



North Kincardine Rural Community Council

Minute of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 21 June 2010 at 7.30pm in Maryculter Community

1. **PRESENT**

<u>Maryculter</u>	<u>Cookney / Netherley</u>	<u>Banchory-Devenick</u>	<u>Aberdeenshire Councillors</u>
Avril Tulloch Hazel Witte (Treasurer) Toby Lenehan	Bob McKinney(Chairman) Rob Winmill (Vice Chairman) Robert Keeler (Secretary) Philip Smart	Mike Birch Ann Townsley	Ian Mollison Paul Melling Carl Nelson

11 Members of the Public

2. **APOLOGIES**

3. **MINUTE** of the meeting of 15 June 2009 was approved

4. **FINANCE**

TREASURER'S REPORT

We continue to be in a good financial position with the accumulated fund on 31.5.2010 standing at £2,840.54.

Our income derives from:

- The Aberdeenshire Council Administrative Grant of £510, a decrease of £100 from last year.
- £1870 from 374 subscriptions to our 300 Club, an increase of £70.
- A grant of £260 from the Co-operative Group Community Fund towards purchase and erection of a notice board.
- Bank interest of £13.76

Expenditure

- We subscribe to The Scottish Rights of Way Society and the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland, each costing £20.
- Notice boards – replacement and renovation costs were £310, partially offset by the grant indicated above. We are grateful to those who did not charge for some materials to erect them.
- Administrative costs were minimal at £43.20 for a stock of second class stamps. No community councillor has charged for the use of their own telephones, computers, printers etc. or for transport or other costs.
- We are required to advertise our AGM in the local press, so this amounted to £52.48.
- Zincweb Internet Ltd. continues to host our website for a fee of £52.48.
- Our 300 Club prize money allocation was £685, but four of the cheques sent out each month were not cashed within six months, so the actual amount withdrawn from our funds is £555.
- Our main outgoings are in response to requests for funds for local clubs and societies. We granted a total of £1,140 this year, compared to £1540 last year, plus monthly prize allocation of £685:

£150	Maryculter Senior Citizens Association Christmas party
£250	Maryculter Community Hall Association to upgrade the lighting
£140	A new Santa Claus outfit for use within the community
£200	Maryculter Driving for the Disabled for trailer repair
£400	B-D and M-C church Youth Café 'Activity Weekend Account'

These accounts have been audited by accountant Raymond Cowan.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The last 12 months have proven to be another busy year for North Kincardine Rural Community Council. As others seek to change the area we live in, the Community Council has found itself to be busier than ever putting forward the views and concerns of our residents.

For the most part of the year we waited for an announcement about the AWPR, which came in late December 2009 as the project was given the go ahead from John Swinney, MSP, though even now, in these financially uncertain times, the final cost of the completed route is unknown.

Similarly, the City and Shire Structure Plan moved from draft to final form in August 2009 and with both, NKRCC have played an active part in putting forward our views to try to achieve the best outcome for this area. Likewise the Local Development Plan, which though still in draft form, is another major factor for change in years to come and NKRCC have been just as busy trying to capture the views of residents, to feed into the evolution of this document and to influence its final form. We can expect the Local Development Plan to appear in early 2011 and await its publication with interest.

On a more focussed note, NKRCC has considered in excess of 75 new planning applications over the year and where necessary has commented on these to Aberdeenshire Council Planning Department, as well as commenting on applications which have been granted, to try to ensure that developers remain within the boundaries of the regulations. We have also expressed our concerns on the new planning system, introduced in September 2009, which seeks to allow individuals and Community Councils only 21 days for objections and representations. To meet these challenges NKRCC has kept in close contact with our adjacent Councils and adopted a new system of distributing details of the applications to members.

One notable example of these applications was another bid in March 2010 by RES regarding the site at Meikle Carewe, for 12 wind turbines. NKRCC objected vigorously to this on a number of grounds and was pleased to see the application turned down less than two months later. We do not expect this to be the end of the matter and will monitor things closely.

Throughout the year NKRCC members have kept a close eye on the state of our roads and wherever a problem has been identified have been swift in reporting the problem, whether it be growth of ragwort or other vegetation at the roadsides, potholes, drainage of surface water, etc. to Aberdeenshire Council or speeding or other road safety matters to Grampian Police, and I see no reason why this should not continue, given that good roads are an important aspect of rural living.

We have also kept a keen interest on matters affecting schools in our area and will continue to do so, as the pupils who attend these will, hopefully, be the next generation of caretakers of the area we live in.

NKRCC has also received presentations from a number of organisations throughout the year, including SEPA on flooding, members of Aberdeenshire Council on affordable housing and roads management, as well as a number of planners seeking to develop sites in the area.

Despite the recession, NKRCC continues to be in robust financial health, thanks to the goodwill and generosity of our residents, and the Community Councillors themselves, who support our 300 Club. This has allowed us to pay out £685 in prizes and £1140 in grants to local organisations, including, but not restricted to, Maryculter Senior Citizens, Maryculter Youth Café, Friends of Cookney Hall and Santa Claus himself !

In their spare time members of NKRCC have individually and collectively been involved in supporting other aspects of our community. For example, the distribution of the South Deeside View, assisting with and supporting the SDV Plant Sale in May 2010, as well as fundraising efforts by Maryculter Playgroup at their Easter Fair and Family Ceilidh earlier this year.

It is this sense of community, as well as their individual skills and experience that members of NKRCC bring to their involvement with the Community Council, and it is at this point I would like to thank Sylvia Pike for her work on behalf of the Community Council over the last few years, as she will soon be standing down, having reached the end of her term.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our 3 Elected Members for their support, guidance and regular attendance at our meetings. Their contributions have been substantial and gratefully received.

I have no doubt that the coming year will just as challenging as the one drawing to a close, but I am confident that we will meet it with a strong and committed Community Council, working together on behalf of the residents of our area, to try to ensure for them the best possible outcome from each of these challenges and to retain the high quality of life we all enjoy in this area.

6. **ELECTIONS**

Nominations for vacancies :

Banchory –Devenick: None

Maryculter: Susan Astell

Netherley: Robert Keeler

There being no requirement for a vote, Susan Astell was elected for Maryculter and Robert Keeler was re-elected for Netherley

Interest was expressed by Robin Baxter of Banchory-Devenick in becoming a Community Councillor but he was unable to attend and his application was too late for this meeting. We hope he will attend our August meeting, when we can discuss his co-option.

Offers of assistance were received from Caroline Graham and Dave Summers, these will be discussed at our next meeting in August.

Councillors Bews , Melling, Mollison and Nelson were co-opted once again as our local councillors.

7. **OFFICE BEARERS**

The Office Bearers for the next term of office are:-

Chairman	-	Bob McKinney
Vice-chairman	-	Robin Winmill
Treasurer	-	Hazel Witte
Secretary	-	Toby Lenehan
Minutes Secretary	-	Avril Tulloch
Roads and Rural matters	-	Bob McKinney
Web Site and Press officer	-	Mike Birch
Auditor	-	Raymond Cowan

8. **AOCB**

Chairman offered a vote of thanks to Robert Keeler for his many years of service as secretary.

9. Dates of meetings for the coming year were distributed to councillors and, after discussion, the following are the agreed dates.

16 AUGUST 2010 20 SEPTEMBER 2010 18 OCTOBER 2010
15 NOVEMBER 2010 13 DECEMBER 2010
17 JANUARY 2011 21 FEBRUARY 2011 21 MARCH 2011
18 APRIL 2011 16 MAY 2011 20 JUNE 2011 (AGM)

There being no further business, the meeting then closed.