**BANFF & MACDUFF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Wednesday 30th April 2025**

**Macduff Community Sports Centre**

**Present:**

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| Hazel Daniel | Chair |
| Louise McCafferty | Treasurer |
| Kevin Ritchie | Secretary |
| Karen Catto | Community Councillor |
| Mary Arnold | Community Councillor |
| Reg Connon | Community Councillor |
| David Duguid | Community Councillor |
| Paul Gleisner | Community Councillor |
| Dougie Thomson | Community Councillor |
| Eleanor-Rose Park | Youth Member |
| Councillor Glen Reynolds | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Councillor Ross Cassie | Ward 2 Elected Member |

**Apologies:**

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| Steven Christie | Community Councillor |
| Colin Robson | Community Councillor |
| Mark Rivers | Community Councillor |
| Rob McArthur | Community Councillor |
| Fearghal Watt | Youth Member |
| Councillor John Cox | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Councillor Stewart Adams | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Councillor Mark Findlater | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| Councillor Richard Menard | Ward 2 Elected Member |

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

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| **2.** | **Declaration of Interests** |
|  | None |

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| **3.** | **Matters arising and Approval of Minutes - Wednesday 26th March 2025** |
|  | Minutes were read and no matters were arising. But updates were given by the Chair. The minutes were approved by Dougie Thomson and seconded by Mary Arnold. |

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| **4.** | **Police Report** |
|  | No report was submitted this time. No issues were raised, but thoughts of asking for a visit from our community officer either at our May or June meeting. |

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| **5.** | **Treasurer’s Report** |
|  | **Total funds**- £ 2539.97. Only charge since our last meeting was a £4.25 service charge  Virgin Bank account in progress with Treasurer/Chair/VC  Louise spoke through our Funding Opportunities, work will continue moving forward. The Tarlair benches are now in situ and funding proved to Council. Men’s shed invoice for notice board £200, will be paid this week once invoice has been received, thoughts were given for a more detailed invoice for future payments. |

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| **6.** | **Councillor’s Report** |
|  | Cllr Cassie commented that the Macduff Harbour issue was heard last Thursday and said that John Clark spoke for 5 minutes and spoke very well on all his thoughts regarding this issue. Cllr Cassie also gave a talk and that the voting went well but the issue still stands. He is working hard and will hopefully find a resolution and may look to August again.  Sheltered housing cuts are planned at the moment and may include 1 at Gardenstown and 1 at Rosehearty.  Cllr Reynolds commented on the sheltered housing and the plans to close 17 but no decision being made and number may come down, but backing from the public really helps and may help with the decisions moving forward.  Macduff library will be on the agenda on the 4th of June.  All consultations seem to get backlash from the public and leads to meetings where things can change. Also highlighted how much stress the council officers are under.  Dougie mentioned that at a meeting in 2008 where changes were made to the care in the community and services were merged together and it was quoted at the meeting how this merger was important and they had to get it right, but asks to look at where we are now.  The harbour meeting held at the Knowes Hotel went really well and really constructive, it is still early days and some things are not making sense and concerns raised concerning health and safety issues. It was good to see a good turn out at the meeting.  Very sheltered housing are not being looked at with no consultations taking place but stated it may in the future. Mary asked if we could try and be more proactive, Paul said that this would be hard as the consultation is not known till the week before. |

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| **7.** | **Correspondence/Communications** |
|  | **Madelyne Simpson** – Has asked for help to advertise the changes to local bus services within Banff and Macduff that now serve Aldi to encourage more users to utilise the services. This may lead to visits to the towns from Gardenstown & Fraserburgh.  **Heather McKay Area Managers Team** - Notice for Banff and Buchan Area Committee on 6 May 2025 for information/display.  You can access the reports on [Aberdeenshire Council Website](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Faberdeenshire.moderngov.co.uk%2FieListDocuments.aspx%3FCId%3D143%26MId%3D8033%26Ver%3D4&data=05%7C02%7C%7C131898701a894e55b90708dd8715cbcb%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638815250007031871%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4yONOjLA8sjdCylr7b%2FxNdFpSUa3bKDfWcI7hPXZbHk%3D&reserved=0) should you wish to read them. There is an update on Library Changes on the Agenda.  **Grit Bin Update**. - We refer to your correspondence on 7 April 2025 in which you asked about filling of grit bins, provision of grit and requested details of our snow warden scheme. Our local Roads team have confirmed that we are not stopping the filling of grit bins but will only fill bins which meet the criteria. Please see link below to provision and criteria for grit bins:  Funding Opportunities - Coastal Community Fund – Louise discussed the funding opportunities.  Sepa – Consultation.- SEPA are launching a consultation on a proposed Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme (EPAS) - a fair way of reporting on how businesses are meeting their responsibilities.    They are writing to us to provide Banff and Macduff Community Council with information about our consultation on our EPAS proposals, to invite your participation and to encourage you to share this opportunity with those you represent. |

