

1 Attendance

1.1.1 SDCC

Raymond Christie (RC), Patrick Coffield (PC), Mike Duncan (MD), Alix Gunn (AG), Ian Hunter (IH), Alistair Lawrie (AL), Jim Morrison (JM), Jim Stephen (JS), Fiona Tavendale (FT), Lindsey Wood (LW), ,and Bill Watson (BW).

1.1.2 Aberdeenshire Councillors

Councillor Dickinson (Cllr D)

1.1.3 Others in Attendance

The general public, the Police, Rachel Kennedy, Principal Engineer, Aberdeenshire (RK)

1.1.4 Apologies:

Paul Lindop, Donald Morrison , Danny Veltman
Councillor Robertson, Councillor Wallace,

1.1.5 Absent without Notice: None.

1.2 Declarations of Interest None

1.3 Co-option:

Gerry Towler was proposed for co-option by Raymond Christie, accepted unanimously.

2 Previous Minutes (Nov 2018): corrections

Items 2.2 and 3.1 Ian *Balgowan* (not *Robotham*)

Item 4, The email address for contacting police is deesidecpt@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Item 7.10 *IJB* Draft Strategic Plan rather than *Aberdeenshire Council's* Draft Strategic Plan

Item 11 Business Meeting Tuesday 11th *December* not *November*

Action for **Item 7.4** should read

Communications Group to

- a) contact directly some of the community councils using Spanglefish in order to get their comments and verify the suitability of this platform*
- b) get definitive costs for budgeting.*

Minutes as amended proposed LW, seconded IH, accepted unanimously.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 Item 5.1 Action carried forward

3.2 Item 7.7 Cllr D reported that Network Rail and Aberdeenshire officers would meet early in the New Year to resolve the issues (fly-tipping, warped barrier). Cllr D will inform SDCC when a definite date is agreed to allow someone from SDCC to participate also.

3.3 Item 10.3 Action carried forward

3.4 Item 10.4, Aberdeenshire Council have responded to the Participatory Request from SDCC and Mearns CC, accepting the request for “improved and equitable participation in decision making around participatory budgeting policy” and proposing a workshop to consider the process improvement in Feb 2019. SDCC accepted the proposal unanimously.

4 Police Report

Following previous concern expressed by SDCC, the police checked for speeding in Farrochie Road and reported no incidents found.

They also carried out some high-vis patrols e.g. around Mackie Academy to check that the 20mph speed limit was being adhered to.

Police plan to increase patrols in December to monitor shoplifting, theft and anti-social behaviour.

LW suggested that the supply of illegal drugs might be a problem in Stonehaven.

JS raised the matter of a recent case in the Co-op on David St when some attempted shoplifting was thwarted but staff had not reported the matter to the police. There was a concern that those involved had continued to look for other opportunities for theft locally in houses and cars.

Ian Balgowan asked whether there were any particular traffic regulations concerning disability scooters.

JS asked about vandalism to the defibrillators at Market Square. Matter still under investigation.

5 River Carron Flood Defence scheme

Rachel Kennedy, Aberdeenshire Council engineer in charge of the scheme reported that the contract had now been awarded (to McLaughlin and Harvey) Work is scheduled to start 7th Jan 2019 and will last for just over 2 years. The main works will take place between the Red Bridge and the Beach Bridge. These two plus the Green Bridge and the White Bridge will be raised by around 1m. The main structure of the White Bridge which has a Grade B listing will be re-instated; the other bridges will be replaced. The Red Bridge will be unavailable between April and December 2019. The present Green Bridge will remain in place during the construction of the new bridge a few metres downstream. There will be a ramp for disabled access to the Green Bridge. The White Bridge will be out of action from April 2019 until April 2020. The railings on the main road bridge at Bridgefield will be replaced with glass and some seats and benches will be installed close to the Carron Fish Bar. A new pedestrian walkway will connect this bridge with the Boardwalk

There will be a number of traffic restrictions at various times e.g. Low Wood Road will be closed sometime autumn 2019.

One challenge for the contractors is to manage any flood risk during the work.

Some pile-driving will be carried out, restricted to 07:00 to 19:00 and generally not on Sundays.

A Community Liaison Officer will be appointed by the contractors. She/he will be the first point of contact for individual householders. Around 400 letters will be issued to residents before Christmas.

A project compound will be setup outside the town - location to be decided.

A few trees will need to be cut down.

Contractors will need to make some special arrangements for a few species of mammals including otters and bats, which are protected under European legislation.

It is anticipated that there will be 80+ staff working locally at some stage. This will provide local businesses (food, accommodation) some opportunities to generate some additional income.

IH asked about the flooding of the Glaslaw Burn. RK explained that the culverts were too small and this issue would be addressed.

AG asked about the main risks arising during the project. Flooding during the project was identified as one of the main risks. Contractor will be working under a “no net detriment” brief. Computer modelling will be used to help assess any risks prior to major actions being carried out.

