**BANFF & MACDUFF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Wednesday 29th January 2025 – 7pm**

**Deveron Community & Sports Centre, Banff**

Present:

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| Hazel Daniel | Chair |
| John Main | Vice Chair |
| Kevin Ritchie | Secretary |
| Dougie Thomson | Community Councillor |
| Reg Connon | Community Councillor |
| David Duguid | Community Councillor |
| Karen Catto | Community Councillor |
| Mary Arnold | Community Councillor |
| Paul Gleisner | Community Councillor |
| Colin Robson | Community Councillor |
| Mark Rivers | Community Councillor |
| Eleanor-Rose Park | Youth Member |
| Fearghal Watt | Youth Member |
| Councilor Glen Reynolds | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Councilor Mark Findlater | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| Councilor John Cox | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Councilor Stewart Adams | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Councilor Richard Menard | Ward 2 Elected Member |

Apologies:

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| Louise McCafferty | Treasurer |
| Rob McArthur | Community Councillor |
| Councilor Ross Cassie | Ward 2 Elected Member |

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| **1** | **Present and Apologies** |
|  | Welcome and apologies noted.  Chair welcomed our 2 new youth members from Banff Academy  Eleanor-Rose Park & Fearghal Watt. |

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| **2** | **Declaration of Interests** |
|  | Karen Catto – Macduff Library |

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| **3** | **Approval of Minute of Meeting on Wednesday 27th October 2024**  **Matters Arising from Last Minutes** |
|  | Minutes were approved by John Main and seconded by Colin Robson |

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| **4** | **Police Report** |
|  | Everyone quite disappointed with the report we received. Decision taken to email the Police Inspector to ask if we could have more in regard to incidents. |

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| **5** | **Treasurer Report** |
|  | Account balance is £2756.31 with no transactions since the last meeting.  **Bank Account** - due to fee charge by Lloyds, looking to change but proposal for COOP Community Account isn't possible, they don't recognise CCs within their Community Accounts, suggest try and move to COOP Business account but failing that (if they do not recognise CCs) will try NatWest who do a Community Account, free of charge for transactions and allowing up to 4 signatories - CC already agreed to move at a previous meeting, so will start the process next week (will contact Hazel and Kevin for their info)  **Funding Opps** – Louise did not have time to update the funding presentation but can't imagine much has changed over Christmas period, will commit to an update for February meeting. |

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| **6** | **Councillors Reports –** |
|  | **Cllr Adams** said there were challenging times ahead and over the next 6 weeks we should know better regarding the budget for the council, he is aware of the waste service problems continuing.  Budget for new RCVs are getting looked at but there would be an 18 month delivery period.  **Cllr Cox** also agreed with the waste problems, with staffing issues and repairs being a big problem with lorry breakdowns and the collections seems to be a lot heavier with household waste,  He urges everyone to get the Aberdeenshire Council app, this will help everyone keep up to date with all issues and please do not blame the staff on the frontline.  Spending for the council will be essential moving forward.  Improvements to be made to the gym at Deveron sports centre.  A question was asked why the need to spend money on a new gym in a fairly new building? Chair commented that there is not really enough room at present and attends on a regular basis.  **Cllr Reynolds** also mentioned the waste issue and that workshop having to wait on parts for the vehicles.  The budget for Aberdeenshire will be set in February and there is a large part paid to the social care and a real pressure overall.  He is unsure of any Council Tax increase.  Chair asked if Macduff school crossing has been approved, Cllr Reynolds to his knowledge is not aware, but may be decided next month.  At the meeting concerning the libraries he commented that all councillors argued well and are holding officers to account with the next meeting taking place on the 13th February.  Cllr Reynolds also commented that hats off to all the CC and members of the public who were given permission to speak at the meeting.  **Cllr Findlater** commented on an overspend in the budget and everything seems to be speeding up.  Regarding the library, there was £100,000 recently spent on the Macduff library, the Councillors who attended the meeting have asked for more information before any decisions are made.  A question was asked whether the LLA was a charity.  LLA runs the libraries, like a brand name and part of the council.  **Cllr Menard** apologised for being late, he is dealing direct with Avril Nicol regarding the library and that a case was well put by the people who spoke.  A question was asked to the Cllrs around the A947 and the lack of road lines and cats eyes and they were quite concerned with this issue.  Cllr Menard has emailed Alistair Miller in the roads dept and is waiting on a reply.  CC to also email to forward our concerns. |

