

ALVAH AND FORGLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
ALVAH HALL: TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2015
MINUTES

1. Present

Rosie Dewhurst (Chairman)	Doug Hill	Carol Rewston	Helen Bayne
Jim Bayne (Secretary)	Phil Duffield	John Burns	
Barbara Foad (Vice Chairman)	Elizabeth Jones	Gordon Lang	

The Vice Chairman chaired the meeting with the exception of Agenda Item 5.

In Attendance: Councillor John Cox (Aberdeenshire Council), Councillor Michael Roy (Aberdeenshire Council).

[Secretary's Note; Phil Duffield, Gordon Lang and Rosie Dewhurst attended only the Broadband Presentation (Agenda Item 5).]

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mike Dewhurst, Julie Drummond, Philip Foad and Councillor Ian Gray.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 February were accepted as a true record with the removal of reference to Doug Hill in paragraph 6 (iii).

4. Actions Arising

4.1 Proposals for Community Action Plan. It had been agreed by email that the event would be held on 28 May at Alvah Hall.

4.2 Secretary to contact secretaries of both halls regarding all weather notice Board. Secretary had received examples of notice boards and was awaiting costs before contacting the respective secretaries.

4.3 Recommend sites for bulbs and flowers. Discussions held with Forglen Hall committee. Secretary agreed to obtain a contact number for Forglen floral representative and pass to Carol. **[Secretary's Note:** Completed.]

4.4 Compare funding options. Ian Rogan had not responded. **[Secretary's Note:** Ian had since responded and recommended the numbers of meetings as the best option for Alvah and Forglen.]

4.5 History of Alvah and Forglen. Liz Jones had completed her research and had started to compile her article. She would issue it for comment as it became available.

4.6 Planning Application. Secretary had discussed the application with the planner and drafted

a reply which was agreed by the Community Council and submitted to the Planning Department.

5. Rural Broadband

5.1 Roddy Matheson presented the rural broadband plan for Aberdeenshire. He explained that:

- Rural Broadband was a partnership between Scottish Government, DCMS, BT and other partners.
- In 2012, 16000 homes in Aberdeenshire could not access broadband. Aberdeenshire had the poorest broadband infrastructure in the UK.
- BT originally had no plans to introduce fibre to most of Aberdeenshire. Aberdeenshire provided a further £16M (the biggest contribution by and local authority) to extend the programme to the rural communities.
- Fibre allows more traffic without degradation.
- Fibre is usually through a street cabinet. The fibre runs from the exchange to the cabinet, and the normal copper telephone wire connects the signal to the house.
- Copper has a 2 mile limit for carrying the signal. There needs to be a cabinet within 2 miles of a premise to allow fibre broadband connection.
- Some areas have a direct to exchange connection. This would mean that a fibre connection would be difficult. BT is looking at various options for connecting such areas, such as fibre to a remote node for small clusters of houses, or satellite connection. Aberdeenshire council would pay for the satellite connection and the customer would have to pay only for the normal monthly rental. A basic package would cost about £20 per month. Businesses could apply for a grant of up to £3000 towards the cost of connection.
- So far 58% of Aberdeenshire had been connected to fibre. The intention is that 90% will be able to connect. Modelling was not complete for the more remote areas. When the modelling is complete Roddy would again present to the community and explain the proposed solutions.
- The intention was that the full broadband programme would be complete by the end of 2017.

5.2 There was then a question and answer session when Roddy answered a number of specific questions from the audience.

6. Community Action Plan

6.1 Banffshire Partnership had sent the chairman a number of points for consideration.

6.2 Banffshire Partnership will inform the Area Manager that the event will be taking place on 28 May.

6.3 It was agreed that the Community Council would not sponsor a schools competition to design artwork for the front and back of the report.

6.4 Rosie Dewhurst will arrange for the provision of refreshments.

6.5 Rosie Dewhurst will arrange a planning meeting with Banffshire Partnership before the event.

6.6 Cllr. Cox suggested that the event be advertised by posters on posts at the side of the road.

6.7 Cllr. Roy suggested a running notice in the local papers to advertise the event.

6.8 The Secretary will distribute a digital copy of the leaflet and poster for comment before the 13 April. It was agreed that the Deveron should appear in the poster picture. [**Secretary's Note**: the format of the poster had been agreed by email.]

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Planning Website. The secretary would contact the Area Manager regarding a fault with the website. [**Secretary's Note**: The fault was resolved without contacting the Area Manager.]

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at Forglen Hall at 18:00 hours on 28 April 2015.

Annex - list of actions

J Bayne
Secretary

ANNEX

ACTIONS

	OWNER	COMPLETION
Suggest format for the community event poster and flyer.	All	13 April 2015
Contact secretaries of Alvah and Forglen Halls to discuss the fitting of all-weather notice boards.	Secretary	28 April 2015
Recommend sites for tubs and bulbs.	All	28 April 2015
Prepare history of Alvah and Forglen.	Liz Jones	28 April 2015
Send Forglen floral contact details to Carol Rewston.	Secretary	2 April 2015