**BANFF & MACDUFF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Wednesday 27 March 2024 – 7pm**

**Deveron Community and Sports Centre.**

Present:

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| Mary Arnold | 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 |
| Shona Watson | Community Councillor |
| Councillor John Cox | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Councillor Richard Menard | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| Councillor Stuart Adams | Ward 1 Elected Member |

Apologies:

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| Councillor Mark Findlater | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| Councillor Ross Cassie | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| John Main | Community Councillor |
| Kevin Ritchie | Community Councillor |
| PC Zubaj | Police |

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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** |
|  | None noted |

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| **3** | **Approval of Minute of Meeting of Wednesday 28 February 2024.**  **Matters Arising from last minute** |
|  | The minutes were approved.  Proposed by Dougie Thomson and seconded by Colin Robson. |

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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.  It was noted that the assaults in the area were up from 1 (previous report) to 8. Although the area is described as “a low crime area” there continue to be break ins and there have been a couple of arrests.  There is a Stop and Search programme in West Aberdeenshire and it was questioned as to whether the Police should be more proactive in this area. Is there a strategy that the Police have with regards to the people further up with regards to the drugs scene? Hazel to contact Inspector Grant. |

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| **5** | **Treasurer Report** |
|  | Louise advised that the current bank balance is £1,393.44.  There have been 3 payments of £800 paid to Banff and Macduff in Bloom, Christmas Lights and Home-Start via the Towns and Amenities Fund.  Accounts for 2022-2023 are with Ritsons who have agreed to do the work pro bono. Deadline for submission back to Council is 31/03/24. Louise has been chasing up to ensure they are submitted before the deadline.  Hazel advised that an email had been received from Jan McRobbie to advise that they were not in agreement with the £600 for the carpet tiles to Home-Start, as they felt this was not under the criteria for the Towns and Amenities Fund. Hazel has responded and is waiting for an answer. The CC did not agree. Mary has checked criteria and feels that it was quite ambiguous. Louise to check as well.  Hazel advised that the Microsoft Account will have to be paid by the end of April. |

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| **6** | **Councillors’ Report** |
|  | Cllr Cox advised that the Single Election date which had been planned, has now been put on hold.  The lack of economic development in Macduff, Banff and Peterhead is having a detrimental effect on the towns. With no new jobs in the area the problems are being passed over to social care as people require high levels of support financially. Fraserburgh was in the same position 8-10 years ago however this has now changed. There is a report DEVELOPING EXCELLENCE IN OUR NORTH COAST COMMUNITIES – FINAL PROGRAMME REPORT, which can be viewed on-line.  The only new development is Aldi which will provide some much needed new jobs at the end of the year.  The Councillors are open to suggestions as to how to encourage new development to come to the town. Various examples were given as to how other towns or areas of towns have changed.  The CC was advised that the Citizen’s Advice Bureau is now full time in Macduff as a result of the level of need for support and advice.  Cllr Menard advised that the Town Hall is up for sale. A survey has suggested that it will cost £500,000 to make it , at the least, OK.  He has been dealing with a lot of housing issues in the area regarding damp. Some of these are Local Authority Housing.  Shona Watson, CAB, advised that the Eviction Ban is being lifted on the 1st April and it is likely that there will be further contact with people regarding this.  Cllr Adams advised that Banff Bridge works is to begin this summer at the cost of £3 million pounds. The aim is to complete the work from underneath.  With regards to the new footbridge via Active Travel the application for a feasibility study is to be considered tomorrow (28/03/2024). The cost of the Bridge is likely to cost around £7.8 million pounds.  There is to be a meeting, week beginning 01 April 2024, where Cllr Cox and Cllr Adams, will attend regarding the Harbour Sub Committee. This will look at various aspects of the Harbour and how to encourage new business and ongoing use. |

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| **7** | Correspondence/Communications |
|  | * Response from Alister Millar, Roads , regarding the need for a crossing at Macduff Primary and the reasons as to why this will not be possible, mainly due to the position of the junctions around the school as well as the Bus Stop, Timescales and procedures.   Mary Arnold advised she has written to Aldi regarding a crossing as they have to install one, however it was considered that this will likely be nearer the shop entrance.   * Read response from Helen James, Head teacher, who was grateful for the CC support regarding the issue of school patrollers being withdrawn. |

