**BANFF & MACDUFF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Wednesday 29th May 2024 – 7pm**

**Deveron Community & Sports Centre**

Present:

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| Mary Arnold | Chair |
| Kevin Ritchie | Vice Chair |
| Shona Watson | Community Councillor |
| Reg Connon | Community Councillor |
| David Duguid | Community Councillor |
| Colin Robson | Community Councillor |
| John Will | Community Councillor |
| John Main | Community Councillor |
| Paul Gleisner | Community Councillor |
| Dougie Thomson | Community Councillor |
| Councillor Richard Menard | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| Councillor John Cox | Ward 1 Elected Member |

Apologies:

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| Hazel Daniel | Secretary |
| Louise McCafferty | Treasurer |
| PC Zubaj | Police Scotland |
| Councillor Mark Findlater | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| Councillor Ross Cassie | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| Councillor Stewart Adams | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Councillor Glen Renolds | Ward 1 Elected Member |

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| **1** | **Present and Apologies** |
|  | Welcome and apologies noted. |

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| **2** | **Declaration of Interests** |
|  | Cllr J Cox declared an interest within planning. |

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| **3** | **Approval of Minute of Meeting on Wednesday 29th April 2024**  **Matters Arising from last minute** |
|  | Minutes were approved by Dougie Thomson and seconded by Colin Robson. No Matters raised |

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| **4** | **Police Report** |
|  | Apologies given from Police, the chair commented on how low the police report was, which is a good sign but still some worries regarding Antisocial behaviour, |

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| **5** | **Treasurer Report** |
|  | Kevin updated everyone of 2 payments being made, £600 refund to the Council in regards of the Town & Village Amenity Fund.  £59.99 paid to our Secretary for the Microsoft package.  Our balance is currently £1790.91.  Everyone happy with the account, Dougie commented that we may have to keep track of our total and may have to spend some in case we have to pay back? |

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| **6** | **Menshed Request** |
|  | Request was granted due to time limitation for Lynn Rae on behalf of the Menshed and Deveron FM regarding the previous restoration and upkeep of all of our information boards that can be found in Macduff & Banff,  Lynn told the members that the Menshed pre covid took on the restoration of boards but never got any money for the materials used following the dissolution of the past CC.  Everyone within the CC concluded that the information boards are very important for all visitors and require to be kept in a good condition, Chair asked Lynn for a rough cost for these boards, Lynn explained that this would be hard to estimate as some are in worst condition than others,  The CC would only pay for any materials to be used and no charge for the labour provided by the men shed.  CC approved a payment of £250.00 for the men shed to make a start and hopefully get some boards ready for this summer season. Men shed will provide all receipts for the materials used.  CC to contact Heather McKay to see if any funds would be available to help with these costs. |

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| **7** | Councillors Reports |
|  | Cllr Cox reported that the fencing at Duff House is part of the common good fund, and any repairs must be made by the people using it.  Comments made in regard to the landscapes team and grass cutting hopefully getting done soon as well as plainstones mess after a comment from Dougie Thomson and being a health hazard, it is a never-ending battle at the moment with birds.  Shona commented that she was to fill planters tonight to help to improve it a little ready for a visit by a party to celebrate 200 years of freedom.  Waste bin misses are due to vehicle breakdowns but have slightly improved and keeping an eye on the matter.  Council budgets will be getting worse in the years to come.  Cllr Menard – Same comments as Cllr Cox really, With a lot of pot holes appearing especially in Bruce Street and keeping an eye on the matter, there has been a lot of rain which has not helped.  Dealing with residents in regard to housing issues these are getting resolved.  Dougie Thomson asked about the cross and the landscape issues, Dougie felt disappointed after arranging to meet David Mundie who then never appeared. The cross is currently not very appealing to visitors. Chair commented that at a meeting they were assured that money was there for the restoration and tidy up of the cross area. Cllr Menard commented that due to new budgets etc this may no longer be the case. Cllr Menard assured Dougie that he would get in touch with the landscapes and Alan Anderson. He said they were short staffed but would bring back a report to the CC.  Make a note for Hazel to email Area Manager for help in this issue too. John Will asked for the issue to be resolved and to move on.  Kevin to investigate funding to maybe help with this.  Banff memorial email reply from freedom of information to state that the council is responsible for this. The chair is quite disappointed with this and that it would not be done by Remembrance Sunday. Cllr Cox mentioned maybe Common Good Fund may help. Look to send email to Area Manager for help asap.  Macduff memorial was mentioned by a member of the public to ask if the lights could be replaced, this requires maintenance which he once did himself, Chair to push for answers. |

