

FEUGHDEE WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Approved Minutes of Meeting held in Inchmarlo Hall On Thursday 28th September 2017 at 7.30pm

Present:

Community Councillors:

Mr.W.Smith, Mr.I.Brockie, Mr.I.Morrison, Mr. A.Neish, Ms.Lynsey Craig, Mrs.J.Randalls,
Mrs. M. Stallaert, Mr. P.Tyrrell, Ms.Sam Wylde, Mr. I Adams

Banchory and Mid Deeside Councillors:

Cllr. R. Bruce, Cllr. E.Durno

Minutes:

Mrs. I.Addison

Members of Public:

4 Members of the public were present.

1. Apologies and Absences

Apologies were tendered by Mr.S.Richards, Mr.C.Smith Mr. W. Ross

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes Proposed by : Mr. I. Adams

Seconded by : Ms. S. Wylde

3. Treasurer's report

Opening Balance		£ 2280.85
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DD to BT Web-cam	2 x 63.60	127.20
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Closing Balance		£ 2153.65
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4. Police Matters

No Police were in attendance.

An e.mail report stated that there was nothing significant to report apart from the theft of a wood-burning stove from a property in Glen Dye.

5. Glen Dye Wind Farm

Ms. Sam Wylde reported that the GDWF Work Group is still in the process of preparing a fact sheet which will be made available to the local community when complete. Their next meeting will be on 11th October, when material planning considerations would be discussed.

The Work Group report prompted a discussion regarding the proposed content of the fact sheet. There was some feeling amongst the Work Group that, as the Environmental Report was not yet complete, that the purpose of the fact sheet should be to clarify the concept rather than any amount of money which could potentially be made available to the community.

However, it was agreed that it would be in the interest of the public's ability to make an informed decision, to make it clear that an amount of £5000 per megawatt could be anticipated with a minimum 80mw installation.

At present the Community Benefit offer split stands as follows:

Feughdee West 65%

Mearns 35%

with the option of a shared 10% investment between the two districts.

A complete document prepared by the Scottish Government on the principles of shared ownership was made available to those in attendance.

In this respect, a representative from L.E.S. (Local Energy Scotland) will be contacted to arrange a date in the near future to clarify how the investment scheme works in practical terms.

Ian Catto of Foundation Scotland will also be contacted regarding the funding of community-led projects.

It was intimated that the next Community Liason meeting will be held in Finzean Hall on 7th November, 2017

6. FWCC Community Benefit Applications

Mr. P. Tyrell indicated that a payment of £7163 due from MHWF had not been received at this point in time. This will be looked into by the treasurer.

There is one application from Strachan Youth Club for £1000 which will be discussed at November's meeting.

It was noted that there is an outstanding payment of £1000 due to the Youth Club. Some concerns were expressed in relation to the time it was taking for funds to be released. It was confirmed that an application can take six months from application to payout. There is also an outstanding payment due to Strachan Bowling club of £500

Mr. P. Tyrell reported that with the £20,000 allocation for the Strachan Playpark and payments to the Youth Club and Bowling Club there will be a balance of £1400 in the fund at the beginning of January 2018

An Inchmarlo Member of the public requested advice on potential funding for the Hall car park in the coming year and was advised to submit an application immediately and it will be given due consideration in relation to other applications.

7. Planning Issues

Waterside, Bridge of Canny AB31 4AT

Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse, formation of decking and alterations to detached garage. Awaiting decision. No comments or concerns raised.

2, Smiddy Park, Inchmarlo, AB31 4FN

Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse
Awaiting decision. No comments or concerns raised.

Pitreadie Farm Building, Strachan, Banchory AB31 6LL

Detailed planning submitted for an already approved development.

Awaiting decision. No comments or concerns raised.

Low Cost Housing

Concerns were raised as to the lack of progress and information on the provision of low cost housing.

Mr. A. Neish informed those present that he had made three serviced sites available in Strachan for the council to develop into low-cost housing. However there had been no communication and nothing had been done on the Council's part to begin this work.

Councillor E. Durno intimated that she would look into the matter.

It was agreed to have this on future agendas as a rolling item.

Cemetery Car Park

It was intimated that Landscape Services were willing to ring-fence funding from their budget to contribute towards this project but there was some perceived dragging of feet on this issue.

Banchory & Mid Deeside Councillors present will approach Roads Department with a view to pushing this forward.