JS asked whether it might not be necessary to carry out some work upstream of the Red Bridge also. RK replied that the engineers had assessed that there was enough capacity in the network above the Red Bridge.

Ian Balgowan raised some questions about whether the Rock Armour along the beach would need to be adapted.

6 Hannah Dyson/Community Awards.

Shannah Findlay, S4, Mackie Academy will receive the Hannah Dyson award; Martin Kasproicz will receive the Community Award. Presentation of the awards will take place probably sometime in January or February 2019.

7 Communications Group

BW outlined the responses from a number of CCs concerning their use of Spanglefish for developing and hosting their website. Annual costs estimated to be around £50.

BW proposed formal approval of £50 budget for this purpose, seconded AL and accepted unanimously.

8 Nippy Dip

JS explained that there was a meeting scheduled at Viewmount tomorrow, Wed, 12th Dec to plan the event. There will be no stalls or other entertainment. Any money raised will be distributed between RNLI and funding for the defibrillators.

9 Roads

9.1 MD announced that the AWPR would be opening tomorrow

9.2 Ref previous minutes, 7.8, regarding the possibility of painting double yellow lines at the bottom of Slug Road near the junction with Evan Street, it was pointed out that a Traffic Order would be required as well as consulting those road users who park there at present.

AG asked if there were other options, such as reducing the speed limit.

9.3 It was mentioned that there was a potential hazard for roads users due to large articulated lorries parking at Redcloak. Cllr D requested that anyone noticing such risks due to bad parking should take a photograph and send it to herself.

9.4 Ref last minutes Item 10.1, AL stated that he has received an email from one resident thanking SDCC for support on this issue and asking, furthermore, that the Community Council lobby Aberdeenshire Council for temporary lighting, warning signs or other suitable measures to improve safety for pedestrians pending the construction of a new pavement.

The following motion was proposed by IH, seconded BW and passed unanimously:

“Concerning the pedestrian access into the town centre from New Mains of Ury along the B979 in front of the New Mains of Ury farm buildings and just before the AWPR old office site, Stonehaven and District Community Council propose to Aberdeenshire

Roads Dept that, pending the provision of a pavement, they should put temporary measures in place urgently to create a safe route for pedestrians such as ensuring that it is well lit and includes prominent signs for cars and other road users to be aware of pedestrians, requesting that they drive with particular care along this section of road. This is highly necessary, particularly in view of the short period of daylight and poor visibility at this time of year”

AL will write to the other three Stonehaven and Lower Deeside councillors (Wendy Agnew, Dennis Robertson and Sandy Wallace), not present at the meeting, to support this motion also.

10 Environmental Group

10.1 AG reported that the next meeting of the Environmental Group will take place on 24th Jan 2019 in the Community Centre. Crawford Paris of the East Grampian Coastal Partnership and Amy Barclay of Surfers Against Sewage will address this meeting.

10.2 MD reported that Surfers Against Sewage had organised a beach clean-up last Saturday, 8th Dec, attended by around 60 volunteers. Amy Barclay had expressed an ambition that Stonehaven would be the first town in Scotland to gain “plastic free community” status.

10.3 Cllr D is campaigning for Aberdeenshire Council to stop using single use plastic items.

11 TRAK

11.1 IH explained that there were plans by Nestrans for upgrades to 20 stations across Scotland including Dyce, Inverurie and Stonehaven. The scope of the work in Stonehaven will include the toilets, waiting room, shelters and underpass. However, it is not planned to provide disabled access between platforms (cf Montrose).

11.2 A planning application has been submitted for Aberdeen Bus Station to include improvements in accessibility, provision of a long distance waiting room and improved capacity for buses.

11.3 IH expressed concern that the 90 year lease held by Stagecoach on the bus station could stifle competition by other bus companies.

11.4 There are some difficulties travelling to Foresterhill Hospital from Stonehaven by bus. IH noted that there are some buses, signposted Dyce, which do call at the hospital but their route is not well known. IH has suggested that a clear sign is displayed on these buses signifying that they call at the hospital.

12 Correspondence

AL mentioned that he had spoken to a Stonehaven librarian who didn't realise that she could attend the SDCC Business Meetings and ask questions if she wanted. AL proposed that we display a larger notice, e.g. in the Library, welcoming members of the public to attend our meetings.

13 AOCB

13.1 DV and AL were holding sessions for Modern Studies pupils in Mackie Academy this week together with some other staff from Aberdeenshire Community

Learning. These sessions included information about the roles and functions of community councils and the part that they play in local democracy.

13.2 JS proposed a vote of thanks to Groundwater and other contributors for assistance with the town's Christmas tree.

13.3 Agreed leave of absence (under Constitution, 4.9.4 (c)) for AG who will be working abroad for a period of three months from January to March 2019.

14 Next Meetings:

No Agenda Meeting in January

Business Meeting: 8th January 2019