**BANFF & MACDUFF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Wednesday 28th August 2024 at 7pm**

**Deveron Community and Sports Centre**

1. Present and apologies
2. Apologies Paul Gleisner, Dougie Thompson, Reg Connon
3. Present Hazel Daniel, John Main, Colin Robson, Kevin Ritchie, John Will, Shona Watson, Mary Arnold, Louise McCafferty, David Duguid, councillors Mark Findlater, John Cox, Richard Menard
4. Declaration of Interests
5. None
6. Matters arising and approval of Minute of Meeting of 26th June 2024
7. Proposed John Main, second Colin Robson
8. Treasurer’s Report
9. Louise McCafferty talked through the funding opportunities that she has found, all detailed in the produced document
10. Planning on quarterly refresh, and we’ll publish all applicable ones to community
11. Microfunding via the CC - discussion of whether we should offer this. Shona Watson mentioned that they should attend the bureau as they have access to grants
12. Mark Findlater highlighted the grantfinder platform, which may be a valuable tool. The council has a license for this. There are also training events held for how to use it.
13. Also highlighted area initiative fund, and common good fund
14. John Cox & Louise McCafferty discussed the limitations on the common good fund, and why only 10k is available given the ~£3m in the fund
15. Mark Findlater showed that the amounts he was given do no align with the amounts that Louise McCafferty has been given
16. Accounts approved by Mary Wilson and now completed ready for submission. She refused any payment.
17. Secretary / Vice Chair changes
18. Kevin Ritchie resigned as vice chair. John Main put self forward - Louise McCafferty proposed, Colin Robson second
19. John Main resigned as secretary, Kevin Ritchie put self forward - Louise McCafferty proposed, Colin Robson second
20. Councillors’ Report
21. Mark Findlater talked about funding for community and voluntary groups and how the council wishes to support them. Group
22. Richard Menard - constituency stuff on while recess. Licensing board is very busy, as is subcommittee. Highlighted budget issues going forwards
23. John Cox - Landscaping to replace hedge around st marys. Saint Martin event with the Argentine ambassador went well. Chasing return of carnyx to museum or duff house, but museum of scotland claim concerns about security. Also attempted to get replica, but currently being denied.
24. Work underway to ensure that more items get returned to the museum.
25. John Will highlighted that there is a painting of Lady Chalmers in the Banff Town Hall that might be in danger of decay.
26. Mary Arnold asked what would happen in the future if the council structure changes, and will items be lost in the process.
27. Mark Findlater says that there is work going on to inventory the archive
28. Correspondence/Communication
29. Kevin Grant and Steve Barker
30. Speaking against the proposed battery storage facility. Keeping specific about facts of the dangers.
31. Asked for council’s objection to the plans
32. Proximity to school is big danger. Fumes produced in case of thermal runaway, and they are very difficult to put out - usually just left to burn out
33. Not against the whole idea, just the location
34. Consultation was very unprofessional - just an apologist who doesn’t know how these work. Couldn’t give details on safety mechanisms, evacuation etc. No comment on any discussion with fire service. Told that the reason for location is because SSE have given the land.
35. Also risk of contaminating land with runoff,  noise issue, EMF interference
36. David Duguid confirmed no planning application in yet. Likely to be November. Local development plan changed this site from E1 to business use, and states that groundwater must be protected. Hazel Daniel confirmed council will likely object as/when it comes in, as we did with previous application.
37. Mark Findlater raised that he isn’t allowed to comment as that would prejudice his ability to respond to the planning application.
38. John Cox asked if they have requested the fire risk assessment or environmental impact assessment
39. Mary Arnold suggested that community resilience group assess the evacuation logistics for their resilience planning
40. Police reports
41. No longer receiving these
42. Aberdeenshire council do not receive these either
43. Concerns about not knowing what is happening
44. Brian Wilkie - Whitehills Community Council
45. Agree to support and engage with developer
46. Richard Menard says that firm is very keen to engage with communities
47. Lord Foster
48. CC to offer support
49. Jan Grant
50. Kevin Grant provided details. Responsible for campaign to get supermarket
51. CC to confirm support
52. Farmers Market
53. Space available for us if we provide a table. John Main can provide table
54. Richard Menard recommends the sign maker in Banff
55. Mark Findlater recommended bringing information, marketing materials
56. Hazel Daniel to do October. No-one available for September
57. Update from Banff and Macduff in Bloom
58. Looking to repair / replace polytunnel on seafield street
59. Asking NESCAN for funding, but planning permission possibly needed. Hazel Daniel has asked.
60. Mary Arnold discussed potential issue with town hall’s future if it gets sold. Maybe put aside a couple of allotments instead?
61. John Cox says council are pushing for extension to allotments - Iain Welsh is the person to speak to
62. Mark Findlater offered thanks to the team
63. Planning Matters