8. Transport, Roads and Infrastructure

Trees at Castlehill

It was reported that even although birds are no longer nesting, the trees are slow-growing.

Removal is therefore not deemed to be a priority in the immediate future. Action will be taken in due course.

Flashing Lights at Strachan School

It was noted that the warning lights are still flashing at Strachan School even although the school has been moth-balled. This information has been passed on to the appropriate department so that lights can be switched off.

Road Closure B974 at the Belts

The closure of the B974 was discussed. It was intimated that this work will be carried out during the School holidays in October. The reason for closing the road and time required is that the dykes have to come down.

A two-week time span to complete the work has been allocated but it is anticipated that less time will be required.

Inchmarlo Speed Limit

An issue was raised by an Inchmarlo member of the public about continuing concerns that the speed limit through Inchmarlo was not being adhered to.

Roads Department will be approached to see into the possibility of flashing lights being installed with a speed limit extending to Smiddy Park in order to safeguard any children crossing.

Old Graveyard at Strachan

It was intimated that there had been a meeting with Landscape Services regarding the maintenance of the old Graveyard at Strachan. It was deemed that the constant strimming of the graveyard when it was seldom visited was becoming a burdensome expense to Aberdeenshire Council and that some alternative solution was being sought.

The two suggestions were:

Sow the graveyard to wild flowers

Allow sheep to graze (which is becoming a widely accepted practice further afield)

It was agreed that some time, thought and discussion was necessary before any decisions could be made as to the best solution. It was agreed that this issue should be included on the October agenda under Community Issues.

9. Education and Youth

Nothing to report.

10. Community Issues

Play Park

It was reported that meetings of the work group continue and that plans are going forward with more details being sought.

Talks with Planning Department are ongoing to ensure that there are no contraventions in proposals to date.

Assurances were given that full disabled and machine access will be included on the plans.

There was a short discussion regarding a hole in the bank at the edge of the play-park area. Mr. I. Adams will try to find out who owns it with a view to remedial work being carried out.

Community Action Plan

It was intimated that there had been a meeting with Roisin Daly, Development Officer for M.A.P. The purpose was to understand better how to go about developing a Community Action Plan. There were a couple of presentations to emphasise how important it was to develop such a plan in order to access available funding. It is much easier to access funding for projects that are clearly identified.

The development of a structured plan would require the involvement of both the Community Council and the local community.

It was agreed that there should first be a meeting of FWCC to discuss what the priorities are for the local community before engaging in public meetings.

A suggestion was made that a normal FWCC meeting could be replaced with a meeting dedicated to this task.

Mr. S. Richards will be approached to discuss best way of implementing this.

It was acknowledged that getting the local community to fully engage with such projects was an ongoing challenge.

Councillors were reminded that Banchory had already developed a Community Action Plan and that it would be advisable to approach them for further advice.

It was agreed to contact Lucie Sujanova from C.A.R.E.S. and Ian Catto from Foundation Scotland regarding any potential for the funding of such things as surveys and consultations

Strachan Hall Development

A member of the public requested that it be minuted that members of the local community had raised concerns with him regarding the high costs involved in the improvements to Strachan Hall.

There had been a feeling that such a large amount of money would be better spent on building a new hall which would be more substantial and better fitted to the needs of the local community.

It was pointed out that the plans for the hall were already well underway and that other members of the community felt that the hall had historical significance and that it was important to retain some of its features.

11. Any Other Business

Web-Cam

IT management has been approached to assess the possibility of having the web-cam record the passage of traffic. This could assist the police in any emergency or ongoing investigations. This being a possibility, Aberdeenshire Council would be approached to adopt the web-cam in public interests and/or make a suitable contribution to maintenance.

Scheme of Establishment

It was intimated that the new Scheme of Establishment has now been signed off, transitioning between now and March 2018

Knockburn Loch

There was a further request for Mr. McIntosh of Knockburn Loch to be contacted to provide specific dates when the tannoy system will be implemented.

M.A.P

It was intimated that the M.A.P. AGM would be held in Finzean Church Hall on Tuesday 3rd October 2017. Refreshments to be served at 6.30pm with 7pm start. Details will be put on Strachan Community Hub

12. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 9.13pm

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 26th October, 2017 at 7.30p.m.

Strachan Hall

Councillors are reminded that Mr. Piers Blaxter will be in attendance to talk about the Local Development Plan which is due for presentation in 2022