



Speyside Area Forum

www.undiscoveredspeyside.org

Chairman: Mr Bill Burgess
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Minutes of the Meeting held at The Grant Hall, Rothes 7.30pm Tuesday, 4th March, 2014

Present: Bill Burgess, Chairman; Martin Sheed, Vice Chair, *Cabrach Community Assoc (Scottish Charity Incorporated Organisation)*; Hugh Fraser, *Treasurer and Aberlour Community Association*, Cllr Pearl Paul, *The Moray Council*; Charles Alexander, *Knockando Community Association*; Patricia Grant, *Kirkmichael and Tomintoul Community Association*; Margaret Stuart, *Rothes Council*, Mabel Donald, *Aberlour Community Association*; Bunty Campbell, *Glenrinn Community Centre*, Sandy Henderson, *Friends of Fleming Hospital, Aberlour*. Patricia Shanks, *Edinville Community Hall Council*; Mabel Donald, *Aberlour Community Association*

In attendance: Ian Todd, Community Support manger, *The Moray Council*, PC Darren Strong, *Police Scotland*.

Apologies: Andrea Fuller *Edinville Community Hall* – **Bill, could you include the apologies of the others here please?**

- 1. Welcome:** Bill Burgess, Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and introduced Alison Wilson the new Secretary.
- 2. Rita Marks, Glenlivet and Inveravon:** Bill Burgess expressed sad condolences on behalf of the forum for the recent death of Rita marks, stating that she would be sorely missed by all.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting January 2014

Proposed, Hugh, seconded, Tricia.

3. Matters Arising:

- Signage at Allahoy now in place.
- Cabrach working towards a Community Asset Transfer (CAT).
- Cllr Paul distributed paper copies of X Quarry Road outlining work to be completed.
- Aberlour Post Office not issuing Car Tax meantime.
- Rumours circulating that Dufftown will not be processing parcels destined for abroad. Rothes Post Office has been incorporated into local shop. Concern raised that counter is not always manned.
- Tomintoul Shop update. Shop is closed at the moment. Local development trust has too much on at the moment to open it. Community are looking for someone to take on as business.
- Flowers. Jim Anderson is seemingly doing a good deal. An approach has also been made to

Cove, but owners are away at the moment. Dennis from Newmill will be able to supply limited stock this year.

4. Police Matters: PC Darren Strong, the new local PC has only been in post for four weeks. Darren explained that he couldn't provide a printed update due to issues with the printer at his office. He also informed the group that he had sent an electronic copy to Alison Wilson, secretary. Update.

- Crime statistics were up due to Road Traffic Offenses, otherwise, stats are low.
- Tomintoul Police Office is now operational. Official opening at the end of March. Police Scotland would welcome the public to come and visit.
- PC Strong will feed back speeding concerns at the Dipper junction to Dufftown.

The Chair thanked PC Strong for attending the meeting.

5. Community Issues and Update from Community Groups

Aberlour Visitor centre – meeting with John Cowie, Moray Council has taken place. Progress has been in 'fits and starts'. Group has been trying to negotiate a lease. It was supposed to have been completed by 19th march, but now looks as if that will not happen. Moray Council has stated that it wishes to retain the Ranger in the main room despite the fact that he is only ever there periodically. On a positive note, the group are well advanced in producing a leaflet highlighting The Speyside way. The leaflet will highlight what Speyside has to offer between Buckie and Aviemore and should be available after Easter. The planning group feel disillusioned by the apparent lack of support for tourism in Speyside. Hugh Fraser highlighted that Gillian Bailey, Community Support Officer; Moray Council has been extremely helpful and very supportive to the group.

Roths GP Service – vacancy filled as of 4th March.

6. Treasurer's Report:

Hugh Fraser, treasurer, circulated the financial report. The only real expense at the moment is travelling expenses.

Balance £3,044.15

7. Any Other Business

Entertainment Licence Consultation – Consultation concluded on 28th February. During the consultation, Moray Council conducted a pricing review, thus causing much confusion. Key question raised has been 'What does the licence cover?'. Information can be obtained from the Federation of Village Halls & Community Association web page.

Sports & leisure Review – Anita Milne, chairperson of the Federation, has advised halls to respond with caution. Concern has been expressed that the council may use the existing facilities currently being provided by local halls as an excuse to close council run facilities as part of the council's budget cuts.

Cllr Murdoch – Question rose as to why Cllr Murdoch does not attend forum meetings. Chair person said he would contact Fiona.

Date and venue of next meeting

7.30pm, Tuesday, 22nd April 2014 - venue Archieston Village Hall.