**BANFF & MACDUFF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Wednesday 28 February 2024 – 7pm**

**Macduff Community and Sports Centre.**

Present:

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| Mary Arnold | Chair |
| Kevin Ritchie | Vice Chair |
| Hazel Daniel | Secretary |
| 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 |
| Councillor Mark Findlater | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| Councillor Richard Menard | Ward 2 Elected Member |

Apologies:

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| Councillor Stuart Adam | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Councillor Ross Cassie | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| Councillor John Cox | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Councillor Glen Reynolds | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Louise McCafferty | Community Councillor |
| Shona Watson | Community Councillor |

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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** |
|  | Hazel advised that there was one of the planning issues she would not comment on.  Mary advised that she was a school crossing patroller. |

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| **3** | **Approval of Minute of Meeting of Wednesday 31 January 2024.**  **Matters Arising from last minute** |
|  | Cllr Findlater pointed out that Cllr Stuart Adams represents Ward 1 and Cllr Cassie represents Ward 2.  The minutes were approved.  Proposed by Colin Robson and seconded by Paul Gleisner. |

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| **4** | **Police Report** |
|  | The Police report had been provided to CC members prior to the meeting.  PC Zubaj did not attend the meeting.  Two members of the public attended the meeting with regards to the gangs of youths which congregate in the Low Street area and are causing a great deal of distress, by the use of threatening and abusive behaviour, as well as vandalism and fire raising. The couple have contacted the Police on several occasions and PC Zubaj has met with them. They feel that they are on the front line and nothing is being done to support them and they feel helpless. The male has been challenged by one youth to a fight. The ages of the youths vary as does the number of them gathering in the vicinity. It has been up to 30 to 40. They feel it is a town problem and not just Low Street. They would like a resolution to the issue. They felt that there has been a lack of response by the Elected Members, who they have contacted.  Mary advised that this issue has been discussed on several occasions within the CC. PC Zubaj along with Social Work are currently working with some of the young people. Mary agreed that members of the public should not be intimidated by the young people. The couple advised that the youths are now playing music loudly.  Cllr Findlater advised that this is an issue in other areas as well as young people have the opportunity to travel on buses and cause difficulties outwith their own areas.  Cllr Findlater suggested writing to the Community Planning Partnership with regards to discussing the issue further.  It was agreed to write to the Inspector as well in order to support the public who are feeling threatened. |

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| **5** | **Treasurer Report** |
|  | Louise was unable to attend but had completed a report.  She advised that the current bank balance is £3793.44 This includes £2,400 from the Towns and Villages Amenities Fund.  Payments made since last meeting - £35 ICO (information commissioner GDPR) and Insurance £97.20  Accounts for 2022-2023 are with Ritsons who have agreed to do the work pro bono. Chair and Treasurer to supply identity and proof of address documents - deadline for submission back to Council is 31/03/24  Mary acknowledged the great job undertaken by Louise. |

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| **6** | **Council Cuts** |
|  | Two members of the Macduff Community attended the Meeting to discuss the fact that the School Crossing patrol will no longer be funded by Aberdeenshire Council from the beginning of the new school year in August 2024.  David Keaton, Chair of the Education and Children’s Services Committee , advised that a safety inspection had been carried out and the routes around the school are deemed to be safe. There are 5 junctions around the Macduff primary School.  A Pedestrian Crossing has been requested for the last two years. Now that Aldi is to be built this is likely to increase the traffic travelling past the school. Council have stated that it is the parents responsibility to ensure the safety of their child. However without a crossing, which can stop the traffic, this will not be safe. People who have sight issues will incur a further safety issue.  During the times when there has been no School Crossing person available, cars have not stopped to allow people to cross and there have also been times when cars have driven past the School Crossing Person whilst they have been stood in the middle of the road. Aberdeenshire Council vehicles were also said to be guilty. There are times when the Head, Janitor and some parents have stopped the traffic.  The CC was in total agreement that the safety of children is paramount and as one person said “ let’s learn before it (an accident) happens”.  It was agreed that Hazel should contact Alistair Millar, Senior Roads Management Engineer (North), to ask for an urgent survey for traffic in Duff Street. |

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| **7** | **Councillors’ Report** |
|  | Cllr Findlater and Menard spoke of the £67 million pounds cuts which have to be made this year. They advised that there had been a consultation with services / staff prior to decisions being made. It was acknowledged that if the Council are not able to provide the service then there needs to be a quicker response from them when alternative options are put in front of them. The Council will have to be less risk averse to allow volunteers to make other options.  John Will queried whether there should be a Community Data Base with the names of people who are willing to give their time to support different resources.  It was noted that there are a lot of volunteers in Macduff and Banff however there is also a sense of a lack of community spirit, at times. |

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| **7** | Correspondence/Communications |
|  | Free webinar for Community Councils: Scottish Empty Homes Partnership - 4pm Wednesday 20th March 2024 via Teams |

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| **8** | Planning Matters |
|  | Erection of Balcony and Carport  63 Gellymill Street Macduff Aberdeenshire AB44 1UX  APP/2024/0064  In Agreement- no issues  Erection of Dwelling House  Garden Ground at 25 Duncan Street, Banff Aberdeenshire  APP/2024/0222 |  In agreement- no issues  Installation of Replacement Windows  66 North Castle Street Banff AB451HX  APP/2024/0232 |  In agreement- no issues |

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| **9** | Update from B and M in Bloom |
|  | Shona was unable to attend the meeting and provide an update, although Hazel was able to state what they planned to spend the Towns and Amenities Fund monies on. |

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| **10** | **Good News** |
|  | Mary advised that Macduff Primary is to celebrate it’s 60th anniversary this year and are looking to members of the community for any memories / photos that they have and include.  Kevin and the rest of the volunteers were presented with the King’s Award for their work with the Enable Club. |

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| **11** | **AOCB** |
|  | * Kevin will work out a calendar for events that are coming up this year in Banff and Macduff, where the CC can have a presence. * Straps for bins will be available in the new financial year. It was noted that there is an issue with the orange bins blowing over and the contents littering the streets. * The CC were advised that the £20 million which has been agreed from the government for Macduff Aquarium and Arbuthnott House in Peterhead will only be guaranteed when Aberdeenshire Council put forward £8 million. * It was noted that some of the shrubs on the main street from the bridge towards the High Street, have been cut back. It is unfortunate that the ones at the end of Low Street are not being treated the same. * The Banff Quaich is to be presented on the 7th March. * Dog fouling. Mary is to contact Edinburgh University regarding dog’s who are registered having their DNA taken and kept on file.   Thank you to all Community Council members and Councillors who attended. |

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| **13** | **Date and time of next meeting:** |
|  | Wednesday 27 March 2024 at 7pm Deveron Community and Sports Centre. |