

Speyside Forum

Minutes of meeting at Dufftown Memorial Hall following the AGM
on Tuesday 10 November 2015

Present : Sandy Henderson (chair), Bill Burgess (Vice-chair), Hugh Fraser (Treasurer), Fiona Toovey (Secretary), John Shewan, Jenny Herschell, Patricia Grant, Jean Oliver, Patti Nelson, Eleanor Candy, Rob Lewin, Bunty Campbell, Jean Grimshaw, Charlie Alexander, Michelle Myron, Michelle Ness

Apologies : Cllr Fiona Murdoch, Cllr Pearl Paul, Ian Catto (Foundation Scotland), Tricia Lawson

In Attendance: Cllr Mike McConnachie, PC Ian Dorman (Police Scotland)

1. Minute of Meeting 8 September 2015 at Cabrach accepted – Proposed Bill Burgess, Seconded Jean Oliver
2. Matters Arising from above Minutes:
 - a. Dufftown Post Office – continuing 2 days/week from Chemist
 - b. Mobile Royal Bank – Patricia Grant and Bill Burgess asked for it to be noted that there did not seem to be enough time allowed for customers and perhaps the bank had misinterpreted the requirement and basing the service on footfall when comparing with an urban branch.
 - c. Biomass Road Improvements by Macallan now completed. Cllr McConnachie mentioned that a stacking lane and turn off lane will be installed at the Macallan turn off.
3. Minute of Meeting 30 September 2015 at Dufftown accepted – Proposed Bill Burgess, Seconded Eleanor Candy.
4. No outstanding matters arising from above minutes (as discussed at AGM earlier this evening)
5. Treasurers Report circulated - £3,582.33 balance at 8 September 2015.
6. Police Matters
 - a. PC Ian Dorman presented a report which showed that crime in area had been constant.
 - b. There has recently been a spate of thefts from motor vehicles with many positive leads - all urged not to leave valuables on display.
 - c. Other crimes were tools, plant & machinery, clothing, cash.
 - d. On Traffic there has been increased policing with 2 drink drivers and some speeders apprehended.
 - e. To contact police ring 101 (non Urgent), or 999 if crime is Urgent
 - f. Hugh commented that he had received a poor response recently when rang 101. Bill mentioned he had heard they were looking like remedying their recent centralisation & indicators were they were reverting to the Grampian region.
 - g. Hugh also noted that the present system of chasing fines was very costly with little success
 - h. Jean Oliver mentioned that felt the timber lorries were driving too fast for the road conditions on the A941 at Cabrach and there had been a number of near misses. Concern expressed that it may require an accident before any action taken. Bill mentioned that the speed restrictions in Archiestown have helped and this may be an option. It was noted that best approach would be to Council roads department.

7. Dorenell
 - a. Jean Oliver wanted it noted and expressed grave concern that Infinergy appeared to be backtracking on requirements of Access Management Plan in their amended windfarm application which has presently been passed from Moray Council to Scottish Government.
 - b. Mike McConnachie stressed that the Council have not approved the amended plans but decided not to waste money contesting them. He added that all requirements within the approved plan would remain.
 - c. Jean added that in the initial plan it was suggested that community benefit would be £2k/MW – with the going rate now being £5k/MW, and on top of this Infinergy would provide a warden for the visitors centre, maintain the paths and improve various properties on the estate.
 - d. It was asked if the windfarm would be going ahead. Mixed response but general consensus was probably yes.
8. Other community Issues
 - a. Aberlour – delays on the roadworks seem to be worse. Scottish Water not starting until New Year and works anticipated to last until March (weather permitting)
 - b. Cheque to be paid to Mortlach for hall hire
9. Community Asset Transfers
 - a. Aberlour – awaiting paperwork, plan is for it to go through 1 Jan. Also issue with landscaping needed of park as it is so poached – two summers lost, very disappointing for the village.
10. Any Other Competent Business
 - a. Patti suggested that Speyside Forum could do a calendar as a revenue stream. Comment made that didn't want to step on toes of Cllr Paul who already does one.
 - b. Spirit of Speyside whisky festival – holding event in Elgin next year
 - c. Gas – Bill mentioned that a recent meeting with Fulcrum at Carron where they were offering gas connections between Esquibuie and Knockando. Costs vary but in region of £2k-4k depending on road crossings etc.
 - d. Moray Transport Forum – meeting on 21 Nov at Lhanbryde
 - e. Moray Federation of Village Halls – AGM Nov at Roseisle Village Hall
 - f. Public Services Consultations – happening throughout Moray with a meeting at Dufftown 11 Nov.
11. Next Meeting – 12 January 2016, 7.30pm at the Cottage, Rothies