**BANFF & MACDUFF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

 **Wednesday 27TH September 2023 – 7pm**

 **Macduff Community and Sports Centre.**

Present:

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| Mary Arnold | Chair |
| Kevin Ritchie | Vice Chair |
| Reg Connon | Community Councillor |
| David Duguid | Community Councillor |
| Colin Robson | Community Councillor |
| John Will | Community Councillor |
| Paul Gleisner | Community Councillor |
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| **PC Zubaj** | **Police Scotland** |
| Councillor Richard Menard | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| Councillor John Cox | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Councillor Stewart Adams | Ward 1 Elected Member |

Apologies:

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| Hazel Daniel | Secretary |
| Louise McCaffery | Treasurer |
| Dougie Thomson | Community Councillor |
| Shona Watson | Community Councillor |
| John Main | Community Councillor |
| Councillor Mark Findlater | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| Councillor Ross Cassie | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| Councillor Glen Renolds | Ward 1 Elected Member |

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

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| **2** | **Declaration of Interests** |
|  | No declarations noted. |

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| **3** | **Approval of Minute of Meeting of Wednesday 29th August 2023****Matters Arising from last minute** |
|  | Before the approval of the minutes the Chair had been asked by Jan McRobbie to give some clarification in regard to the comments around the discussion concerning the Green bank site, at the previous meeting. Chair explained that during the police report that it was highlighted that anti-social behaviour & vandalism that some of the youth residents were involved. Cllr John Cox thought it was a little concerning as to why the Chair had to give clarification. PC Zubaj also commented that nothing was really said and would be more to say in his report later as the trouble continues and has concerns for the community.The minutes was approved. Proposed by Paul Gleisner and seconded by Reg Connon. |

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| **4** | **Police Report** |
|  | PC Zubaj presented the Police report, and a lengthy discussion was held.Anti-social behaviour was still a major problem with issues of vandalism at Canal Park for the second time, Low Street issues there as well as Duff Street in Macduff beside the shop, At the bus stop on Duff Street beside Macduff Primary and behind the school.The teenagers tend to catch the buses to make their way from Banff to Macduff and vice versa.PC Zubaj is trying to push for CCTV in order to help and eliminate the trouble, but the Council are unwilling to provide. He has tried to involve Banff Social work and try and get the youths involved in programmes or days out etc for them, something to do.There are 10-12 regular youths with others from other areas. PC Zubaj is trying to keep in touch with them all around the Academy daily and that includes the Green Bank youths and having conversations with them.Reports of 2 cases of vandalism in Banff and Macduff, 6 Assaults in Banff and 1 in Banff, 3 cases of shoplifting in Banff, 1 house break-in in Macduff but nothing reported as stolen,Fraud cases happening on What’s App and Marketplace and asked for all to be made aware.Cllr John Cox asked about the youths who are always beside the school and update on the CCTV.PC Zubaj explained he stays close to the school and sometimes helps with children to get onto their buses and the end of the school day, some reports of bullying and the normal 10-12 youths getting on the same bus as the pupils with their Scot-Card.Chair raised concerns regarding the youths getting on the same buses and creating trouble. PC Zubaj said he is very strict and hopefully going to stop this distressing behaviour. Some buses are a registered service, and anyone can board at any stop. CCTV – Turriff have a CCTV system running with 7 cameras in each nest and was approx. cost of £32,000.00 for 5 years. Suggested contacting Trafford’s and Robert Stephen at Celebrations for any questions etc. This could help the police with many issues around Banff and Macduff.This maybe something for Banff & Macduff Community Council to investigate. |

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| **5** | **Treasurer Report** |
|  | Louise is currently unavailable due to a family bereavement but will update at the October Meeting  |

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| **6** | **Councillors’ Report** |
|  | Cllr Richard Menard – Consultations on the Banff bridge have been taking place.Consultations coming to an end at Macduff Harbour and will update when available.Macduff Fire Station and the Safety group may be able to help and become involved with CCTV.Cllr John Cox – On the summer season and landscape services has had issues with funding and hoping lessons have been learned for the next summer season.Cllr Stewart Adams – Mentioned the new 3 weekly collection starting soon and looking forward to the results, Leaflets are being distributed to all homes. Area innovation fund should be easier to access now. If we have plans and projects in place ready for funding. |

