

BANCHORY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Monday 14 November 2016

Banchory Academy Library

7.30pm

Present: Mary Lennox (Chair); Rebecca Glansbeek (Treasurer); Louise Cameron (Secretary); David Milner; Harry McNab; Lyn McNab; Sgt Willie Murdoch (Police Scotland)

Guest Speaker: John Aggasild

Apologies: Cllr Karen Clark; Cllr Linda Clark; Eileen Durno (Vice Chair); Nicola Kenyon; Vivika Kerridge; Corinne Ogilvie; Cllr Jill Webster

Members of Public: Ann Ross

1. Welcome and Apologies

Mary Lennox opened the meeting, welcomed guests and noted the apologies.

2. Police Report

Sgt Murdoch outlined the structure of policing in the Marr area and discussed Police staffing levels. Sgt Murdoch explained that priorities were set to match the manpower available.

Glen O'Dee Fire

Sgt Murdoch reported that the suspected perpetrators had been identified and referred to Youth Justice.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Noting that a spike in anti-social behaviour is often seen around Hallowe'en, Sgt Murdoch commented that although overall this year had not seen a significant increase some incidents had been reported. These included fireworks aimed at the Banchory Car Centre from Tillybrake Field a brick through a window at a property on Bredero Drive. The Police Schools Liaison Officer has distributed material at Banchory Academy aimed at targeting anti-social behaviour. Furthermore patrols around Hill of Banchory had also been increased.

Car Theft and Opportunistic Burglaries

Sgt Murdoch informed the meeting of recent thefts in the Banchory area. It is known that groups of suspected car thieves from Aberdeen target Banchory. Tactics are simply looking for unlocked cars on roads and driveways to trying for unlocked doors on homes for car keys near the entrance. Unsecured garages and sheds are also targeted. Advice remains to lock all doors and keep keys out of sight.

Assault of Taxi Driver

Banchory Community Council expressed its deep concern over a recent unprovoked attacked on a local taxi driver adding that all workers should feel safe at work.

Sgt Murdoch replied that it was a serious incident; the attacker had been caught and had pleaded guilty. All taxi drivers were aware of the incident and the possibility of imposing a ban on the perpetrator from the local pubs was being explored.

Vandalism at Hill of Banchory

Although Banchory Community Council had been made aware on non-specific incidences of damage to play parks at the Hill of Banchory, Sgt Murdoch confirmed that Aberdeenshire Council (owners of the play areas) had not reported any damage. However sites of concern at Hill of Banchory can be included in regular patrols if the problem persists.

Rebecca Glansbeek advised Sgt Murdoch of a small fire she had found while out walking. In woods near the junction of Hill of Banchory East and the Hirn Road, she had to call the fire brigade and asked what action was being taken to address this issue. Sgt Murdoch was aware of several small fires in the area and was working to address the issue.

Communication between Police Scotland and Banchory Community Council

Sgt Murdoch committed to providing the Community Council with a monthly report and advised that, where possible, he would attend the meetings. Furthermore, the Community Council can contact him with any specific concerns outside of the meetings in order for the Police to respond promptly.

3. Co-option of David Conroy/ Membership Issues

In line with the constitution, the co-option of David Conroy was duly advertised in the agenda. The meeting unanimously agreed to the co-option.

Mary Lennox explained a Community Councillor had been absent from meetings for some time but failed to submit apologies or ask for leave of absence. Despite several attempts to make contact with the individual no response had been received. Under the Scheme of Establishment this should be treated as a de facto resignation.

Mary Lennox notified the meeting she had approached the Marr Area Manager for guidance and been advised that although there is no specific procedure the matter should be raised at this meeting. In line with the recommendation from the Marr Area Manager, the meeting unanimously agreed that the Chair write to individual, reminding him of the Scheme of Establishment procedures, stating that we would wish to retain him as a member but that if no response to the letter was received by 5 December we would have no option but to declare a casual vacancy at our next meeting.

