

MINUTES OF SPEYSIDE AREA FORUM HELD ON 16/06/09

Held At the Cottage Rothes

1. Present:

Alex Buxton	Archiestown Village Council
Jim Hart	Archiestown Village Council
Sandy Henderson	Aberlour Community Association (Chair)
Jim Anderson	Speyside Council
Margaret Stuart	Rothes Council
John G Fleming	Dufftown
Derek T Clark	Glenrinnes Community Centre
Rob Lewin	Glenrinnes Community Centre

In Attendance:

John Ferguson	The Moray Council
Cllr Pearl Paul	The Moray Council /Rothes Council
Cllr Michael McConachy	The Moray Council
Cllr Fiona Murdoch	The Moray Council

Apologies:

Linda Adam	The Moray Council
Eleanor McIntosh	Glenlivet
Dorothy Dunbar	Edinvillie
Andrea Fuller	Edinvillie
Heather Shaw	The Moray Council

2. Minutes of the last meeting

With an amendment on page 2 of the minute that this should read Moray Council rather than BEAR Scotland. This was proposed as an accurate record of the last meeting by Cllr Paul and seconded by John Fleming

3. Matters Arising

Youth facilities , there is report on the agenda but Pearl Paul reported that Sheila Brundy was trying to set up a meeting that would include Robin Weeden to discuss the facility in Rothes .Pearl Paul will continue to investigate. The cost of a toilet for the facility could be around £2,000 and funding needed to be found Cash back for Kids was mentioned John said he would circulate information on the fund.

A report was given on Mrs Binks campaign around the lack of child play facilities for children with disabilities

There was a discussion on the Car share scheme and the lack of finance received from the NHS. It was felt that this was an issue that had to be raised through the Community Planning Partnership as there was a strategic need for transport for the elderly and infirm in such a rural area. This valuable service could be lost because of lack of funding. There was a discussion around their request to community associations for funding. Sandy Henderson will take this up with the Patients Participation Forum.

Councillors Paul, Murdoch and McConachy will arrange a meeting around the transport issue. Dial a Bus and its relationship to the service was also raised.

4. Community Engagement Fund Consultation

John outlined the proposal contained in the paper sent out to forums and Community Councils. There was an extensive discussion about the role, function and boundaries of Community Councils. Speyside had the ideal set up with the community associations and the Speyside Council. The area forum now fulfilled that function. Speyside has no Community Councils and will receive less money except through option 3 as outlined in the paper. Per capita seems the fairest way but it was suggested that a formula for population density should be considered as it is easier for more urban areas to fundraise, but more dispersed rural areas struggle. It was also suggested that the money could be divided equally by wards. There was a discussion on the administration needed by groups and that we needed to take a realistic look at what was needed. The discussion on the consultation was raised as forum members were concerned that community associations had not been included in the consultation on the new scheme. John will arrange for Community Associations to be sent the documentation.

5. Update on projects

Craigellachie Playpark

No further news at this stage

Glenallachie Water supply

John gave a brief report back on the situation. Residents attended a positive meeting with Chivas (Glenallachie owners) last Thursday together with 2 reps from Edinville Community Hall Council.

Chivas have confirmed that they are under no legal obligation to supply the water and can cut the water supply at any time. They are also not responsible for the repair of any defective pipe work and will not repair them should an issue arise. They also undertake no liability for the "quality or quantity of water".

Chivas have stated they will pay the Scottish Water connection charge for all 12 residents - approx £650.00 per property.

They have also obtained a quote for the pipe work to connect all 12 properties i.e. from water mains to stopcock at house. Quote is £5,889.00 + VAT in total (previous individual quotes were at least £1,500 per property). Chivas will obtain a split in quote - a) from water main to pavement & b) pavement to property. This is because a Council grant (min 50% contribution) is available for the work between the pavement & stopcock. This will obviously reduce the costs to individual residents.

Chivas want all residents to go onto mains water - it is the intention that the distillery will go onto mains "shortly".

They had a "positive" meeting but are obtaining breakdown in quotes/alternative quotes for the plumbing work and we will then have a further meeting with the residents.

Youth Update

A report from Robin Weeden was distributed and it was noted that it was good to see a good level of youth work happening in Speyside.

Traffic Calming/ Aberlour and Dufftown

There was a discussion around traffic calming issues. Elected members will write to follow this up with the Moray Council. The issue is being raised at a meeting with BEAR about traffic calming. It was felt that Aberlour desperately needs a crossing, but they have been told that it is not busy enough.

6. Community issues

There was an issue raised about equipment and its insurance raised for groups who hold fetes and galas all over Speyside. Insurance on bouncy castles is becoming extreme and it is expensive to hire. It was suggested that if the forum could find a collective solution and that a group of organisations could purchase equipment that could be shared. It was agreed that the forum would investigate having a pool of equipment and that the forum would look at other areas to see if this is being done.

Archiestown are having a fete this Saturday and invited other forums to attend

7. Correspondence

Copies of the consultation on amendments to the opening hours for District registrars offices was distributed and groups were invited to respond

8. Any Other Competent Business

£200 of Area Forum funds will be used to match a grant application, if successful, to the Scottish Community foundation for a Midnight Football League in Speyside.

9. Date and time of next meeting

August 18th at 7.30pm in the Fleming Hall, Aberlour.

The AGM will be held on September 15th at 7.30pm in the Fleming Hall, Aberlour. **(Please note change of venue for AGM)**