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| **7** | Correspondence/Communications |
|  | Local Holiday Dates released for 2024Monday 12th FebruaryMonday 1st April Monday 6th MayMonday 2nd September Monday 14th October.It was noted by the Chair that the comments made in consultation with Local Business Groups and Community Councils, no one can remember the consultation.News released on Wednesday of the meeting about Funding for local communities and local place plan.Kevin to investigate the news release and report back.Paul commented about the resilience plan from money available and is enquiring what funds available. |

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| **8** | Planning Matters |
|  | 2 Planning matters 3 High Street & Stewart Cheyne’s at Deveronside with no issues. |

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| **9** | Update from B and M in Bloom-Re Garden at bottom of Sandyhill Road |
|  | Shona emailed with an update regarding Sandyhill Road.Shona cannot seem to get any information or answers and tried various avenues to see if B and MIB can manage this area.Could we ask for the councillors help in this matter and see if barriers can be removed for the in-bloom team. John Cox will follow this up.Chair will contact Area Manager to ask what the hold-up is. |

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| **10** | **Good News** |
|  | Cllr Stewart Adams wanted to praise Banff Academy for a well-attended concert with local talent.Activity Event at Banff Castle will be taking place this Sunday but the team have been let down with some bad news from A/C. |

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| **11** | **Common Good Policy—End of October** |
|  | Chair asked if this could be deferred to the next meeting date as Louise is investigating this. |

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| **12** | **AOCB** |
|  | Banff war Memorial – No further update on re-painting. Suggestion made for an email or letter be sent by the Chair to ask for this as an emergency, and prior to Remembrance Day.Cllr John Cox said there has been a delay. Chair will contact Area Manager to get this sorted. Paul asked about the memorial wreaths, they have been delivered and nominated Community Councillors chosen for the laying of the wreaths.Presence at Farmers Market – dates for market. Community Safety Group and Community Council to share a pitch at the next Farmers Market. Kevin to enquire to Deveron FM & The Men Shed to arrange the date and pitch.Advertisement board would be required for future events for us to attend and suggested that CKM Designs maybe be able to help.Allotments at Duff House – The Chair received an enquiry regarding the allotments and how long would they have to wait to receive one. Chair will contact Area Manager for help and answers. The Community Council would like to know how many people have allotments and how many are on the waiting list.Cllr Jon Cox commented that allotments have no charge but are facing obstacles and looking into this.Chair: Seems unreasonable that no charge is made for the maintenance, collecting rubbish etc, This needs to be looked at again with questions on who owns which allotment.Aldi – Some real concerns once again regarding the ongoing issue with Aldi. All in agreement to see what we can do moving forward, can we organise something to help. Get the community involved. Big companies playing with our community – How do we move forward. Nominations for Banff & Macduff Quaich’s.Dougie Thomson would like to nominate Friends of Macduff Marine Aquarium for the Macduff Quaich. As they do a lot to promote Macduff, and the Macduff Calendar goes far and wide. they also encourage youngsters to take photos and enter a completion to get their photo in the calendar. Discussion maybe required regarding the Banff Quaich and if the award is for an individual or group award. More information from Dougie is required.Colin Robson has taken Monday 2nd of October of work to attend a resilience conference at the Beach Ballroom in Aberdeen, hoping to get help and advice with the planning of our own CC plan. Colin hopes to get in touch with Fraserburgh CC. Colin will update at next meeting. The Community Council appreciates Louise, Paul and Colin taking on this piece of work with the resilience project and the dedication is much appreciated.Facebook Page – Thoughts of more online community interaction with issues and offer of help etc, Hype up our area even for a trial period. Kevin will arrange and set up a Zoom meeting or face to face and contact everyone. We could look to include the need for CCTV as soon as possible in relation to the troubles in Banff and Macduff.John Will – Stagecoach.John still has no word from Stagecoach and will not be giving up.John mentioned the state of Low Street in Banff and how things look, Disappointed with the Hydro shop signs and has concerns for them.Also, the heraldic sign beside the Cannon requires a paint and asked if we could arrange this prior to new season, He feels the attraction to the cannon from visitors and the opportunism for photos. Chair to write to the Banff Preservation society to ask about the sign.John also attended the Community forum and was slightly disappointed on the cancellation.Cllr Richard Menard advised that the Public Transport Forum Safety Group will be holding a meeting in the near future and Stagecoach would be in attendance, Once date has been arranged we will get the information. |

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| **13** | **Date and time of next meeting:** |
|  | Wednesday 25 October at 7pm Community Room Deveron Community Sports Centre Banff  |