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| **7** | | **Correspondence / Communications** |
|  | Chair spoke of Roland Playle, Community Chartering Network and his great team and trying to help the communities of Banff and Macduff, moving forward. There will be a questionnaire to be handed to all residents in Banff and Macduff and once the questionnaires are returned the information received will help guide us with the way forward.  Any information received we may have to, as the CC hold on to this maybe digitally and look to register.  A question was asked if the questionnaire was paper or electronic. Unsure at this stage.  Macduff Memorial.  Hazel requested Freedom of Information regarding the Tower. Aberdeenshire Council confirmed they are not the legal owners although the grounds have been maintained by them.  Dating back to the 1930s the permissions were never put in place and legally it belongs to Marr estate.  One member was quite surprised and asked if they could receive the FOI letter and if Aberdeenshire Council and stated that if the Local Authority (LA) put the steps in they should maintain them.  Any FOI requests should be correct information and this may have been breached.  Cllr Findlater urges us to keep going and that Marr estate may hand over.  He would also like to have the union flag flying from the flagpole at the time of remembrance.  Mary Arnold commented that Macduff heritage would ask for the key and have tried before and took 3 weeks to locate the key,  If the inside is in bad repair who would be liable?  Banff Museum.  Frances McKay who is the chair of Banff Preservation and Historical Society, requested to speak in relation to the Banff Museum and that all artefacts should stay in Banff and not transferred to Peterhead. Pieces have been removed and never returned, Chair had Frances for some information and asked if there is any certain conditions or temperatures which the artefacts should be kept in, however Francis does not believe this would be the case.  Julian spoke of the important items namely Banff’s Mercat Cross, the Pieta stone from St Mary’s Kirkyard in Banff and the bronze spearhead.  The Mercat Cross is part of the Common Good Fund and if it is on the list this should have to go to a consultation with the CC, this cannot be moved from the town and we have to save this. Another item mentioned was a clock that has been taken away and is currently in storage in Mintlaw.  A question was asked as to whether Aberdeenshire Council can demonstrate who bought it?  Mary Arnold made a comment regarding items taken from Macduff Town Hall are now being kept in storage.  Banff museum believes that all money locally has paid for these items and once again there should be the right to have a consultation with Banff & Macduff Community Council.  CC members all in agreement to support.  Minor Injuries Unit Banff.  Dougie Thomson has concerns with the service being provided and the quick closure at any time of the unit, then the call to 111 and wait for hours to be told to go elsewhere, which is ok if you have transport but not so good for many others and the elderly and may lead to fear for our residents in the future and would this to be raised.  Email to be sent to register our concerns.  Cllr Reynolds said that there had been an outbreak of Flu at the hospital fairly recently and that members from the MIU had to be called to assist within the wards at Chalmers hospital.  The friends of Chalmers Hospital are looking for Directors or helpers to join them in the hospital board and to contact Cllr Cox or himself for further information.  Cllr Reynolds also praised the work completed by our new youth member Eleanor as she has been involved in building the website.  Bin Collections.  As spoken with the councilors Paul Glesiner mentioned that orange bins not been emptied for 9 weeks. Doune Court was also overflowing with lots of waste but they are now onto Trade waste and are now done weekly.  Community Wealth Building.  Online workshop – This is to try and source work and resources in our own area. The current procurement program which is in place can be very lengthy in time and quite cumbersome.  Macduff Library  Majorie Nicolson – Glad to know that local Councilors are supporting the library to stay open and not closure. Praise given for the talk at the recent meeting,  For those asking for permission to speak at the next meeting on the 13th of February then make this as soon as possible for a chance for our local community to have a voice in front of Cllr Anne Stirling.  Mary Arnold met with 7 local residents who want to try and establish Friends of Macduff library and this would require to be constituted as soon as possible, as there is only 2 weeks before the next meeting if request to speak is required.  Banff Banking Hub  Planning permission has been applied for in Low Street for the Banking Hub, although this is likely to take some time to complete.  Hazel advised that she had had a discussion regarding the Macduff Library and whether this could be used as a Temporary Banking Hub, however Macduff was not being considered and it had to be in Banff. | | |

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| **8** | **Planning Matters** |
|  | No objections to any planning that was attached to the minutes.  David Duguid advised that other planning applications had come in after the Minutes had been sent out, however CC members would need to look at them prior to being discussed. David to send out to everyone. |

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| **9** | **Good News** |
|  | Apache put out information for trees, and the CC applied for the Wrackwood, this was granted and 200 trees have been donated for this project. We will require Apache to be mentioned as they have been gifted to the land owner via Banff and Macduff Community Council.  BAMIB have been told there will be no plants this year due to breakdowns and costing of staff. BAMIB asked to be given the plants and they would look after them and we wait for a reply.  We have received permission to use greenhouses by a gentleman in the King Edward area.  There have been more volunteers coming forward to help with tubs, around 10 in total.  Dougie Thomson requested the Anchor at Macduff to be kept tidy as this is a very good visitor attraction. |

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| **10** | **Date and time of next meeting:** |
|  | Wednesday 26th February at 7pm  Macduff Community Sports Centre. |