ACTION: MARY LENNOX TO WRITE TO ABSENTEE COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR

4. Councillors' Report

Although no Councillors were present to offer a report, the meeting discussed the Banchory Health Centre.

Mary Lennox informed the meeting that she had written to Mike Ogg of the Health and Social Care Partnership to ask as to the current status of a new Health Centre. Mr Ogg replied that the intention was to proceed but that the lead for the project had been off work for some time. He confirmed a new lead had now been appointed.

Harry McNab raised the point that as the Local Development Plan for 2016 has yet to be approved by the Reporter in Edinburgh, the zoning of the site at Silverbank for the new Health Centre has yet to be approved. Under the last Local Development Plan this site had been rejected by the Reporter due to objections raised.

5. Guest Speaker: John Aggasild of Banchory Signage Project

John Aggasild, Strategy Support Officer with Aberdeenshire Council has been working with the Banchory Town Team on the Banchory Signage Project. He explained that following an audit of all street furniture and signage, Banchory Signage Project has made a series of recommendations aimed at enhancing the town's identity. Covering 10 main areas from destination signage for visitors, interpretation and orientation boards and vehicles signs through to bins and lampposts the recommendations range from refreshing existing street furniture through to replacement or removal.

Feedback on the recommendations, by way of a short questionnaire, is now being sought from the public and details of all proposals will be placed in the Banchory Library from 18 November until 2 December.

Following the consultation it will be up to the Banchory Town Team to prioritise any changes the community wishes to make to street furniture and signage, the cost of which will be met through the Developer Obligations made by Tesco.

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

The minutes of 17 October 2016 were proposed by Harry McNab and seconded by David Milner.

Matters Arising

6.1 Arrangement for Banchory Community Council to liaise with local Police

See item 2: Police Report

6.2 Complaint of Speeding on Raemoir Road near junction with Upper Lochton

Louise Cameron informed the meeting that recent correspondence suggested Aberdeenshire Council Road Department plan to address this issue. Confirmation is not available so the matter will continue to be monitored.

6.3 River Dee Radio

Mary Lennox is to meet with a member of the River Dee Radio team to develop further the idea of a Community Council slot.

6.4 Ancestral Tourism

Louise Cameron notified the meeting she contacted BDI and that Jan Leatham, Banchory Town Coordinator was dealing with the matter. No further input is required from the Community Council.

6.5 Education Governance Review

Louise Cameron reported that no response had been received from Community Councillors to an email circulated in October requesting feedback for a Scottish Government project on various aspects of education. It was agreed the email would be circulated again and all members asked to consider if they wish to participate.

ACTION:

LOUISE CAMERON TO CIRCULATE DETAIL AGAIN

ALL TO CONSIDER ANY RESPONSE THEY WISH TO MAKE.

6.6 Community Resilience Plan

The meeting agreed to discuss as part of a training session on areas of responsibility

7. Correspondence

Winter Treatment of Path between Hillcroft Road and Mount Street

Louise Cameron reported that a member of the public had contacted the Community Council to ask if any assistance from Aberdeenshire Council could be sought for clearing the path and lane between Hillcroft Road and Mount Street in the winter. The path has recently been upgraded by Banchory Paths Association and, after consulting with them, it was established that the surface of the path is not suitable for clearing and gritting.

With regards to the lane, the meeting was informed that roads and lanes not adopted by Aberdeenshire Council are the responsibility of the adjacent home owners. It was suggested that the home owners could employ a local contractor to clear the lane.

ACTION: LOUISE CAMERON TO INFORM MEMBER OF PUBLIC OF FINDINGS

8. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer reported a balance of £4,083.86, of which £1,000 is to be paid to the Banchory Sports Village in respect of a grant from the Banchory Community Fund (Mid Hill Wind Farm monies) and £328 represents cheques written but not yet cashed.

The current bank balances for Youth 2000 accounts are £4,227.13 and £545.82.