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| **8** | Planning Matters |
|  | Mount Carmel Sandyhill Road Banff Aberdeenshire AB45 1BERef. No: APP/2024/0412 | Received: Thu 14 Mar 2024 | Validated: Fri 15 Marhttps://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=SACAWHCALB300&activeTab=summary  Mount Carmel Sandyhill Road Banff Aberdeenshire AB45 1BERef. No: APP/2024/0409 | Received: Wed 13 Mar 2024 | Validated: Wed 13https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=SAAPXRCAL8O00&activeTab=summary  Moray House 32 High Street Banff Aberdeenshire AB45 1AERef. No: APP/2024/0351 | Received: Wed 06 Mar 2024 | Validated: Thu 07https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=S9XER2CAKIQ00&activeTab=summary  1A Carmelite Street Banff Aberdeenshire AB45 1AFRef. No: APP/2024/0346 | Received: Tue 05 Mar 2024 | Validated: Wed 06https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=S9VV7XCAKG200&activeTab=summary  1A Carmelite Street Banff Aberdeenshire AB45 1AFRef. No: APP/2024/0327 | Received: Fri 01 Mar 2024 | Validated: Wed 06https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=S9ODRLCAK5T00&activeTab=summary  Banff Castle Castle Street Banff Aberdeenshire AB45 1DLRef. No: APP/2024/0319 | Received: Thu 29 Feb 2024 | Validated: Thu 07https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=S9M83DCAK0J00&activeTab=summary  There were no issues regarding any of the planning applications |

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| **9** | Update from B and M in Bloom |
|  | The money from the Towns and Amenities Initiative has been spent. The Bowser has been fixed.  This is the last year that B and MIB will be supplied with flowers from the Council. Currently have received a few pkts of seeds from Spotty Bag and will need to look to how the flowers are produced next year. Will possibly need to fundraise to look at plants for 2025. In order to grow seeds a polytunnel will be required. Hazel to contact Men’s Shed to see if they can help.  Only 5 people able to have their names put down on the Council Insurance in order to be able to drive the tractor to water hanging baskets.  Currently looking to update Risk Assessments |

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| **10** | **Good News** |
|  | CAB advised that they have been able to support people living in the community, by gaining £1,466,316. |

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| **11** | **AOB** |
|  | * **Common Good Fund**. There is a Business Services Meeting on 18/04/2024. It would be beneficial to know how the CC can access the reserve money which is held on behalf of the CGF.   Cllr Cox Advised that there is to be a review of the policy and the date which the report was due to be published was Dec 23, however this has been pushed back to allow more transparency and allow groups to gain access and uphold the dignity of the town.  There were questions around whether the Common Good Fund is receiving all of the revenue it should in terms of land being used.  Report will be provided every year.   * **Bank of Scotland**. There is a concern with the lack of cash machines. Whilst Banff residents have more choice. Macduff residents have two. One at Scotmid, which is free and the other at Keystore, which charges. * **Town House.** Service Point is to close from April 5th. There will continue to be some face to face availability to residents and this may be in the Libraries or Community and Sport Centre. * **Coastal Path.** Louise advised that they are looking to work on a spur path to the town centre and there will be an on-line survey. * **Banff and Macduff Place Based Plans.** Mary attended the presentation by pupils from all three schools in the area and praised the work which had been undertaken. May be a good idea to see if the presentation can be given to the CC. * **Reg** queried the reason that the shrubs on the right of the exit from Low Street had not been cut back as far as the rest. Hazel to email David Mundie. * **Allotments.** Shona advised that 2 people with clipboards have been going round the allotments making comments to people. These are not council employees. Some people feeling intimidated.   Shona also reported that there has been an incident of dumping, at the allotments, some material is very personal. Incident has been reported.   * **Notices.** It has been noted that there have been people/ cold callers, knocking at doors at inappropriate times. CAB can provide signs for anyone to put on their doors to advice they will not answer. |

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| **13** | **Date and time of next meeting:** |
|  | Wednesday 24 April 2024 at 7pm Macduff Community and Sports Centre. |