

BANCHORY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Monday 8 May 2017

Banchory Academy Library

7.30pm

Present: Mary Lennox (Chair); David Conroy (Vice Chair); Lynn McNab (Treasurer); Louise Cameron (Secretary); John Wills (Assistant Secretary); Vivika Kerridge; Harry McNab; David Milner; Alistair Murison; Nicola Kenyon

Officials: Cllr Rosemary Bruce; Cllr Eileen Durno

Speakers: Colin Westwood, Fire and Rescue

Apologies: Cllr Ann Ross; Sgt Garrow, Police Scotland

Members of the Public: Forbes Burn; Rebecca Glansbeek; Louise Mitchell; Mrs M Watt

1. Welcome and Apologies

Mary Lennox opened the meeting, noted the apologies and welcomed the newest Community Councillor, Alistair Murison. Also welcomed were the new Aberdeenshire Councillors.

The meeting agreed to grant member of the public Louise Mitchell a five minute slot to outline her concerns regarding the issue of unsanctioned extension to domestic gardens and inappropriate use of forest land.

2. Police Report

Sgt Garrow sent a Police Report for April / June which Mary Lennox summarised.

Fortunately there was little to report but the following was highlighted:

- Vandalism at Banchory Golf Club: The numbers of incidents have reduced and local Police are following positive lines of enquiry.
- Criminals are coming to the area looking for insecure properties. Residents are therefore reminded to ensure all houses; outbuildings; sheds are vehicles are secure to guard against opportunist thefts.

3. Councillors' Report

Nothing to report

4. Guest Speaker: Colin Westwood, Station Manager for Marr Area Fire and Rescue

Colin Westwood explained his role as Station Manager for Marr Area. Although based in Banchory his responsibilities cover Aboyne; Braemar; Balmoral; Ballater; Strathdon; Alford and Huntly. All of which are manned with retained fire fighters.

Along with the primary roles of attending serious incidents and fighting fires, Colin Westwood explained the service offers free home fire safety checks which include advice on

fire safety, evacuation plans and fitting free smoke detectors. In addition to this the provision of free CPR training was also outlined.

5. Inappropriate Use of Forest Areas and Alleged Unauthorised Garden Boundary Changes

Louise Mitchell informed the meeting that in sections of forest at Hill of Banchory and near Pantoch Drive, residents have allegedly been disposing of composting material, installing wood sheds and compost bins, extending garden boundaries into the forest and there is one report of the felling of a tree.

CLlr Eileen Durno and Harry McNab offered to meet Ms Mitchell onsite to see the issues described and determine the next course of action.

ACTION: CLLR DURNO AND HARRY MCNAB TO ARRANGE SITE MEETING

6. Approval of April Meeting's Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of 10 April were proposed by David Conroy and seconded by John Wills.

Matters Arising

6.1 Tree Preservation Orders - Bellswood

Following discussion a proposal made by a member of the public at April's meeting for a group of local residents to work with Aberdeenshire Council's Landscape Services department on the development of a management plan for treed areas at Bellswood was agreed. It is noted that this will be an independent group and is not affiliated with the Banchory Community Council.

ACTION: DAVID MILNER TO COMMUNICATE OUTCOME TO GROUP REPRESENTATIVE

6.2 Litter Bins in the High Street

Harry McNab informed the meeting that he had reviewed the Banchory Signage Project brief and litter bins were not included. This is to be confirmed with Lizzy Shepherd.

ACTION: HARRY MCNAB TO CONTACT LIZZY SHEPHERD

6.3 Use of Sports Village by School and Community Groups

It was agreed to revisit this at June's meeting when Banchory Academy Rector Judith Wight will be present.

6.4 Travellers at Bridge of Feugh

Mary Lennox advised the meeting both the local Police and Aberdeenshire Council had been contacted following reports of a travellers' camp at the Bridge of Feugh. The travellers have now moved on.

6.5 Bike Trails

Mary Lennox informed the meeting that a meeting to discuss the proposal for Bike Trails at Corsee Woods is to be held on Friday 12 May 2017.

7. Correspondence

6.1 Traffic Calming Measures at Crow's Nest Recycling Centre

Louise Cameron notified the meeting of a concern raised by our previous Councillor, Linda Clark, on the new speed restrictions installed at Crow's Nest. It is possible the speed bumps installed breach the maximum height restriction. Linda Clark has reported these concerns to Philip McKay, Head of Roads, Landscape and Waste Management Services at Aberdeenshire Council and a representative from Crow's Nest is to report back to the Council.

6.2 Coat of Arms

Mary Lennox advised the meeting that Prof. Gordon Walkden of the Banchory Heritage Society had offered to provide the Community Council with an explanatory paper on the proposal for a Banchory Coat of Arms. Mary Lennox explained she had asked for a copy of the paper and was awaiting a response.