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| **8.** |  |
|  | **Update from Mark Rivers**  Mark is afraid that he has to report that he doesn’t believe he can now guarantee to be ready to put on a music stage for the proposed community festival.  His progress has slowed considerably, and in some regards has gone backwards. Mark had a very positive meeting with Deveron FM and will now plan for next year.  **Banff Mercat Cross Community Consultation**  Mary Arnold stated that as the Mercat Cross is a common good artefact, it cannot be removed without community consultation. She asked how to start a community consultation.  The chair commented that she has been in contact with Angela and this is ongoing.  **Charter Survey.**  Louise has met up with the group and they look to move forward with the intended survey which will be sent out, thoughts of holding workshops in Banff and Macduff and the libraries being proposed for these workshops, this will allow those who do not have wifi set up or knowledge to attend and do it personally with the group. There were concerns with GDPR but the worries were explained and as a CC we have everything in place.  **Macduff War Memorial Update**  Funding to repair the nearby steps from the path. Dougie has asked for quotes from 2 local contractors regarding the repairs, with one quote around £1600.00 and the other was over £2000.00 plus VAT.  Would we require permission to repair and arrange a funding application to pay for work.  **Macduff Library Update**  The papers will be going to Area Committee, before the final decision at Communities Committee in June 5th 2025. Councillors advised that public can submit a request to speak at these committee meetings.  Mary stated that a Friends of Macduff group had been set up.  **Street lights**  Dougie had concerns over the plan to switch off street lights at night. The lights would go off between 1am and 5pm, some areas that are heavily populated would remain on.  **Information Boards.**  One board still at the aquarium, suggestions made to remove this to Macduff Harbour, and look to repair the Harbour if feasible.  Discussions held over the management of the notice boards and decided we would look into this moving forward.  Paul will contact aquarium for further information and help.  **Speed Limit Revocation**  Letter received from Alister Miller to inform of the proposal for 20mph speed limits across all Aberdeenshire towns and villages. Unsure of when this would happen, but CC happy with this, but concerns raised on how this would be policed.  **Clunie Street Bus Stop.**  Reg highlighted problems with the bus stop on Clunie street with parked cars and how the town service have to drop passengers on the road and some require help from the bus to the ground. Cllr Reynolds has noted and will look into the matter. |

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| **9.** | **Planning Matters** |
|  | No issues or objections to any planning applications were raised.  The Fife Lodge Hotel was added due to the planned date of the 21st May date. |

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| **10.** | **Banff And Macduff In Bloom** |
|  | Very busy at the moment with planting and going back and forth to King Edward on a daily basis. Plans to stay on behind Banff Town Hall for the moment.  Weeds at Macduff Anchor have been dealt with and ongoing work will continue. |

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| **11.** | **AOB** |
|  | Ian Hardie - Due to Ian’s long association with the Community Council all of our current members feel a letter of thoughts and thanks should be given to his family for his service.  Some of the comments mentioned was that Ian was a significant and invaluable member during his service to the community, and that our towns have benefited from his commitment to serve and will be a great miss to all.  We must also mention his service and dedication for the work Ian has done with Banff & Macduff in bloom, where he was always very helpful, knowledgeable and a wry sense of humour and will be sadly missed also.  Quaich – Kevin to contact Kathleen to arrange engraving of her award. |

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| **12.** | **Date And Time Of Next Meeting** |
|  | Wednesday 28th May at 7pm  Deveron Community Sports Centre, Banff |