**BANFF & MACDUFF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Wednesday 25 September 2024 – 7pm**

**Macduff Community & Sports Centre**

Present:

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| Hazel Daniel | Chair |
| John Main | Vice Chair |
| Mary Arnold | Community Councillor |
| Reg Connon | Community Councillor |
| David Duguid | Community Councillor |
| Colin Robson | Community Councillor |
| Karen Catto | Community Councillor |
| Dougie Thomson | Community Councillor |
| Mark Rivers | Community Councillor |
| Paul Gleisner | Community Councillor (Pending) |
| Robert McArthur | Community Councillor (Pending) |
| Councillor Mark Findlater | Ward 2 Elected Member |

Apologies:

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| Kevin Ritchie | Community Councillor |
| Louise McCafferty | Community Councillor |
| Steven Christie | Community Councillor |
| Councillor Richard Menard | Ward 2 Elected Member |

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

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| **2** | **Declaration of Interests** |
|  | Rob McArthur stated that he is the current owner of Rapha-Nuach on Duncan Street, which has a planning application to be reviewed. Property is in the process of sale, and the planning application has been submitted by the purchaser. |

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| **3** | **Approval of Minute of Meeting on Wednesday 28th August 2024**  **Matters Arising from Last Minutes** |
|  | Reg Connon raised concern about initials rather than full names being used in the minutes. John Main to edit before distributing.  Dougie Thomson asked if stopping of police reports is national decision. Mary Arnold advised that it was a decision of the former inspector.  Minutes were approved by David Duguid and seconded by Colin Robson |

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| **4** | **Co-Option onto Community Council** |
|  | Paul Gleisner and Robert McArthur co-opted onto the council. |

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| **5** | **Police Report** |
|  | The report had been distributed to Community Councilor’s prior to the meeting. There were no issues raised. |

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| **6** | **Treasurer Report** |
|  | £104.80 approved for Banff and Macduff in Bloom to cover the balance of the funding request made to the Banff and Buchan Area Initiative fund. Mary Arnold proposed, Reg Connon seconded. |

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| **7** | Councillors Reports |
|  | Cllr Findlater discussed his work to create a Banff bay swim event.  Cllr Findlater questioned by Hazel Daniel about plans for a new footbridge across the Deveron. Advised that there is a meeting on Monday 30th September about the repairs to the main bridge, but he feels that the footbridge is unlikely to proceed at this time due to budgetary issues.  Suggested that the A98 is now lower priority to Aberdeenshire Council since it was de-trunked. Discussion about the process of re-trunking.  Reg Connon and David Duguid raised that they had seen cracks appearing along the pavement on the sea-side of the road. |

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| **8** | **Correspondence / Communications** |
|  | Concerns regarding steps, path and handrail beside Macduff Memorial.  Dougie Thomson received complaint from resident. Poor state of repair, some collapse, some parts rotted. Discussion regarding who has responsibility. Cllr Findlater said that it’s owned by Fife Estates.  Mary Arnold discussed difficulties gaining access to the tower for cleaning etc in advance of open days. Got in with assistance from grounds crew, but found it to be in too poor a state of repair for public access. Mary Arnold used freedom of information request for maintenance history. Nothing recorded.  Letter to be written to Fife Estates requesting asking about access and maintenance, Mary Arnold to provide address.  Letter from SWECO re School Crossing  School crossing patrol sites should only be disestablished on a case by case basis following a review, and clear explanation for decision. Letter broadly critical of blanket removal of SCP. Mary Arnold to write letter of thanks.  Discussion of other mitigation measures such as the 20mph limit, parking restrictions etc  Desire to push for new pelican crossings in Banff and Macduff.  Paul Gleisner pointed towards RoSPA document on safety around school access.  Rob McArthur mentioned that 20mph limit in towns to be introduced nationwide in next two years. Paul Gleisner questioned who would enforce this. Mary Arnold advocated for speed cameras.  Notification of Roadworks  John Main raised issues of work being carried out with short or no notice at times. Cllr Findlater mentioned issues when work requires multiple stakeholders involved or emergency work. Colin Robson pointed towards the council mobile app. |

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|  | Banff Academy  Mark Rivers raised concerns with management and oversight at the academy. Wondering who to speak with about this.  Hazel Daniel asked if he had raised this with the headteacher. Rob McArthur offered to provide support connecting with parent council as he is chaplain there.  Jan Grant - Aldi Commemoration for Robbie Edwards  Jan Grant asking if Community Council happy for her to liaise with Aldi on our behalf. Community Council has offered support in principle, but she is not allowed to speak for us.  Allotments  Shona Watson no longer handling this. Mary Arnold has taken over.  Believed that our allotments are rare in being free - shouldn’t be an issue to charge a nominal sum if it pays for services such as the skip being emptied.  Currently there is no oversight or records of our allotments, so line needs to be drawn under this, with registration going forward from agreed date.  Mary Arnold said that council has statutory duty to find space if people are on allotment waiting list for more than 2 years. Cllr Findlater recommended going via the area office / ward counsellors.  Wreaths  Colin Robson to lay a wreath in Banff cemetery, Mary Arnold to lay a wreath at Banff Memorial, Paul Gleisner to lay wreaths at Macduff cemetery and at the memorial.  Bin Collections  Dougie Thomson raised issue of delays in collecting, and lack of communication of such.  Still issues with new bin rota and different collections in different parts of town.  Cllr Findlater said that there have been a lot of breakdowns, also new crews don’t know the area so well. Suggested sending letter via Angela Keith.  Mary Arnold added that different colour bins on the same street causes a lot of confusion. |

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| **9** | **Banff and Macduff In Bloom** |
|  | Colin Robson said the baskets are coming down on Sunday morning. Funding application has gone into NESCAN, but they are querying planning permission for the polytunnel and the lease of the grounds behind the town hall. Lease to be established on a rolling monthly basis.  Still looking for new volunteers.  Going to ensure everything tidy for memorial Sunday.  Rob McArthur asked about rumoured contention within group. Hazel Daniel advised that issues were around formalisation of group, meetings, constitution etc. Shona is no longer the named person, with Frances McKay having taken over. |

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| **10** | **Good News** |
|  | Banff war Memorial work has been completed.  Community Council to begin running a stall at Macduff Farmers Market. Hazel Daniel to attend in October.  Dougie Thomson asked about Quaichs and public nominations. Too late for public nominations/votes as award needs to happen at November meeting, but will do that next year. |

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| **11** | **Planning** |
|  | APP/2024/1419 Rapha-Nuach 25 Duncan Street Banff AB45 1EQ  Paul Gleasner looked at the plans and questioned the fire alarm placements etc, but assuming that all is to code.  Reg Connon raised concern about number of residents and number of parking spaces. There are six parking spaces on application. Highlighted as a particular issue as school buses go down that road.  Mary Arnold questioned why roads had not commented. Community Council in agreement that they should review before approval. |

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| **12** | **Date and time of next meeting:** |
|  | Wednesday 30th October 2024 at 7pm, Deveron Community and Sports Centre. |