6.3 Platties by River Dee

Mary Lennox informed the meeting that Prof. Walkden has raised concerns about further erosion of Platties Walkway, notably a lower section of the walkway is undermined and will likely collapse in the next flood.

ACTION: LOUISE CAMERON TO INFORM ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL OF THE LATEST DAMAGE

8. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer reported a bank balance of £.948.87

The current bank balances for Youth 2000 accounts are £4,228.35 and £545.82.

9. Banchory Community Fund

Lynn McNab informed the meeting there had been no activity regarding the Fund since April's meeting.

It was noted that the Banchory Skate Park Committee had chosen to delay applying for monies from the Fund until they had reached stage 2 of their project.

10. Banchory Community Action Plan

Mary Lennox updated the meeting on the final document, noting that it is near completion and once proof reading is finished will be sent to the printers.

Mary Lennox informed the meeting the launch event for the Plan is to be held on 27 June 2017 in the Burnett Arms Hotel at 7pm. The event will include speakers from groups who may lead some of the projects identified. This is an invitation only event.

11. Community Resilience Plan

David Conroy updated the meeting on the progress of the project. A detailed proposal is to be presented to the Community Council at June's meeting which, if approved, will allow the Plan to be covered by the Community Council's insurance policy. Once done the Plan can pass through final stages at Aberdeenshire Council and national level with a table top practice to identify any issues planned for the Summer break.

12. Keith White Award

John Wills briefed the meeting on the advertising undertaken for the Keith White Award 2017, noting that the closing date for nomination is Friday 19 May.

The two new Aberdeenshire Councillors present (Cllr Bruce and Cllr Durno) agreed to present the award at the River Festival on 10 June.

Vivika Kerridge offered to assist with the review of applications and John Wills is to contact the Banchory Lions to request their input.

ACTION: JOHN WILLS TO CONTACT LIONS RE REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

13. Youth 2000

John Wills reported to the meeting that he is waiting for the contractors to contact him with a date to start the work of painting the Youth 2000 shelters.

14. Community Council Representatives

13.1 Planning

Harry McNab advised the meeting of a planning application to convert two derelict buildings at the Braehead site into residential housing. Concern was raised that the proposed plans were an overdevelopment of the site.

Given the contentious location of this proposal it was agreed all Community Councils would review the planning proposals and report their views before the deadline of Friday 12 May 2017. A decision could then be made whether to submit an objection on behalf of Banchory Community Council.

ACTION: ALL TO REPORT VIEW ON BRAEHEAD CONVERSION PROPOSAL TO HARRY MCNAB

13.2 Banchory First Responders

David Milner reported that the recommended quota of defibrillators for Banchory had now been met. Furthermore enough monies remained for the maintenance of this equipment.

David Milner suggested a CPR demonstration session be arranged for Community Council members. All agreed.

ACTION: DAVID MILNER TO LIAISE WITH 1st RESPONDERS AND PROPOSE DATES FOR DEMONSTRATION SESSION

13.3 Community Safety Forum

As the previous Banchory Community Council representative on this group, Cllr Eileen Durno outlined the work undertaken by the Community Safety Forum.

Mary Lennox asked members to consider taking on the role of BCC representative.

15. Scheme of Establishment

Mary Lennox outlined the current status of the draft Scheme of Establishment. The draft presented to the full Aberdeenshire Council on 27 April was not passed with Councillors recommending a further six week Community Council consultation.

The latest draft was circulated to Community Councillors on 8 May and two meetings for this latest consultation are to be held in May, with written review comments also sought.

Mary Lennox requested all members review the latest draft and send their comments to Louise Cameron and herself for collation and submission.

ACTION: ALL TO REVIEW LATEST DRAFT OF SCHEME OF ESTABLISHMENT AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK

16. A.O.B

15.1 SSE Stakeholder Meeting

David Conroy informed the meeting that, in a personal capacity, he is to attend an SSE Stakeholder meeting later in the week. Noting that of particular interest to the Community Council is the provision of SSE grants to route certain power cables in the North East underground. An application to consider re-routing can be made via the SSE website with the key eligibility criteria being the current overhead lines are in a place of scenic interest; a National Park or have been awarded the status of 'special landscape' under the Local Development Plan.

15.2 Youth Representative

David Conroy advised that the local representative the Scottish Youth Parliament has been invited to attend the June meeting.

15.3 Cat Fouling

Mrs Watt expressed her dismay on the amount of cat fouling in her area, in particular her garden, and asked if the Community Council could assist.

It was agreed that Vivika Kerridge would contact the SSPCA and ask for their guidance.

ACTION: VIVIKA KERRIDGE TO CONTACT THE SSPCA

17. Date / Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Monday 12 June 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Banchory Academy Library.

Further information about many of the projects and events mentioned above can be found online at:

www.visitbanchory.com

www.facebook.com/pages/Banchory-Community-Council/606634609388296