



Speyside Area Forum  
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**Minutes, Kirkmichael and Tomintoul Community Hall, Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012, 7.30 pm**

**1. Welcome and Apologies:** Sandy Henderson welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies were received from John Fleming and Mable Donald. Attending: Sandy Henderson, Chairman, Hugh Fraser, Treasurer, Clls Fiona Murdoch, Mike McConnachie and Pearl Paul, The Moray Council; William Burgess, Carron Community Association, Andrea Fuller and Patricia Shanks, Edinville Community Hall Council; Patricia Grant and Jenny Herschell, Kirkmichael and Tomintoul Community Association; Jean Grimshaw and Margaret Stuart, Rothes Council; Rita Marks, Glenlivet and Inveravon Community Association; Jean Oliver, Speyside Paths Network Group; PC Andy Main, Grampian Police; Martin Sheed and Debbie Smith, Cabrach Community Enterprise;

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Dufftown, March 2012):** Proposed Andrea Fuller, Seconded Rita Marks.

**3. Matters Arising:** Correction: Jean Grimshaw reports on the Update on Community Groups the Grant Hall, Rothes.

Cllr Fiona Murdoch asked Eileen Fitzpatrick, Secretary to arrange for the Minutes, which consequently need to be more succinct, to be included on [www.undiscoveredspeyside.org](http://www.undiscoveredspeyside.org). Cllr Murdoch was congratulated upon her appointment as Chair of the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee.

**Plants – The Moray Council:** Discussions are ongoing regarding the costs and arrangements for collecting plants.

**Olympic Torch:** Members discussed which groups would be included in the specially formed choir to welcome the Olympic Torch through Tomintoul, and Cllr Fiona Murdoch listed the towns which are providing choir members. Forum members were concerned about the apparent lack of co-ordination and communication regarding this event.

**Speyside Community Website:** Bob Fuller, Webmaster has the site up and running. It will need to be kept updated by Forum members. Following a discussion about website content and links it was initially decided upon Diary of Events with content provided by Forum members and Places to Eat, and local B&Bs which Bob Fuller will kindly research as well as a link to the Crime Breakdown Monthly from Grampian Police. It would be good to have the Quarterly Local Policing Report on the site. A Bob Fuller will arrange links for Cllrs Pearl Paul and Mike McConnachie. Cllr Pearl Paul would like a link to the Rothesian newspaper site and Rita Marks to Thistle-down. Hugh Fraser said there could be links with local businesses which could be sponsored, raising income for site maintenance. Reciprocal links could be investigated with Glenfiddich and Macallan Distilleries. It was agreed to let the site run for about six months and then Bob Fuller, Webmaster could contact site listings regarding links and possible charges.

**4. Police Matters:** PC Andy Main gave the latest Community Councils Local Policing Report. He also spoke about an incident recently involving an elderly man and bogus workmen in Keith. Police have increased their patrols in areas with a history of vandalism and where property is damaged and not repaired it is more likely to be hit again. PC Andy Main was reassured by the general support (with reservations regarding its practical organisation e.g. parking) for the Olympic Torch event.

**5. Update from Community Groups:**

**Aberlour:** Hugh Fraser was disappointed at the lack of response so far from Aberlour regarding catering and other matters for their Bicentenary weekend.

**Glenlivet and Inveravon:** Queen's Jubilee - Open/Fun/Fete/Gala Day at Ballindalloch Castle, 10.30am, Sunday 3 June. Many events and attractions. On Monday 4 June 2012 a beacon will be lit on Ben Rinnes - part of the National beacon Chain. Inveravon School are having a Jubilee Garden Party on 29 May; visitors are requested to wear a hat! Four commemorative trees have been planted in the Community area; one at each of the schools (Glenlivet and

Inveravon) one at Ballindalloch War Memorial and one at Glenlivet Hall. The hall will host a lunch on the 30th June for the Highland Show Society. Preparations are under way for the 9th tea in the Park 1 August to 2 September.

**Kirkmichael and Tomintoul:** The Tomintoul Regeneration Trust has been recently formed, and the Forum will be kept updated.

In future Forum members agreed that they will email their updates to Bob Fuller, Webmaster [bobfuller@madasafish.com](mailto:bobfuller@madasafish.com) for the Forum's website [www.undiscoveredspeyside.org](http://www.undiscoveredspeyside.org) .

**6.Treasurer's Report:** Hugh Fraser, Treasurer reported that the bank balance as at year end 30<sup>th</sup> April was £2,837.42, plus £999.25 Moray Council Grant = £3,836.67. John Ferguson, The Moray Council in response to a query from Hugh Fraser regarding accountability, advised that we should provide an annual report to OSCR standard. Cllr Pearl Paul will research the Forum's Constitution for further clarification.

#### **7.Community Issues:**

- Following a discussion on transport matters, particularly concerning the cancellation of bus services in Tomintoul, Cllr Murdoch advised that rural transport is one of her priority issues and she will address this.
- Sandy Henderson was concerned that the Forum was not invited to the recent meeting of the Transport Forum.

**8.Correspondence:** A letter has been received regarding the proposed Biomass plant at Craigellachie Wood, from Estover Energy – Sandy Henderson expressed concerns, shared by many, about increased lorry traffic, issues relating to the cutting down of trees, and future sustainability. He will write to the Chief Executive.

**9.AOCB:** There was no other business.

Members appreciated the use of Kirkmichael and Tomintoul Community Hall for their meeting.

**Date and Venue of Next meeting:** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at The Acorn, Cabrach Community Enterprise Ltd

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*Eileen Fitzpatrick*

*Secretary*