**BANFF & MACDUFF COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Wednesday 25 October 2023 – 7pm**

**Deveron Community and Sports Centre.**

Present:

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| Mary Arnold | Chair |
| Kevin Ritchie | Vice Chair |
| Hazel Daniel | Secretary |
| Louise McCafferty | Treasurer |
| Reg Connon | Community Councillor |
| David Duguid | Community Councillor |
| Colin Robson | Community Councillor |
| John Will | Community Councillor |
| Dougie Thomson | Community Councillor |
| Shona Watson | Community Councillor |
| John Main | Community Councillor |
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| PC Zubaj | Police Scotland |
| Councillor Richard Menard | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| Councillor Mark Findlater | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| Councillor Glen Reynolds | Ward 1 Elected Member |

Apologies:

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| Paul Gleisner | Community Councillor |
| Councillor Stuart Adams | Ward 2 Elected Member |
| Councillor Ross Cassie | Ward 1 Elected Member |
| Councillor John Cox | 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 27 September 2023**  **Matters Arising from last minute** |
|  | The minutes were approved.  Proposed by Reg Connon and seconded by John Will. |

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| **4** | **Police Report** |
|  | PC Zubaj presented an overview of the Police report, which was provided to Community Councillor members.  Anti-social behaviour continues to be an issue with furniture at Macduff Primary being damaged. PC Zubaj is now involved with Social Work and Youth Organisations with a view to engaging with the group of males. Hazel to write to Jenny Fotheringham with a view to identifying what activities may be able to be provided.  There have been assaults in Banff and in Macduff, some in relation to adults, others in relation to the youths discussed above. |

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| **5** | **Treasurer Report** |
|  | Louise advised that the Bank have now been able to proceed with the payments to Hazel and Shona after Kevin has been able to authorise the monies. This has taken a considerable time and effort from Louise.  The current bank balance is £1555.62.  It was agreed that continuing monies which need to be spent on an annual basis will be considered and then what money is available to use within the community.  Louise has some applications to consider for funding for the community, however the criteria as to what they can / cannot be used for appears to be quite tight. |

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| **6** | **Councillors’ Report** |
|  | Cllr Cox – had provided a written update in his absence.  *The chaos on High St will be back as the works were not carried out. The traffic lights were for one of the utility companies. Not sure when the works will be rescheduled but the lights will return. Apparently the contractor was not told to remove the lights till yesterday following my intervention, probably.*  *Storms. There will reports to councillors following last week’s storm and flooding. A lot of issues to be addressed from sandbags to blocked drains also steps to mitigate future flooding. An item for a future meeting once we get the action plan.*  Councillor Reynolds advised he had nothing further to add.  Councillor Findlater advised that the council are awaiting information regarding the financial implications as a result of Storm Babet.  The flooding at the shop in Duff Street is the joint responsibility of Scottish Water and the Local Authority.  This can be included as part of the Resilience plan. If there are drains blocked, the public should report this via the Council website.  <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/roads/maintenance/drainage/#:~:text=say%3A%20council%20budget-,Flooding%2C%20road%20gullies%20and%20drainage,Flooding,-Gullies>  Councillor Menard advised that he is attending the raising of the new Banffshire Flag at Royal Tarlair Golf Club on Saturday 28th October 2023 along with the Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire. The main unveiling is due to take place at Cullen. |

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| **7** | Correspondence/Communications |
|  | Just Transition—Colin and Kevin to attend at 2.30pm on Monday  Jan Emery—Re Coastal Path. Mary and Hazel to attend meeting on the 14th Nov 2023 at 10.30am.  Wild Flowers—St Mary’s car park. Everyone was in agreement with the plan.  Developer Obligation Fund—The funds carry very strict criteria and may not be an option given the potential level of cost. The developing Skatepark may be an option to use the money.  BAMIB—question regarding whether their Constitution has been provided in order to qualify for insurance cover under CC. Shona to provide.  First Responders—Also to provide copy of Constitution for same reasons. |

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| **8** | Planning Matters |
|  | 2 Planning matters regarding Macduff Industrial Estate. There were no objections.    Plan for a House on Station Brae, next to Meraki. There were no objections.  Plans for extension to a house at Water’s Edge in Banff. There were no objections. |

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| **9** | Update from B and M in Bloom-Re Garden at bottom of Sandyhill Road |
|  | Shona met with Landscaping Services regarding the garden at bottom of Sandyhill Road, Banff. There has been agreement that responsibility will be taken over by BAMIB after the ground has been cleared. Aim is to try and make a link with Duff House and arrange as a teddy bears picnic.  Bulbs have been organised and these have to be planted in Local Authority planters however possible signage to be inserted to acknowledge that BAMIB maintain the boxes.  Hanging baskets have all been removed and are currently being cleared by BAMIB volunteers, who do a lot of work behind the scene. |

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| **10** | **Good News** |
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| **11** | **AOCB** |
|  | **Allotments at Duff House** –  The Chair is following this up and is waiting for a response from David Mundie, Aberdeenshire Council  **Banff War Memorial**  Being followed up by The Chair and contact with Jan Emery and Cllr Stewart Adams.  **Greenbank Travellers Site**  There has been no further communication with regards to plans for the site over the winter period.  **Heraldic Coat of Arms**  Ongoing communication regarding the painting of the coat of arms.  **Lamposts at Collie Lodge**  It was noted that these need painting and it would be beneficial if this was completed for the next tourist season.  **Coach Parking**  Coach parking was raised as an issue and how this could be improved.  **Engagement**  The CC were in agreement that more advertising of the CC and the issues, meetings etc could be made. Louise to arrange for press release to be made.  **Deveron Community and Sports Centre**  It was noted that the Deveron Sports and Community Centre has been closed at a lunchtime and there was no clear reason why. To be followed up.  **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. Hazel advised that the quaich belongs to the CC and therefore they can make the decision as to whether an individual or a group can be the recipient of the award. FOMMA was proposed by Dougie Thomson and Seconded by Mary Arnold.  Julie Forbes from the Swimming Group, Banff to be approached to accept the quaich for the Banff area. Proposed by Mary Arnold and Seconded Shona Watson.  Formal invitation to be sent for presentation at next meeting.  It was agreed that nominations for the quaich’s, for next year, 2024, could be opened up to a public vote.  **Community Monies**  Money from CC to be provided to community groups where a uniform is required and for families who may have difficulty purchasing these. Proposed by Dougie Thomson and Seconded by Mary Arnold.  **Community Council Website**  John Main, Community Councillor has offered to build a webpage for the Community Council. Small charges will be required. This was agreed by all members.  **We Grow Trees**  A group has been formed to plant trees in the Banff area. They have been receiving donations and wondered whether they could use BAMCC to hold the money. There was a discussion regarding this and potential impact for everyone involved. Mary has agreed to support them to write a constitution and then they could become a subgroup. Hazel to enquire whether the Area Office have the access to a basic constitution which could be used.  **Stall at Farmer’s Market**  There are only 2 charity stalls allowed per month. The cost of a stall would be prohibitive. Mary to approach Macduff Library as to whether using this facility may be an option.  **CC Members**  Shona continues to wait for a response from Banff Academy for 2 young people to attend the CC. One from each town. |

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| **13** | **Date and time of next meeting:** |
|  | Wednesday 29 November at 7pm Community Room Macduff Community and Sports Centre. |