**BANFF & MACDUFF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Wednesday 26 June 2024 – 7pm**

**Macduff Community & Sports Centre**

Present:

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| Hazel Daniel | Chair |
| Kevin Ritchie | Vice Chair |
| Louise McCafferty | Treasurer |
| John Main | Secretary |
| Shona Watson | Community Councillor |
| Reg Connon | Community Councillor |
| David Duguid | Community Councillor |
| Colin Robson | Community Councillor |
| John Will | Community Councillor |
| Dougie Thomson | Community Councillor |
| Mary Arnold | Community Councillor |
| Councillor Richard Menard | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| Councillor John Cox | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Councillor Mark Findlater | Ward 2 Elected Member |

Apologies:

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| Paul Gleisner | Community Councillor |
| PC Zubaj | Police Scotland |
| 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** |
|  | There were no declarations of interest noted. |

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| **3** | **Approval of Minute of Meeting on Wednesday 29th April 2024**  **Matters Arising from last minute** |
|  | It was noted that David Mundie had attended the Meeting at the Anchor with Hazel Daniel, Shona Watson, David Duguid and Dougie Thomson.  Minutes were Approved by John Will and Seconded by Dougie Thomson |

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| **4** | **Police Report** |
|  | Police Report had been circulated prior to the Meeting, there were no issues arising from the report. |

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| **5** | **Treasurer Report** |
|  | Since 01/04/2024 we have spent £59.99 on Microsoft for Secretary and we have received £1057.46 grant money from Council and a further £1036.80 of grant money through Town & Village Amenity Fund for Friends of Tarlair  We have an agreed £600 reserve fund to cover regular annual expenses,  The Microsoft package is to be set up by a direct debit through the Community Council Bank Account.  Pat Wain, Chair of Friends of Tarlair, to be contacted regarding monies from Towns and Amenities Fund.  Louise presented a Reserve Finance Sheet.  It was agreed to ensure that £600 is kept in the account to cover costs for each year.  Louise is to provide information as to the ways in which the Community Council can access monies to use within the community.  The second tranche of monies from the Area Initiative has been launched and the closing date is 12th August. Hazel asked that everyone give consideration to identifying projects which can be taken forward. Four weeks to be deadline in order that applications can be made. |

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| **7** | Councillors Reports |
|  | Cllr Cox advised that with the Election, issues have been relatively quiet. The hedge that borders St Mary’s car park is making driving extremely difficult as it is preventing people having a clear view of the road. Hazel advised that she has been in touch with Landscapes and they have stated that they are not allowed to cut the hedge due to the possibility of nesting birds.  Scottish Water are also working on dealing with the gullies and water.  Cllr Menard –advised that he has contacted Area Managers office to ask for clarification regarding the community funding a traffic crossing and how that would be managed in terms of ongoing costs and maintenance.  A hole has appeared in the road in Bruce Street and there is ongoing discussions as to the repair between Scottish Water and the Council.  Housing issues are being managed.  Cllr Findlater advised that there is £18,000 left in the Area Initiative Fund which can be applied for.  Jan Emery had a list of funds available through AVA, which the Community Council may be able to access.  Cllr Findlater asked if we could move the Item regarding Planning to the end of the Meeting in order that they can stay in for the whole meeting. This was agreed. |

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| **8** | Banff and Macduff in Bloom |
|  | All baskets have been hung in Banff and Macduff. Thanks to Davie Duguid and Reg Connon for their support. There is a watering rota in place. Kevin and Colin were co opted on as tractor drivers this will give a 5 week rota. The piece of land at the bottom of Sandyhill Road is being prepared and is set to look like a teddy bears picnic.  Initially BAMIB were advised that there would be no plants next year however now been told that there will be however there will be a 20% reduction in the amount allocated. The Men’s Shed have also advised that they would help out with seeds and planting them. People in the community also gave flowers.  There are 2 six tier planters to be used in the towns. One is in the High Street by the car park. A site in Macduff is being sought for the other one, where there is an element of shelter for it.  Des Cheyne has supplied the compost. |

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| **9** | **Projects** |
|  | Peter Coldwell is the person who is managing the Coastal Path and it would be helpful if he could attend the meeting to advise of how this can work for Banff and Macduff. |

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| **11** | **Planning** |
|  | No comments regarding the applications other than the potential Battery Storage site at Dey Hill. There was a discussion as to whether the process was still going ahead as there appeared to be confusion around the removal of the information from Aberdeenshire’s site. Hazel agreed to contact Planning department and clarify. |

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| **12** | **AOCB** |
|  | Hazel advised that there will no longer be an AOCB section, after today. All requests for additions to the Agenda must be received 5 days before the Meeting. Louise asked if anything came up in between the 5 days and the Meeting could this be discussed. Hazel advised that this can be the case. **However** in further consideration, an email must be sent to the Chair prior to the Meeting. This is in line with the Constitution.  Allotments. There is no data base for who has allotments and this is not appropriate as it cannot then be managed. Shona advised that the Skip has been emptied but there is now an infestation of rats. There has also been a reporting of Hogweed along the river and up by the Doune Brae. Shona is to clarify whether Landscape Services are responsible for its removal.  Dougie asked whether there could be a project regarding the amount of empty properties and how these can be made to look more appealing. Reg agreed to take forward.  The decision regarding the removal of School Crossing Patrollers is ongoing. Mary had sent an email to Jim Savage and has had no response. Cllr Findlater advised Laurence Findlay, Director of Education may be a person to contact.  Hazel to contact Michael Wisman, Bill Watt and Macduff Primary to advise them that that the Community Council will support them in their campaign regarding a crossing in Duff Street. |

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| **13** | **Date and time of next meeting:** |
|  | Wednesday 28th August 2024, Venue to be confirmed. |