**BANFF & MACDUFF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

 **Wednesday 26th February 2025 – 7pm**

 **Macduff Community Sports Centre.**

Present:

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| Hazel Daniel | Chair |
| John Main  | Vice Chair |
| Kevin Ritchie | Secretary |
| Louise McCafferty | Treasurer |
| Reg Connon | Community Councillor |
| David Duguid | Community Councillor |
| Karen Catto | Community Councillor |
| Paul Gleisner | Community Councillor |
| Colin Robson | Community Councillor |
| Mark Rivers | Community Councillor |
| Eleanor-Rose Park | Youth Member |
| Councilor Mark Findlater | Ward 2 Elected Member |

Apologies:

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| Rob McArthur | Community Councillor |
| Mary Arnold | Community Councillor |
| Dougie Thomson | Community Councillor |
| Fearghal Watt | Youth Member |
| Councilor Stewart Adams | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Councilor John Cox | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Councilor Glen Reynolds | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Councilor Ross Cassie | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| Councilor 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** |
|  | None |

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| **3** | **Approval of Minute of Meeting on Wednesday 29th January 2025****Matters Arising from Last Minutes** |
|  | Minutes were read and no matters arising. The minutes were approved by Mark Rivers and seconded by David Duguid. |

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| **4** | **Police Report** |
|  | PC Rastislav Zubaj reported that our Police Report will now be published quarterly and not monthly as previously. If the CC require any statistics regarding Policing, they may be available on Aberdeenshire Council Website or the Area Management Team can b contacted.Our next Police Report should be made available at the start of April, and it will look different.Every month the Police team in Banff will be looking at different priorities and problems within our area. For our CC meetings if we would like to raise any issues and would like a police officer present, we would be required to email.Chair commented that we were all disappointed with the report and not enough detail was given for our area.A thought was given to look at the Police Scotland Website to look for any information if available. PC Zubaj suggested inviting members of the public to our monthly meeting for a chance to ask questions and raise issues with us. Karen Catto spoke regarding problems within the Lusylaw Road area of Banff, parking is getting worse as well as speeding cars. With the bus route and the new housing estate also using the road is making it busier. Would traffic calming measures help, maybe look at some 20mph zones. Suggestions made to report this issue to Alister Miller.PC Zubaj will report this to the Sergeant and look for assistance and also mentioned the Junior Cop role which was carried out at Macduff Primary the previous week. Could the CC look to help, along with the school.  |

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| **5** | **Treasurer Report** |
|  | **Balance** £ 2,624.11 **Payments since last meeting**– were £97.20 for insurance and £35 for our data protection fee**New Bank Account**- Moving to Virgin, will start the process when all details are received from signatories - all other banks had a charge or wouldn't allow CCs to open a non-business account **Funding Opportunities** – There has been little change from last presentation, mostly closed at the moment, looks like some funds will open up in new banking year, April onwards Chair asked if there has been a payment received for Banff & Macduff in Bloom, but no payment at the moment.  |

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| **6** | **Councillors Reports –**  |
|  | Councillor Findlater said that the full Council meets tomorrow at Woodhill House. And things were not looking good, with big decisions to be made.He will be opposing the proposal of the loss of the night watchman at Macduff harbour. Macduff has to be compliant with Marine Safety Standards and we do not want to lose landing fish at the harbour. Macduff Shipyards are looking to entice more from overseas to visit Macduff. There is a lot of pressure on the budget from the Health & Social care which has a massive overspend. With the main issue to keep services going and with the increase in costs may lead to more issues for those who are more vulnerable in the community.Council tax may increase by about 10%. |