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| **8** | **School Patrol & Crossings.** |
|  | Michael Wiseman has met with quite a few institutes and looked at Think Road Safety Capability, and has setup a online petition which is getting a very good response. He also attended a meeting at Macduff Primary and is still very concerned about this issue.  Chair has contacted Aldi regarding help in this matter, Aldi replied to the chair who will make a representation to A/C.  Alister Miller sent a map for the CC to suggest where a crossing may work as well as the cost. The chair asked who in the council will decide with names being mentioned Alan Wood & Laurence Findlay, would require information.  Questions were asked how we could have a crossing with 2 bus stops opposite each other.  Photos were presented to the CC with measurements and problems we face regarding the crossing. Another suggestion would be to ask for a 20mph speed limit to be imposed from the cemetery to slow down vehicles, as well as speed bumps or ridges which we would need to look at legislation and when was the last traffic impact assessment carried out. Comments made we will require lights at the crossing and surely we would have a strong case.  Chair has asked for a meeting to be arranged with council officials and members of the public, name and numbers given as soon as possible. |

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| **9** | Update from B&M IN BLOOM |
|  | Shona mentioned baskets are all completed and should be up for 23rd June, They have 2 new volunteers and going well, could we please arrange an Ad on Facebook for help and for plants.  Plants have arrived but not as much as expected, some items missing,  They have a new 5 tier planters and unsure if this will be put in Macduff or Banff and only enough flowers for 1. |

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| **10** | **Extra Meeting** |
|  | Dougie Thomson noted that the emergency meeting that took place due to the crossing issues should have been made by contacting all CC members before proceeding.  This has been noted and any future needs for any other meeting at short notice, all members will receive notification for their views to hold a meeting or not. |

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| **11** | **Planning** |
|  | No comments regarding the applications.  Paul commented that it is sad to see all shops now getting turned into houses. |

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| **12** | **AOCB** |
|  | **Dougie Thomson** enquired about the Banff Castle wall, it was explained that due to historic issues this wall repairs can’t really start as it may lead to issues further down the wall later, the repair will be completed once permission would be given for restoration.  We also need to get information online to let everyone know what we are doing as a CC and what we have tried to do.  **John Will** raised concerns regarding the Banff Bridge Traffic congestion, He witnessed a low loader coming over the bridge with buses and other lorries at the same time and is really concerned that an accident is waiting to happen, or maybe a vehicle damaging the parapet. Would maybe traffic lights maybe an option.? We realise that a new bridge maybe not be built in our lifetime.  **Shona Watson** – commented that it was Volunteers week and would look good to promote groups.  Another request to go ahead and purchase the wreaths for Remembrance Day for our areas, Permission to order given by the CC.  Also asked about the allotments and how some people are approaching her in tears with the situation, the waiting lists are crazy and asked who would answer questions about this, Shona to touch base with Alan Anderson.  Illegal dumping an issue too.  **Reg Connon** – asked about the appearance of new benches, the chair said that these came by funding by the Vinery but some positions were not ideal.  **David Duguid** mentioned the new bench by the temple of venus.  **Mary Arnold** – attended a BXA event and was very impressed with the children’s work and maybe an idea to get them to a CC meeting, August maybe.  **Paul Glesier** – asked about 2 young members for the CC, Chair hopes to get soon. |

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| **13** | **Date and time of next meeting:** |
|  | Wednesday 26th June 2024, Macduff Community Centre.  This will also be the AGM. AGM will take place at 6.30pm, followed by a regular CC Meeting at 7.00pm |