



Speyside Area Forum
www.undiscoveredspeyside.org

Tuesday, 1 March, 2016
Hall, Archiestown

7-30 pm

DRAFT

1. Welcome and Apologies

Participants : Sandy Henderson (Chair), Hugh Fraser, Jim Hart, Fiona Toovey, Bill Burgess, Ian Todd, Charlie Alexander, Bunty Campbell, Andrew Fuller.

Apologies : Cllr Fiona Murdoch, Cllr Mike McConachie, Gordon Morrison (Fire Scotland), Mabel Donald.

2. Minute of previous Meeting for approval – 12 January, 2016

Proposed – Hugh Fraser, Seconded – Bunty Campbell

3. Matters Arising

Local communities to feedback issues re mobile bank service – The only feedback received has been from Dufftown which highlighted that not all users can be seen in the time available and the van is not parked in same place each visit. Other matters raised was a lack of privacy, and no shelter available for those waiting. Also the cash machine in Dufftown has recently been relocated and isn't working yet. Also the cash machine at the Co-op has a history of eating cards. Letter of feedback received to be sent to the RBS.

4. Police Matters

Ross Allan is the new Sergeant for the area as Graeme Allan moved to new post in Elgin – no report received. FT to request copy of the report however Hugh suggested it may longer be prepared due to cut backs in the force.

5. Community Issues and Update from Community Groups

(please also see Diary www.undiscoveredspeyside.org)

Signage – Alla Hoy : On 20 Feb, Hugh sent email to Bear Scotland and the three elected members -asking for an update re proposed signage at Alla Hoy – this issue has been on the go for circa 3 years. (re height restriction and reversing onto A95). To date, no response received. Alan in Council said would investigate but no response. Hugh to forward email to Iain Todd who will follow up. Andrea also suggested it may be worth forwarding to Richard Lohead.

The **Victoria suspension Bridge** in Aberlour is potentially in threat of closure. Hugh provided background as follows - There were three Trustees who acquired the bridge. In 1995 they formed a Trust and registered a Charity for its upkeep and over the years it has encountered significant expenses. The Trustees have contacted the Council and various community bodies in the Aberlour area suggesting they own half of the bridge (3 known parties approached ??), but none of the CAs on other side of the water have been approached. It appears they are looking to offload the liability of the bridge. On all occasions, the responsibility has been refuted. The bridge is now a right of way. All present agreed it would not be in the community interest for the bridge to deteriorate but based on the information Hugh provided it would not be on any

community bodies interest to take on the liability of the bridge. Hugh had suggested to Peter Graham that he hold an open meeting to raise the issue but he was not keen.

Participatory budgeting –

Scottish Government is providing 60,000 and council is match funding. The Scottish Government contribution must be allocated by end May. This is a fund where any body can request funding (£200 to £5,000) if can demonstrate it will assist the economic stability of the area. It is only available to Moray Rural. The awards will be decided at a meeting in May which is open to the public to attend. Sandy is representing Forum, Andrea is representing federation of halls, Hugh is representing Aberlour in meetings to get it set up.

Applications must be in by 12 April – all applicants will be successful if can prove economic benefit. Andrea is in process of pulling together posters. There will be an event in May where the community will decide which projects are accepted, and a further one next March.

Applicants will have a 3 min slot for a pitch followed by 2 mins of questions

There is also 5k available for promotion of the events. Next working party meeting is in Aberlour on Thursday night (3 March).

Paul Burnett has been allocated support time to support the steering group – he is very knowledgeable. Council staff happy to support claimants complete application.

Tiniver Park - Bunty mentioned Dufftown had been successful with the Tesco 5p bag charity application – they have achieved the final 3 for money to do up Tiniver Park. They are competing with Cullen playpark and a Garden project in Burghead but are now guaranteed a significant sum.

Gas pipeline – Bill explained it is more or less complete but they are having to come back with repairs works on area on road to Daluaine where the bigger digger used has caused the track to break up. They are back preparing for tarring.

Knockando – Charlie mentioned they have a new hall keeper. Community and hall committees almost amalgamated. They are pursuing with mini turbine and checking it is still viable.

Archiestown – Jim mentioned issues to North Lane, this is a private unadopted road but lots of pot holes developing and no budget for repairs. Also a Ball group club has started up.

Hall Federation meeting – Andrea mentioned the last one was held at Fogwatt. Sylvia did presentation and discussed lack of circulation of the Compact agreement and how federation would respond. Andrea had also send a response for the Spey Forum.

TSI – Following last meetings concerns, Iain Todd asked who Forum members can approach if have an issue with TSI and was told this would need to go to Laura Sexton at Scottish Government who he added is very community minded. 10 TSI's in Scotland are getting checked for their consultants and so if Forum chose they could request Moray was one of these that is investigated. Iain added that if there were any issues with the running of TSI the first route of address ought to be the Board of TSI who will then take it up with management.

Dorenell – FT confirmed that the 4 initial community groups have met since the Speyside Forum AGM and it has been agreed that the funding for the consultancy work is getting drawn down by Dufftown CA. A brief is presently being prepared to scope the consultancy requirements.

6. Treasurer's Report

Balance 3,294.89 – no feedback received as to whether Forum will receive a grant next year as last year received notification that the budget was retained for a year. Next years budget is likely to be tight. Tonight paid out web costs, honorarium and hall fee.

Proposed - Andrea Fuller, Seconded - Bill Burgess

7. Community Issues

Community Asset Transfers – Hugh confirmed handover expected 1 April for Aberlour.

Water rates for registered charities – all need to now request exemption, Hugh confirmed form is fairly straight forward for completion.

8. Any Other Business

Andrea Fuller – please note it's very disappointing that has been a severe lack of attendance at the meetings of late.

- Date and Venue of Next meeting – 26 April 2016, 7.30pm in Glenrinnies.