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| **7** | **Jan Emery & Bill Watt.** |
|  | Jan Emery gave us an update of projects. Currently the Area Project Officer in Banff has 22 different projects. Food growing to came out of plots last year, there is no additional land to be used at present. They look to have 12 small areas. Doocot view was planted with veg with the help from volunteers, and now looking at common good land with local resident participation and looking for funding for this to happen and would require around £20,000.There has also been ongoing work and looking at the allotments in Banff and the best way forward to ensure a fair system. The last meeting of the allotment holders clashed with our CC meeting; Action plan would be to look at non guardianship of plots. There are currently no water facilities, they require new fencing and they hope to have a committee to help maintain the area. Keep communications open throughout the process.A question was asked as to why allotment holders do not pay a rent for the land. Jan is looking into this and help to fill that gap, it is a work in progress and a true and updated spreadsheet is required, the records are not up to date but slowly getting there.Banff Skatepark – A ground operator has been found and is willing to take on the lease. The fence around the area is all down and with no security insurance cannot be found. If fence and everything is to spec, then Insurance would be ok.The operator to be offered a 6-month short term license. It would require funding to get operational within a 6-month period. The operator currently doing a lot within the community and helping young people.Bill Watt – Spoke to the CC with an update of Macduff action group to stop the battery storage facility, the group have been round doors within the area and have also emailed MSP Karen Adams for help and support and have written to Aberdeenshire Council to ask for further information.The concerns with the facility only being 90 metres from Macduff primary, noise pollution and the worry of contamination to water and land. Bill mentioned the latest fire at a battery storage facility being built in Rothienorman where 2 fire appliances had to attend and help eliminate the fire. The facility is currently being built and not at the completion state to date.Bill read out information regarding the Rothienorman Battery Site. Noise is the primary concern. He commented that noise control can be helped by a piece of equipment which is placed 400 meters from the storage facility, this would not work at Macduff as the primary is only 90 meters away, and with only one entrance into the school does not help with fears they have. The group are not against a greener future, however the proximity of the installation does raise concerns. Bill was looking for support from the CC. The chair explained that the CC requires to be neutral although a few CC members have voted their support which means they would have no say if the planning permission were to come in front of us. The rest of the CC members would have a say in the planning and the more information we receive then the better for us moving forward. Concerns were given to the Dounemount facility and 200 meters away from residential homes, but a comment was made that no impact assessment would be required.  |

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| **8** | **Correspondence / Communications** |
|  | My Place Awards – Thoughts on consideration for the CC to submit a nomination to these awards. Macduff Heritage Society – Letter received for communication of 2 planned events they have for 2025. Firstly, they will be hosting an exhibition in Macduff focused on the historical changes and developments in the area over the centuries. This exhibition will feature a collection of paintings, maps and drawings and the stories that accompany them, providing a rich narrative of our local heritage. They anticipate that this event will take place after Easter 2025.Secondly, they are excited to announce that in September 2025, they plan to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the end of World War II with a special event at Duff House Banff. This occasion will highlight the significant contributions made by Polish soldiers who settled in our area after 1946. They are currently in the early stages of planning this event and look forward to sharing more details as they develop.They also hope that Banff and Macduff Community Council can lend its support to both events, as they present a wonderful opportunity for community engagement and celebration of our rich local history.CC all agreed.Tree Preservation Order – Notification received with Tree Preservation Order that had been confirmed and information of where these would be found. |

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| **9** |  |
|  | **Community Festival** – Mark Rivers was looking to plan and arrange a community festival, which would be a free event with music thoughout the day from around 1pm to 6pm and run by volunteers, with local businesses to be involved for later when festival finishes. This would require lots of help and a location with a license. Work still ongoing and will keep the CC informed. **Information Boards** – Menshed have been repairing the notice board from Banff harbour. John Main called for an update, and they hoped to get the board back soon. We hope to receive keys so we can attend to them as and when required.Once the work is completed could we ensure we receive an invoice for payment to be made.**Duff Street Roadwork Issue** – Major issues with local businesses who received no notification of the planned road closure which was not an emergency.CC to email Roads Department. **Dog Fouling** – Walkers and Motability users are once again finding problems with dog fouling. What can be done to help. Thoughts given to social media coverage and help from all residents. **Survey Update. –** Just transition plans to have a survey ready to distribute to everyone in Banff & Macduff and would like to use our logo and asked us to be keepers of all the data. We do have a data protection license.CC are willing to have our name for support and keep the data. Louise to attend meeting for more information.There may be a risk of confusion moving on as there is a new survey planned so why the need to support this one. Roland due to visit in the next 2 weeks and maybe plan a meeting, Hazel & Louise to attend a meeting arranged for tomorrow and they will feed back to the CC members. |

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| **10** | **Planning**  |
|  | No objections to any planning that was attached to the minutes. |

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| **11** | **Banff & Macduff In Bloom** |
|  | The group have cleared out the greenhouse, and they have ordered 2000 flowers which are due the first week in May. Looking into NESCAN funding and a new area away from the Banff Town Hall area.  |

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| **11** | **Date and time of next meeting:** |
|  | Wednesday 26th March 2025 at 7pmDeveron Community & Sports Centre. |