**BANFF & MACDUFF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Wednesday 30th August 2023 - 7pm**

**Deveron Community and Sports Centre**

**Present:**

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| Mary Arnold | Chair |
| Hazel Daniel | Secretary |
| Louise McCafferty | Treasurer |
| Reg Connon | Community Councillor |
| Dougie Thomson | Community Councillor |
| John Will | Community Councillor |
| Paul Gleisner | Community Councillor |
| Colin Robson | Community Councillor |
| David Duguid | Community Councillor |
| John Main | Community Councillor |
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|  | |
| PC Zubaj | Police Scotland |
| Councillor Richard Menard | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| Councillor Mark Findlater | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| Jan Emery | Area Project Officer |

**Apologies:**

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| Kev Ritchie | Vice Chair |
| Shona Watson | Community Councillor |
| Cllr Glen Reynolds | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Cllr John Cox | Ward 1 Elected Member |

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| **1** | **Present and apologies** |
|  | Welcomed and apologies noted. |

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| **2** | **Declaration of Interests** | |
|  | No declarations noted. | |
| **3** | **Approval of Minute of Meeting of 29 May 2023**  **Matters Arising from last Minute** | |
|  | The Minute was approved. Proposed by Dougie Thomson and seconded by Colin Robson. | |
| **4** | **Police Report** | |
|  | PC Zubaj presented the Police report and a lengthy discussion was held.  He advised that in the Banff and Macduff area, there were incidences of vandalism, Assault, Threatening and Abusive behaviour, Abuse towards a retail worker (this is now an offence for which you can be charged in Scotland), Wilful Fire raising, House breaking, ship breaking, Fraud as well as Road Traffic offences and Drug offences.  The vandalism relates to the toilets in St Mary’s car park and the other anti-social behaviour that goes along with that from groups of adolescents who have combined and which have made the situation difficult to manage.  There have been incidents when these adolescents have set fire to bins in Low Street as well as being in the grounds of Macduff Primary School, where the bushes allow them to hide. There was a discussion around the need for CCTV in the main areas of Banff and how this could be implemented and whether this would be enough of a deterrent. PC Zibaj advised that Turriff has had CCTV put in place and this could be the same for Banff. The CCTV at Macduff Primary is old.  There was a discussion around the travellers who use the Caravan at the Greenbank site and it was acknowledged that this is not a whole year site and does not have a licence. It was agreed to write to the Chair of the Gypsy Traveller Working Group to state concerns.  The issues at Macduff Primary School to be discussed at the Banff and Macduff Safety Group. Hazel and John Main to attend.   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Where to Report Scams | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Scams** In Scotland, report all scams to **Advice Direct Scotland** by calling **0808 164 6000** (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) or online at [www.consumeradvice.scot](https://consumeradvice.scot/)  **Fraud** If you have been the victim of fraud, report it to **Police Scotland** on **101**or **999**in an emergency.   **Suspicious Emails** You can forward suspicious emails to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) and send links from websites which you think are trying to scam the public to the **National Cyber Security Centre's** scam website reporting service at [www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/about-this-website/report-scam-website](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/about-this-website/report-scam-website)  **Suspicious Text Messages** If you receive a suspicious text message you can forward it to **7726**. The free-of-charge ‘7726’ service enables your provider to investigate and take action if malicious content is found. | | |     **Mental Health and Suicide Awareness Contacts**  Mind Infoline • 0300 123 3393 • info@mind.org.uk  Information on types of mental health problem, where to get help in your area, medication and alternative treatments, advocacy.  Mind Legal Line • 0300 466 6463 • legal@mind.org.uk  Legal advice on mental health, mental capacity, and community care human rights and discrimination/equality.  Victim Support • 0845 30 30 900 • www.victimsupport.org.uk  Free and confidential help to victims of crime, witnesses, and anyone else affected across England and Wales.  Samaritans • 08457 90 90 90 • www.samaritans.org  Support and advice for people experiencing a crisis.  Alzheimer’s Society • 020 7423 3500 • www.alzheimers.org.uk  Advice and information on supporting people affected by dementia in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.  Neighbourhood Return • www.ourturn.org.uk  Helps find lost people with memory problems quickly, and gets them home safely.  Self Help Services • www.selfhelpservices.org.uk  A user-led mental health charity providing primary care mental health services and self-help initiatives to people across the North.  NHS Choices • www.nhs.uk  Information on local services, including mental health services and emergency departments.  NHS24 Mental Health Hub • 111 • www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk  Information and advice on a wide range of health issues via telephone, email and the internet.  Local council websites • www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk  Will provide a directory of council services in your area.  Prevent Suicide NE App (available for free download on Android and iOS, info also available at https://www.preventsuicideapp.com/ ) – contains info on how to ask someone about their thoughts of suicide, a directory of local and national supports and an option to create a safe plan  Guidance booklets with further information are available through SAMH’s website (https://www.samh.org.uk/about-mental-health/samh-publications/suicide-publications)  [www.securityforbikes.com](http://www.securityforbikes.com)  Please also remember you can communicate with us using any of the following:  101 – Non emergency;  Email - BanffDistrict[CPT@Scotland.police.uk](mailto:CPT@Scotland.police.uk)  Twitter - @NorthEPolice  Facebook – [www.facebook.com/NorthEastPoliceDivision](http://www.facebook.com/NorthEastPoliceDivision)  Web – [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk/)  999 – Emergency;  0800 555 111 – CrimeStoppers. | |