Deveronvale Football Club Princess Royal Park 56 Airlie Gardens Banff AB45 1AZ

[https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=SGNJFReg ConnonAFQ700&activeTab=summary](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q=https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal%25253DSGNJFRCAFQ700%252526activeTab%25253Dsummary&amp;sa=D&amp;source=editors&amp;ust=1725457447888613&amp;usg=AOvVaw24XuzhzZyQuCthhnwk-wQo&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1725457447907543&usg=AOvVaw0HeHCVlOnHo7whIR0EddV7)

Site At Culbeuchly Banff Aberdeenshire

[https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=SHYJ4SCAHUD00&activeTab=summary](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q=https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal%25253DSHYJ4SCAHUD00%252526activeTab%25253Dsummary&amp;sa=D&amp;source=editors&amp;ust=1725457447889357&amp;usg=AOvVaw2QEtys3S-32xt4H_HKWGiu&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1725457447907891&usg=AOvVaw0YPuL0WHzRmzVhkEIthPIg)

No objections

1. Date and time of next meeting:

Wednesday 25th September 2024 at Macduff Community and Sports Centre

AGM

Correspondence

**Lord Foster PP Ron Bailey**

I am writing to ask your Council to support our campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries (used in e-bike and e-scooters) and their disposal.

Let me begin by introducing myself. I am the researcher for Lord (Don) Foster (hence my email address), who has been campaigning on this issue in the House of Lords. I am also the parliamentary advisor to Electrical Safety First, a UK Charity dedicated to reducing the deaths and injuries caused by electricity.

As you will probably know lithium battery fires are on the increase – there have been over 1000 in the past few years, nearly 200 injuries and a dozen fatalities. Homes have been destroyed. The cost to the UK runs into £billions. You will doubtless know of examples in your area. I attach a spreadsheet of some recent fires – as you will see there have been some in your area.

Lord Foster and Electrical Safety First are promoting the attached Bill (a summary of which is included at the end of this email) to ensure greater safety in the use and disposal of lithium batteries and are aiming to get it into law as soon as possible. It has its First Reading on 5th June.

We have the support of many national organisations, as the attached logos show – including the National Fire Chiefs Council, the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and the Royal Society for Public Health. In addition 2 coroners have called for the law to be tightened to ensure greater safety.

We are now contacting more locally based organisations, and it would be great if your Council was able to support this campaign. It would be a great boost.

Please do get in touch if you require any further information.

**Brian Wilkie - Whitehills Community Council**

Dear fellow community councillor,

I hope this message finds you well. Recently, you may have received communication from Ocean Wind outlining their plans for the onshore power line construction and transmission infrastructure associated with the Caledonia Energy offshore wind farm project.[https://www.caledoniaoffshorewind.com/](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.google.com/url?q=https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u%25253Dhttps%2525253A%2525252F%2525252Fwww.caledoniaoffshorewind.com%2525252F%2525253Ffbclid%2525253DIwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR1zpDmxneX6PnREz4Tl-zcGZqn08ME1lAAdnA0uzUcV7JNkSA1i7SHjwKw_aem_2vrJs7nbitsnWeekCmS26Q%252526h%25253DAT2nFQudA1XWrKFdjbDlWpY5KUSHQ6b3_whYDJTSQWMiWgyI5mABmYHKdVHCvvme7yjzNcWmdM02QzzD6041dvS39boT1PIVu6vxtH9_mAkhHIdz55aHMELL72X_IgWXAb8V61aS&amp;sa=D&amp;source=editors&amp;ust=1725457447893090&amp;usg=AOvVaw1S_DnLEvKshslnC--Ci4G6&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1725457447909025&usg=AOvVaw2KTcp9mY8vd77gd5Vccm1q)

I am writing to suggest a collaborative effort among the community councils affected by this development. Joining forces could amplify our collective voice and enhance the likelihood of securing funding that would greatly benefit our constituents. The potential long-term advantages of this project for our communities are substantial, and we believe here in Whitehills that presenting a united front will strengthen our position in engaging with the project company.

I believe that the following community councils impacted by this initiative are as follows:

Deer, Fyvie, Turriff, King Edward, Alvah-Forglen, Banff-Macduff and Whitehills.

We are convinced that a joint approach and proposal would underscore the widespread support for this project and emphasize the significance of our communities' active participation. We eagerly await your thoughts on this matter and are optimistic about the potential for a mutually beneficial collaboration.

Looking forward to exploring the possibilities together.

Regards,

Brian Wilkie

Community Councillor

Whitehills and District Community Council.

**Jan Grant**

Hi, just a suggestion that the community council could ask Aldi if the late Mr Robbie Edwards could be commemorated in some way at the opening of the supermarket? Perhaps a relative could officially open the store or a tree could be planted in his memory since personally went door to door in Macduff gathering 700 signatures for a supermarket in the town. Thanks. If Aldi won’t do it, maybe the community council could think of a similar idea? Thank you.