common Good Land. There has been no response to date. * There are no charges for the allotments in Banff and Buchan area, however there are charges everywhere else in Aberdeenshire. Allotments are on Common Good Land. Mary to write to Area Managers Office. * Local resident had contacted the CC to enquire about the allotments at the Castle. Cllr Cox advised that the proper processes have been followed regarding giving allotment holders the correct notice. * Common Good Fund. Louise is chasing up as to where the Reserves of monies are for the fund. * Dog Fouling was brought as an ongoing issue. There was a query as to whether dog poo bags are still available free of charge. * The CC were advised that Mr Peter Johnston had recently passed away. It was acknowledged that he had previously been a positive person in the community.   Thank you to all Community Council members and Councillors who attended. |

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| **13** | **Date and time of next meeting:** |
|  | Wednesday 31 January 2024 at 7pm Deveron Community and Sports Centre. |