9. Mid Hill Wind Farm

Rebecca Glansbeek informed the meeting that the sub-committee had been unable to review an application from River Dee Radio for £1,530 as of the 5 sub-committee members, 2 were on a leave of absence and 2 had a conflict of interest. Consequently the Banchory Community Council Office Bearers had undertaken the first review and recommended the application for approval.

The meeting then unanimously agreed to recommend the application to Mid Hill for approval.

Rebecca Glansbeek reported the Office Bearers had agreed the composition of the sub-committee must be changed to prevent this from occurring in the future. Mary Lennox asked the recently appointed Community Councillors to consider whether they would wish to join the sub-committee and whether they know of anyone who may wish to join as a representative of the Banchory Community.

Rebecca Glansbeek explained to the meeting that a smaller number of applications than had been expected were received. One reason proposed for this was that the level of detail and complexity of the guidelines and application form was deterring smaller groups. The Office Bearers therefore agreed to revise the documentation and a first re-draft had been completed. A meeting to progress this will be held in due course and any Community Councillors interested in participating should notify Louise Cameron. Lyn McNab volunteered to join the sub-committee.

ACTION:

**ALL TO CONSIDER IF WISH TO JOIN SUB-COMMITTEE & IF SO TO ADVISE LOUISE CAMERON
ALL TO CONSIDER POTENTIAL BANCHORY RESIDENTS TO JOIN SUB-COMMITTEE**

10. Notice Board

Harry McNab informed the meeting that he had submitted a planning application for an L-shaped notice board, noting that the Planner he spoke with agreed that, if granted, this can be done as a two step process i.e. a replacement board with the later addition of an L shape.

The confusion with the various quotes has arisen from communication issues with the proposed supplier, Loftus Signs. Rebecca Glansbeek advised the meeting she is to meet with the managing director of Loftus to discuss the design again and resolve the confusion. It was agreed Harry McNab will also attend this meeting, notwithstanding prior diary commitments.

11. Banchory Community Action Plan

Mary Lennox informed the meeting that Roisin Daly, Marr Area Partnership, is preparing an initial draft of the Action Plan. This draft will be discussed at the next Banchory Community Action Plan meeting on 6 December 2016. After which the draft will be circulated to Banchory Community Councillors.

Alison Ritchie, Community and Learning Development, is preparing a profile of Banchory to be inserted at the start of the Action Plan. She wishes to address the December meeting of the Community Council to discuss the profile. All agreed to this request.

ACTION: MARY LENNOX TO INVITE ALISON RITCHIE TO ADDRESS MEETING IN DECEMBER

12. Community Council Representatives

12.1 Planning

a. Braehead

Appeal has been dismissed by the Reporter

b. Other

Mary Lennox advised the meeting that none of the recent planning applications required the attention of the Community Council.

It was agreed Louise Cameron would contact Aberdeenshire Council and arrange for Harry McNab, as Banchory Community Council's Representative for Planning, to be added to the weekly email notifying Community Councils of planning applications in the Marr Area.

ACTION: LOUISE CAMERON TO ADD HARRY MCNAB TO PLANNING LIST EMAIL

12.2 Community Learning and Development

A training session for the Banchory Community Councillors is to be held on 5 December 2016, where the topic to discuss will be areas of responsibilities.

12.3 B.D.I

Nothing to report

12.4 Banchory Sports Village (BSV)

As at 31 October 2016, £665,000 of the required £700,000 had been raised and fund raising continues.

More details can be found at www.banchorysportsvillage.co.uk

12.5 Banchory First Responders (Defibrillators)

Rebecca Glansbeek reported that the Banchory First Responders had received their first call out to a cardiac arrest, improving the patient's condition prior to the arrival of the paramedics.

12.6 Community Safety Forum

Nothing to report

12.7 Banchory Community Sports Centre Stakeholders' Meeting

The next meeting is on 23 November 2016 at 7pm.

13. A.O.C.B

It was noted that following the closure of the Deeside Indoor Sports Centre (D.I.S.C), the premises near the Tor-na-Coille are to be converted to a gym run by Ben Kilner.

14. Date / Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Monday 12 December 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