



## Minutes of the meeting in at St Drostan's Hall, Inch

on Thursday 29 August 2024

**1. Present:** – Andy Miller (Chair and Oyne), Wally Rhodes (Treasurer and Leslie), Wilma McIntosh (Rayne), Wilma McIntosh (Rayne), Frank Musgrave (Oyne), Mark Worsley and Lynda Bain (Chapel of Garioch), Kevin Shand (Culsalmond), Councilor Moray Grant

Members of public:

Apologies – Janette Taylor (Inch), Sheena Lonchay (Inch)

**2. Approval of the Previous Minutes:** Proposed by Kevin Shand, seconded by Frank Musgrave.

**3. Police Report** – no police report. **Action** Andy to chase by email.

### 4. BCC Business

- **Finance** – documents will be passed to Alison Cumming 30.8.24 to enable BCC to get grant of £1300. Anticipated spend – BCC laptop upgrade and survey for Correen Wind Farm (£40).
- **Resilience** – Janette forwarded all the halls in area which were not owned by council the SSE grant information and other applicable grant info. Any halls seeking funding were signposted to members who filled out the Chapel of Garioch grant application. The resilience info is now uploaded on the BCC website.
- **Newsletter** –. Janette applied for a grant to cover a year's costs of the BCC newsletter for a year. Glens of Foudland Windfarm Trust has kindly approved to fund this, with our thanks. The next newsletter goes out at the end of September, so submissions need to be in by Friday 20th.
- **Social media** - Information about some Stagecoach services ceasing and A2B changes including a more direct route from Inch to Huntly and one from Inch to Inverurie have been posted. The Council PTU confirmed they cannot influence Stagecoach on these commercial routes.
- **Website** – The website is being updated website with the latest minutes and agendas.

### 5. Roads and Transport:

- Janette is working with Inverurie Events on the technical specification for Christmas lights for Inch. Friends of Inch Hospital have noted an interest of supporting this project. Only 4 lamp posts are serviceable for LED lights and Cllr Grant agreed to query why there are so few in Inch and follow this up.
- Oyne and Logie Durno Hall car parks need repair. It was suggested relocating the recycling bins at Logie Durno to the entrance to limit traffic to the end of car park could help.
- There has been an improvement in the number of potholes repaired in the area.

## 6. BCC subgroups:

- **HSCP Group meeting update –**
  - AHSCP meeting was held in May and a constructive relationship seemed to be the main outcome. However, Alex Pirie of HSCP has withdrawn from subsequent meetings. HSCP have a £20 million shortfall this year.
  - Friends of Insch Hospital are holding a car rally on 1<sup>st</sup> September.
  - Frank has asked NHS Grampian about progress towards a new build. There has been a care home closure at Oldmeldrum. 12 people have moved to Bennachie Care Home in Inverurie. Places are being sought for the remaining residents. Cutbacks in opening hours have taken place at Huntly, Fraserburgh and Peterhead Minor Injuries Units now open 9.30am till 6pm.
  - BCC potentially could form a working group with Banff Care Home action group and Huntly MIU action group to raise awareness of rural health needs. BCC queried process and consultation on cutbacks and whether this was worth our effort? Money should be spent on actions to treating people and less on consulting / non-clinical staff time. The consensus view was, “Just try something to improve the health position of our area and cut out the crap”. There seems to be little ability to make progress if AHSCP stumble from one crisis to another. BCC remains frustrated by the lack of progress over the past 2 years on agreed outcomes.
  - Huntly Dental Practice is expanding with 3000 new NHS places.
- **Bennachie Area Community Action Plan –** Jacky Niven is working on the final report. Andy has a draft copy which he will circulate to the subgroup once finalised. It then requires endorsement from BCC likely in October. Stakeholders are identified for each issue and should drive the issues forward. In the background Janette has worked with a few groups regarding grants for allotments and community gardens and with the Friends of Insch Hospital regarding Christmas lights. BCC is also waiting to hear if Local Place Plans are included in Jacky’s work scope. Kemnay and Westhill have dates for Place Plan Developments. Capital budget requirements will go to these places. BCC has queried why Insch does not have a date?
- **Correen Hills Windfarm update –** BCC will undertake a survey of residents jointly with Donside CC and Tap o’Noth CC using questions similar to the Donside CC & Hill of Fare Survey for consistency. There was a majority vote to proceed with the quote from Jacky Niven for £120 to run the survey and analyse the results. It was agreed in principle by other CCs as they do not meet until after the elections. The survey will run online and people who are not IT comfortable can be assisted at events. Information from further EDF/Force 9 consultations can be sent out with the survey. Concern was raised about people being ambivalent and not responding to the survey. CASHwig is now officially an opposition group. Mark identified 7 major issues which need to be considered and would circulate this to the chairman for future discussion. **Action –** Mark to forward list. The national government position is in presumption for onshore windfarms. If Aberdeenshire Council objects there will be a national enquiry.

