

Bennachie Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on 22 January 2024

St Drostans, Inch.

1. **Present** – Andy Miller (Chair and Oyne), Wally Rhodes (Treasurer/Leslie), Frank Musgrave (Oyne), Sheena Lonchay (Insch), Janette Taylor (Insch), Alan Simpson (Leslie), Kevin Shand (Culsalmond), Cllr Moray Grant.

Apologies – Sharon Duncan & Wilma McIntosh (Rayne)

2. **Approval of the Minute of 27 November 2023** – Previous minutes proposed by Mark Worsley, seconded by Frank Musgrave.
3. **Police Report:** Previously circulated. No response received to date on concerns regarding lack of informed reporting of incidents.
4. **Presentation by Correen and Suie Hills Windfarm Information Group:** Chris Hamlet Chair of the group (CaSHWIG) provided information and answered questions on the proposal for large turbines which would be visible from a considerable distance.

Hill of Fare Windfarm Discussion – The number of turbines and size of windfarm has been reduced slightly but they are still over 200m tall. No comment was agreed from BCC as does not have such a large impact on our area and we will follow its progress with interest as a forerunner to the above.

5. **BCC Business:**

- a) **Finance:** Current balance stands at £2200. We have received funds from the Area Initiative Fund for the IT for St Drostans and newsletter, so the projected end of March figure is £2884. Area Funds will cover the next 2 newsletters. Sponsorship will be explored after the next 2 editions of the newsletter at £275 per edition.
- b) **Insurance:** - Aberdeenshire Council had previously arranged insurance centrally for Community Councils and deducted it from our grant. A change of procedure is now required whereby from 1 April we must organize insurance ourselves and the council will reimburse us. Wally to action. A query about insurance cover for volunteers especially with regard to resilience was raised.
- c) **Newsletter and Social Media:** A newsletter will not go out before Christmas in future years as people are too busy to read it. Posts on sandbags get lots of views. Premnay has requested their sandbags replenished. Lots of comments on bin collections. There was a mop up bin collection in Inch after the bad weather but there was no publicity. The Aberdeenshire app is very informative. Some places are getting their bin schedules changed and there is publicity about this.
- d) **Resilience Plans:** - Positive responses from Oyne, Chapel of Garioch, Bennachie Leisure Centre were received to be a “safe space”. No response yet from Wartle, Durno and Premnay. Janette to contact Resilience Team to ask engineers to assess halls to see what they require to become resilience hubs. Resilience activities should be covered under hall insurance – check. BLC is 99% owned by themselves, Oyne is owned by the council.

- e) There was flooding on 27 December in Premnay. 6 people came for sandbags. Flooding outside Morrisons of Inch. The Fire Service helped. Gadie Burn burst its banks.
- f) Meikle Wartle and Durno had significant snow. Chapel of Garioch surrounds power was off for a day and the hall was opened in the morning for an hour as the village had power.

6. **Transport:-**

- a) A96 corridor review has been delayed for one more year. FM questions confirmed the government is still committed to Inverness – Nairn.
- b) Area Bus Forum – December 7th. Frank attended. Very good meeting. There was a Stagecoach presentation only with no other operators present, then input from council officials. This was followed by answers to the questions which had to be put in advance. There were no questions from BCC area. About 80 people attended.

7. **BCC Subgroups:**

- a) **HSCP Subgroup** Friends of Inch Hospital are currently exploring exciting possibilities. They are looking the building options. The family owners of Nurse Macdonald's house are keen to bequeath it to the community. The family are based in the Netherlands where they have innovative techniques for respite care for older people with dementia. The Friends would like a public meeting organised by BCC to get a consensus on the way ahead [for BCC, GP practice and the HSCP](#).
- b) GP practice will have a meeting with HSCP on Thursday 25 January, following the BCC meeting with HSCP. BCC will hold a premeeting Zoom at 7pm on Tuesday 23 January.
- c) Maud wellbeing visit – this was very informative but the main take aways are that: HSCP would need to come forward with specific proposals tailored to Inch including Mental Health services. Maud are in a similar position to Inch regarding a need to access community beds.
- d) **Community Action Plan (& LPP):** An initial zoom meeting was held on Tuesday 16 January and a draft note and survey produced. **Action** Andy to circulate survey. A further subgroup meeting is arranged with Jacky Niven on 8 February to finalise the community survey. The aim is to widely promote this to engage with the whole community in the process and get more people involved in the delivery of agreed actions. Will need funds for the consultation stage and hope to access grants for this stage. Friends of Inch Hospital have requested to join the subgroup and this was agreed.

- 8. **Aberdeenshire Council:** Cllr Grant reported main concerns are bins and the condition of the roads. Garioch Area meeting – money has been allocated to Leslie burial ground and St Drostan's Church.

- 9. **Chapel of Garioch** – The hall was used for the first time as a resilience venue due to power cut on Monday 22 January. There are some R100 connection problems and Mark has communicated with Jack Rigby but no progress. **Action** Cllr Grant to chase. Problems with large potholes where water has been unable to drain from roads. **Action** Cllr Grant to chase.

10. **Culsalmond** – Bins were not collected and when people reported this but there is no response from Waste Services. The Community Centre have communicated with Aberdeenshire Council about the future of the centre and await a response.
11. **Leslie** - Nothing to report.
12. **Oyne** – The recycling point at Archaeolink is still in operation thanks to the cooperation of the Developer and an alternative location to the rear of the village hall is being considered. Oyne Community Association next meeting is on Thursday 1 February at SMILE where they will look at the CAP 2022-2025. DTAS are to review current village structures to see if they are fit for the future.
13. **Premnay**- Flooding issues occurred due to a blocked drain by the crossroads nearly flooded 3 houses. The village has requested a new supply of sandbags. A similar story was at Insch and Oyne caused by lack of maintenance on drains.
14. **Rayne**: Flooding of properties, carpark, playing field entrance etc continues. AC came with a jetter, needless to say that didn't work. Therefore, we still await the digging up of blocked flexicoil drain and replacement with solid pipe. **Action** Cllr Grant to progress.
15. **Insch**: Query regarding requesting a grit bin on the path through the estate. Cllr Grant responded that this can be done online. **Action** Andy has called past several times to see to contact Stuart Rennie's wife about a commemorative item to no avail. AM to follow up.
16. **Planning**: No comments were received about the monthly applications:

- Ref. No: APP/2024/0077 - Erection of 2 Dwellinghouses and Formation of Vehicular Access - Site West To Lynwood Chapel Of Garioch Inverurie Aberdeenshire. - No comment
- Ref. No: APP/2024/0050 Alterations and Extension to Switch Room Primary Substation Insch Aberdeenshire. | No Comment
- Ref. No: APP/2024/0041 Site At Mains Of Glack Daviot Inverurie. This is to be discussed via email and a comment made by the deadline.
- Ref. No: APP/2023/2357 - Erection of 4 Storage Sheds (Class 6) Site To South Of Muirhead House Muiryheadless Road Insch Business Park Insch AB52 6TS No Comment.
- Ref. No: APP/2023/2343 -Erection of Dwellinghouse and Garage: Land At Little Lediken Insch AB52 6UA | No Comment

The timetable for the next local development plan will be out on 5 February. Various papers will be sent out for comment.

17. **Date of next meeting Monday 26th February at 7 St Drostans Hall, Insch.**