**BANFF & MACDUFF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Wednesday 27th November 2024 – 7pm**

**Macduff Community & Sports Centre**

Present:

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| John Main | Vice Chair |
| Kevin Ritchie | Secretary |
| Louise McCafferty | Treasurer |
| Dougie Thomson | Community Councillor |
| Reg Connon | Community Councillor |
| David Duguid | Community Councillor |
| Karen Catto | Community Councillor |
| Colin Robson | Community Councillor |
| Mark Rivers | Community Councillor |
| Councillor Glen Reynolds | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Councillor Mark Findlater | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| Councillor Richard Menard | Ward 2 Elected Member |

Apologies:

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| Hazel Daniel | Chair |
| Mary Arnold | Community Councillor |
| Paul Gleisner | Community Councillor |
| Rob McArthur | Community Councillor |
| Steven Christie | Community Councillor |
| Councillor Stewart Adams | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Councillor John Cox | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Councillor Ross Cassie | Ward 2 Elected Member |

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

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| **2** | **Declaration of Interests** |
|  | No declaration of interests. |

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| **3** | **Approval of Minute of Meeting on Wednesday 28th August 2024**  **Matters Arising from Last Minutes** |
|  | Minutes were approved by Colin Robson and seconded by Karen Catto |

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| **4** | **Police Report** |
|  | Our Community Officer covered the Police Report, and encouraged everyone to call to report any incidents within the communities. There is a little more money now to help with cover for higher call areas. Trouble and reports are not as bad as there was a few years ago.  They are keeping an eye on road safety issues, With 12 collisions and 22 reports on motoring incidents being reported.  St Mary’s toilets have been vandalized again so they will now be closed before dark.  Raz said that he is willing to attend meetings but this must be on request.  Kevin advised that the meeting held online the previous Wednesday that the new local Inspector Claire Smith also mentioned that she will attend a meeting and that officers will attend by invitation only regarding local issues. |

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| **5** | **Councillors Reports – Macduff Library.** |
|  | Councillor Glen Reynolds Introduced himself and commented about the press release about Libraries and said it took all Councilors by surprise, He did comment that September last year there was talk of some libraries may close, But there is a process to be followed via a consultation, which seems to have not taken place.  Savings are to be made and consultation will take place wit a conclusion before end February.  He is unsure where the leak came from and this closure is not a done deal.  Dougie asked if rules are in place for consultation and should be done before decision made.  This would be correct and an impact assessment taken as well.  We need the community input.  Councilor Mark Findlater introduced himself and was also taken by surprise by the library decision. And feels this has been accelerated and is worried what is to come next.  The library has played a big part in his life.  This matter will be coming to the Banff & Buchan committee to consult first, and we as a CC can ask for a request to speak.  Councilor Richard Menard also commented the situation came out of the blue, and that he has emailed head of administration and the chief executive and will do his best of Macduff library.  The service maybe able to carry on as nothing has been decided.  A few questions were asked the first asked if the decision makers were voted in by the public and why the secret.  There may be an option to move library to Macduff primary, with comment given that the communities committee meeting a chance for us to get a chance to speak, any member of the public would get 5 minutes to speak.  Advised to get the petition out there and make stronger,  Aberchirder moved their library from the main street to the primary school.  Question asked where did the leak of information come from.  The information was incorrect, the council has 30 million savings to be made before March 2025. With LLA looking into this and decisions would be made by the councilors and not the management team, there are options available and an impact assessment will be made and will be available to everyone.  With budget pressures they may be lots more to come.  One comment made to look at leases for using like a coffee shop within the library or to lease areas for groups could make more money.  Cllr Reynolds what community would like to do.  Thoughts were that due to parents evening a lot more would have been attending, we apologized for the timings but the CC meet on the last Wednesday of every month.  An idea given for introducing WIFI for the library so people could meet and have company while gaining access to the internet.  A viable business plan would help moving forward.  Final comments in regards to the request to speak must be placed before the Friday before the Tuesday meeting. A letter will be sent to the CC where we will provide information to everyone via email and social media.  Thoughts moving forward to holding meeting in regards to library issue only.  Banff & Macduff Community Council will support the petition and attend any planned meetings ahead.  Request for Avril Nicol to attend January meeting, Chair to invite. |

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| **6** | **Treasurer Report** |
|  | Account balance is £2756.31 with no transactions since the last meeting.  Louise also mentioned the Funding Opportunities and has update for this month and will be happy to run through open applications at the next meeting. |

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| **7** | | **Correspondence / Communications** |
|  | We have a new member of the Area Team has joined **Emma Nicol**, she is now the new Area Committee Officer and has replaced Jan McRobbie who retired last month.  We like to Jan for all her help over the years and have wished her a long and happy retirement  Banking Hub. – There was a meeting help recently and looking at proposed property for the hub, and they hope to get in touch early 2025 with more information.    Jan Emery - Coastal path update – Looking at inspecting the local area around the sandy areas around the river Deveron mouth clos to Banff Bridge and what actions can be taken to protect the area from further erosion.  Allotment reply – Looking to have further meetings which will include everyone involved and the CC also.  Wind farm newsletter - we look to share this on Facebook.  Macduff primary roadworks – To be done on Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th which may cause some disruption with Macduff Primary.  Community council Conversations last week  Kevin will look to print out discussions and send to all. Insp Spector Clare smith was there and wants to engage with CCs  She will be asking about our Police reports and why the change she would like to attend a meeting with us,  Janette Taylor gave a talk on gulls and looks to join us soon, very informative  Resilience groups talked about how far each one is, something for us to take to next meeting  Planning permission - laying of underground cables from boyndie to new deer, Concerns from Whitehills and Forglen CCs. Discussion for January meeting. | | |

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| **8** | **Planning Matters** |
|  | No objections to any planning. |

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| **9** |  |
|  | Bank Account Update – Proposal to change Bank Account as Lloyds planning to charge us a monthly fee and a fee per transaction.  Propose move to COOP business account with free fee with Chair, Vice Chair & herself being signatories.  All members in agreement for change.  Quaich’s  For this years award, Kathleen Mustard for Banff and Michael Wiseman for Macduff.  Michael Wiseman was awarded his Quaich at the meeting and mentioned he was thankful for the award but would really like to see a crossing at Macduff primary and that was his goal, His petition is currently standing at over 2000 signatures and looking for more.  He has been in touch with our MP & MSP and Aberdeenshire to keep the fight going.  Kathleen Mustard sent her apologies but due to an emergency breakdown she was unable to attend, Kevin advised we would arrange a home visit to present her the Quaich |

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| **11** | **Good News** |
|  | Aldi opens on Thursday 5th December.  Seasons greetings to all |

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| **12** | **Date and time of next meeting:** |
|  | Wednesday 29th January 2025 at 7pm, Deveron Community and Sports Centre. |