| **5** | **Treasurer Report** | |
|  | Total in bank -  £1815.80  Due £59.99 x 2 Microsoft packages\* £119.98  Payment for 4 wreaths  Total available - £1  There have been ongoing issues with the bank, and it is hoped this will be sorted this very soon to allow the payments to be made.  Hazel advised that the printer was not working and on advice from a local shop it was agreed not to purchase one given that this is not required on a regular basis. | |
| **6.** | **Jan Emery** | |
|  | Jan is a Project Officer for the area and spoke about Food Growing Project, which is related to the cost of living and people looking to grow their own food and asking about the availability of allotments. Landscaping have been looking at parcels of land for growing food and this is ongoing.  Community gardening, which there are 3 strands and where green space is available, schools, residential care homes and providing volunteers for older tenants who live in Local Authority housing. A garden is being created at Doo’cot. The ground is being prepared. Both Macduff and Banff Primary are also being discussed. Individuals who volunteer at these venues will require to have a PVG completed and abide by rules which will be in place to protect those in the different settings.  There is also a piece of land which is near to the allotments which are already in place in Banff, which is noted to be under the Common Good Land.  Within the next 18 months / 2 years legislation will be in place to ensure there is space for growing food and then suitable kitchens for families to learn to cook.  Jan briefly spoke of an Intervention programme that she is involved with at Banff Academy and was invited back to discuss this further.  Community Energy Initiative—Discussion around creating a shared energy programme for Banff and Macduff  More information will come. | |
| **7** | | **Councillors’ Reports** |
|  | | **Councillor Findlater**  Cllr Findlater advised that he continues to work with Ocean Winds Offshore Company.  The Council’s budget will have to make cuts and to support this the councils will have to become less risk averse if they want people to volunteer in their local area. There are Community Benefit Funding for some community work.  **Councillor Menard**  Meeting with personnel regarding Macduff Harbour on 29/08/23 and a report to be completed. The policies are out of date and not working properly. There is to be further discussions around landing fish at Macduff and how this can be supported.  There was a discussion around the weeding in both towns and the publics disappointment as to this not being carried out and the effect that it has on the “look” of the town and what this says. It was noted that thtype of weed killer has changed and the question was asked as to how much of the Council’s budget is allocated to weeding.  Discussion around the condition of the Anchor and Cllr Findlater to follow up regarding whose responsibility it is. |
| **8** | | **Correspondence/Communication** |
|  | | * Shona has advised that she will attend the meeting at Crudie Primary School in September. * No response has been received from Stagecoach regarding the risk assessment for Banff Bridge. * Cllr Richard Menard advised that the report from the Roads dept. is that no further safety rails are required at the Anchor. This will be discussed at the Safety Group. * A Networking even is to be held on the 4th November at Woodhill House. There may be an option for Community Councillors to attend via a hybrid option. * A letter was received from the First Responders requesting that they become a sub group of the Community Council, as they had previously. They were asked as to why they are not part of the Safety Group and this appeared unclear. Cllr Menard advised that this will be progressed. A question was also asked as to whether any financial support was being requested and the Community Council was assured this was not the case. |
| **9** | | **Planning Matters** |
|  | | No issues with any planning matters |
| **10** | | **Banff and Macduff in Bloom** |
|  | | Shona had advised that she had contacted the Landscape Services regarding the large flowerbed at the bottom of Sandyhill Road, however no decision has been made as to whether Banff and Macduff in Bloom take responsibility for this  There was a discussion regarding the wildflower planting at the Anchor and who is responsible for maintaining it. Cllr Findlater agreed to speak to the relevant services. |
| **11** | | Good News |
|  | | The Community Council was advised that the potholes have been filled in from the Howe to Dounemount.  Mary provided numbers of people visiting Banff from the UK and abroad |
| **12** | | Licensing Policy |
|  | | There were 2 surveys to complete, as an individual and Community Council. There were 27 responses and that indicated an over provision of the availability of where alcohol can be accessed, and this leads to evidence of harm.  The Licensing Meeting is available to watch online, after the event. |
| **13** | | Aberdeenshire Core Path |
|  | | There is an ongoing survey regarding the improvement of core paths. No new paths will be made, however the signposting and maintenance of the paths will be considered. Louise advised that Paths for All may be an option.  Mary thanked Paul and Kevin for their work, regarding the licensing policy and the Core Paths. |
| **16** | | **AOB** |
|  | | * There was discussion around attending the Farmers Market and this would give local people the opportunity to meet the Community Councillors and bring up any issues which they feel are important to them. Cllr Findlater advised that the Safety Group are going to be doing the same and the CC could share the same space. * Parking at the Knowes Hotel was discussed as there have been up to 7 vehicles parking on the grass, up the hill, at the bottom of the Memorial. It was acknowledged that there is significant work being undertaken at the Knowes, however the concern was that this would become “the norm”. Cllr Findlater agreed to speak to the owner of the Knowes. * There are also other places where cars are parking on the grass and this is to be bought up at the Safety Group. |
| **17** | | **Date of next meeting** |
|  | | 27th September at 7pm – Macduff Community and Sports Centre |