## 7. Aberdeenshire Council

- **LDP / other items:** Elections and revised constitution – nominations live. **Action** Janette to advertise on Facebook. Constitution – proposal to allocate 2 places to Logie Durno and Whiteford. Chapel of Garioch would also cover Pitcaple. There are 22 posts available. Andy and Wilma are not standing again. **Action** Andy to find out if those whose 3-year tenure has not run out need to complete a form again. People who do not reside in the BCC area will not be eligible stand as it compromises BCC ability to address planning issues – agreed unanimously. For changes BCC need to give 20 days' notice and have a special meeting/AGM.
- Ward 10 meeting on Monday 2 Sept which Councillor Grant will be attending. He will raise Christmas lights problem in Inch and ask for action on Inch Railway Station as it is the only station in Scotland which does not have disabled access.

**8. Chapel of Garioch update** – COG has received a grant for £500 for a new village noticeboard from the Garioch Area Fund. Chapel of Garioch Village Hall will be closed for 6 weeks from 2 September for wall insulation, solar panels and painting. Village Hall is still to get broadband. Jack Rigby of Digital Engagement is advising.

**9. Culsalmond** – Community are working with Aberdeenshire Council to acquire the hall. Feasibility Study to be completed. The Community have received a grant of approx. £1600 for a projector from the Glens of Foudland Windfarm.

**10. Leslie** – The Old school is to go ahead to become a Men's Shed.

**11 Oyne** – Archaeolink has been bought by Berryhill Developments Ltd. They have levelled the trees, cut the grass and cleared the site. Have started a path which joins the existing path to Berryhill as part of the condition of sale. Oyne Community are pleased with progress so far and note that there have been no break-ins since the end of the first week of works. Berryhill Development Ltd are continuing with market research on their plans for the site and will share their future plans with the village once ready.

The action plan for the village identified widening the pavement from Oyne to Kirkton. A School roads survey was conducted 14 months ago and no progress has been made on this by Roads. Roads are not responsive to requests to meet to discuss the safer routes to school and Andy had to go through the Area Office to get a limited response.

Oyne Community Association and PTA held the 150th School anniversary & Summer barbeque and raised £1500. To be shared by the School and OCA.

**12. Premnay** – A complaint was lodged regarding the cemetery being overgrown and the waste composter overflowing. Cllr Grant to follow up.

**13. Rayne** – no progress on drains. Shrubs overgrowing pavements. **Action** Wilma to send Councillor Grant photos. As an example - in Edinburgh residents are sent letters by the council informing them their shrubs overgrowing the pavement will be cut on a certain date and they will be sent a bill for the work. This gets residents out cutting back on their shrubbery.

**14. Inch** – frustratingly no response from Aberdeenshire Council on making the buildout less dangerous nor on flooding issues.

A new minister has been selected and this appointment must be confirmed by a vote from the congregation.

**15. Planning & Consultation** – there is a proposal for a development in Rayne. **Action** Wilma is to contact Andy if there are any objections.

**16. Date of next meeting is Monday 23 September 2024**