



## Speyside Area Forum

[www.undiscoveredspeyside.org](http://www.undiscoveredspeyside.org)

Meeting  
Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
Aberlour, 7.30 p.m.

### 1. Welcome

Sandy Henderson welcomed everybody to the Meeting.

**Present:** Sandy Henderson (Friends of Feming Hospital), Hugh Fraser (Aberlour Community Association), Andrea Fuller (Edinvillie), Margaret Grant (Edinvillie), Patricia Grant (Tomintoul), Jenny Herschell (Tomintoul), Patti Nelson (Cabrach), Jean Grimshaw (Rothies)

**In attendance:** Cllr Ross, Ian Todd (Moray Council), Ewen McIntosh Scottish Fire & Rescue

### 2. Apologies

George Mackenzie (Aberlour Community Association), Brenda Cooper (Craigellachie), Jane Tweedie (Craigellachie), Charlie Alexander (Knockando), Pearl Paul (Rothies), Fiona Toovey (Glenlivet), Tricia Lawson (Glenlivet), Jim Hart (Archiestown), Cllr Laing.

### 3. Minutes of meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Proposed: Hugh Fraser, Seconded Patricia Grant

### 4. Matters Arising

- a) Speyside Car Share Scheme – no update from Pearl – agreed to delete. It was noted that they are now very short of drivers (is only one in Tomintoul area).
- b) GDRP – Ian Todd to action. Carried forward.
- c) Speyside Map project – Ian Todd has provided A4 size boundary map of Speyside ASG. Hugh reported not all communities had responded to his email requesting input. Patti to approach Dufftown & District CA, Andrea to email Rothies, Knockando, Carron & Glenrinnies requesting information to be supplied within 2 week period. Hugh to progress working group – 2 x representatives from Speyside Visitor Centre, 1 x Tomintoul rep and Patti.

### 5. Police Matters

It was noted that there was no representation from Police Scotland.

### 6. SFRS Update

Ewen McIntosh advised that they were focusing on a number of areas:

- a) Wildfires – SFRS are speaking to schools, landowners etc regarding “burning”. An electronic copy of the Muirburn Code to be distributed.
- b) Speyside High School – an event day will take place providing an introduction to pupils in terms of driving skills (all types of vehicles)
- c) Fire safety talks – focus is on cooking safety procedures

SFRS will also carry out fire safety visits and fit smoke detectors free of charge.

Local recruitment underway in Speyside area.

SFRS can also provide “water safety” talks given their involvement in water “rescues”.

SFRS were thanked for their input and their commitment to attendance at Forum meetings.

### 7. Treasurer’s Report

Previously circulated. Account stands at £4,786.66 but are approximately £260 expenses to be paid. The Forum grant for 2018/19 has been received – the current position with regards to 2019/20 remains unclear.

Report: Approved Patricia Grant, Seconded Jenny Herschell

### 8. Budget Issues

Toilets: Aberlour will continue to receive some financial support and also janitorial costs/supplies for a further year. It was believed that Craigellachie would also receive this benefit but as no representatives were present, this could not be confirmed.

Cllr Ross requested the support of Aberlour representatives for a local initiative he was trying to arrange.

Cllr Ross wishes to hold separate meetings with Dufftown, Tomintoul, Rothes and Craigellachie in order to identify any potential ways forward in terms of maintaining toilets in these communities. He would like to arrange 4 meetings – to include representatives from Aberlour, Moray Speyside Tourism and Moray Council (possible Estates Dept). Aberlour confirmed their willingness to assist; Cllr Ross to progress.

The Forum appreciated that “balancing the books” was difficult however members felt that Moray Council had not inspired confidence amongst communities/residents given the number of decision which were subsequently reversed/amended.

#### **9. Update from Councillors.**

No updates were received from either Cllr Laing or Wilson.

Cllr Ross updated the Forum regarding the number and size of windfarm applications being considered in the Speyside/Forres areas. A general discussion ensued and concern was expressed regarding the size of turbines being proposed at Rothes III.

#### **10. Transport Update**

LEADER project: update given. In order to progress match funding applications the Forum granted consent for the sub-group to pursue any avenue of funding which could be used to support this project. This included continuing discussion with Fred. Olsen Renewables as well as the other potential partners in this project. Andrea acknowledged the importance of the letters of support which had been received from local community groups, businesses and other organisations. She was hopeful that a further update could be provided to the Forum at the next meeting however she reminded members that pursuing an application to LEADER was a long process.

#### **11. Community Issues and updates from Community Groups**

Aberlour: Progress is being made in terms of taking out a long lease for the Alice Littler Park.

Cabrach: It is hoped that the Visitor Centre will be handed over to the Trust by the end of June 2019.

Tomintoul: The feasibility of creating an observatory at Carn Daimh is under discussion.

It is hoped that the community will be in a position to hold a Treasure Hunt – updates to follow.

General Discussions:

a) Concern was expressed about the usage of the electric bus. Andrea agreed to liaise with Moray Council and request an update.

b) Speyside Way – it was noted that Moray Council had been undertaking “hedge trimming” along the Speyside Way (and within many communities). Concern was expressed about the savagery of the cutting process. Cllr Ross agreed to ascertain if it was financially viable for Moray Council to establish means by which revenue could be earned following the removal of trees/branches along the Speyside Way/other areas of Moray.

c) Recent report on photocopying charges at Inveravon School. It was acknowledged that these costs probably related to lease/hire of the equipment however concern was expressed at the need to allocate such expenses against a school which was not currently in use.

#### **12. AOCB**

A presentation was made to Jean Grimshaw who is moving away from the area. Members acknowledged her many years of support for the Forum and wished her and her husband every happiness in their new home.

#### **8. Dates of Next Meeting**