



**STONEHAVEN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

7:00 to 9:30pm, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019  
Invercarron Resource Centre, Stonehaven

<b>1.</b>	<b>Chairperson's Welcome, RC</b>	
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	
<b>1.1.1</b>	<b>SDCC Councillors</b>	
	Raymond Christie (RC), Paddy Coffield (PC), Stephen Holt (SH), Ian Hunter (IH), Alistair Lawrie (AL), Donald Lawrie Morrison (DLM), Paul Lindop (PL), Jim Stephen (JS), Fiona Tavendale (FT), Daniel Veltman (DV), Bill Watson (BW) and Lindsay Wood (LW).	
<b>1.1.2</b>	<b>Aberdeenshire Councillors</b>	
	Councillor Agnew (Cllr A), Councillor Dickinson (Cllr D) and Councillor Robertson (Cllr R)	
<b>1.1.3</b>	<b>Others</b>	
	The general public, Emma Storey Committee Officer for Kincardine and Mearns at Aberdeenshire Council, Bruce Stewart Acting Area Manager at Aberdeenshire Council and Julia Lawrie Morrison, SDCC Minute Taker.	
<b>1.1.4</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
	Mike Duncan (MD), Keith Simpson (KS) and Gerry Towler (GT)	
<b>1.1.5</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	None	
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Chairperson's Statement, RC</b>	
<b>1.2.1</b>	<b>Appointment of Treasurer</b>	
	<b>MOTION</b> BW Nominated by JM, seconded by AL. <b>VOTE</b> Unanimous agreement, BW appointed no objection or other nomination.	
<b>1.2.2</b>	<b>Co-options onto SDCC</b>	
<b>1.2.2.1</b>	<b>Co-option of Lindsay Wood (LW)</b>	
	RC noted that SDCC has capacity to co-opt 5 additional members. SDCC currently stands at 13 members and 3 people are currently interested in co-option.  <b>MOTION</b> To co-opt Lindsay Wood as a member of SDCC. Proposed by JM, seconded by FT. <b>VOTE</b> Unanimous agreement, LW co-opted as an SDCC member. LW joined SDCC members around the table.	
<b>1.2.2.2</b>	<b>Co-option of James Stephen (JS)</b>	
	<b>MOTION</b> To co-opt Jim Stephen as a member of SDCC. Proposed by PC, seconded by IH. <b>VOTE</b> Unanimous agreement, JS co-opted as an SDCC member. JS joined SDCC members around the table.	
<b>1.2.2.3</b>	<b>Co-option of Stephen John Holt (SH)</b>	
	<b>MOTION</b> To co-opt Stephen John Holt as a member of SDCC. Proposed by DV, seconded by AL. <b>VOTE</b> Unanimous agreement, SH co-opted as an SDCC member. SH joined SDCC members	

	around the table.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Matters Arising from the Last Minutes</b>	
<b>2.1.1</b>	<b>Correction to the Last Minute: JM was in attendance</b>	
	JM was noted as having sent in apologies when he was present for part of the meeting.	
	<b>ACTION</b> AL to correct the Last Minute, removing JM from 'Apologies', adding him into 'Attendees'.	<b>AL</b>
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Approval of the Last Minute</b>	
	<b>MOTION</b> Approval of the last minute. Proposed by DV, seconded by AL. <b>VOTE</b> Unanimous agreement, last minute approved.	
<b>2.2.2</b>	<b>CCTV Proposal, JS</b>	
	JS had no report regarding the CCTV proposal but updated members regarding the positioning of a defibrillator in the town centre. Local police officer Mark Camus wants it moved to the side of the taxi rank where it will be more visible. PL tried to determine requirements regarding the power supply and is awaiting a response on this.	
	<b>ACTION</b> PL and JS to progress this matter and report back at the September SDCC business meeting.	<b>PL&amp;JS</b>
<b>2.2.3</b>	<b>Stonehaven Train Station, Cllr D</b>	
	RC noticed the barrier at the station had been repaired and thanked Cllr D for her efforts in this matter. Cllr A noted that part of the fence in the same area is not holding back mud sliding in bad weather.	
<b>2.2.4</b>	<b>Scheme of Establishment SDCC Response to Aberdeenshire Council, RC</b>	
	RC received an acknowledgement. RC asked Emma Storey (ES) to post out hard copies to the newly co-opted members. PC noted it is also available to view on the SDCC website.	
	<b>ACTION</b> ES to post hard copies of the Scheme of Establishment to newly co-opted SDCC members.	<b>ES</b>
<b>2.2.5</b>	<b>Correction to the Last Minute: Blue Room at Stonehaven Community Centre</b>	
	RC will report back on this.	
	<b>ACTION</b> RC to report back on this at the September SDCC business meeting.	<b>RC</b>
	<b>ACTION</b> AL to correct the Last Minute, removing AL, adding RC to this item.	<b>AL</b>
<b>2.2.6</b>	<b>E-consult System, Stonehaven Patient Participation Group Meeting, RC</b>	
	RC noted that the PPG had not met but intend on doing so in September. RC and LW will try to attend.	
	<b>ACTION</b> RC to report back at the next SDCC business meeting.	<b>RC</b>
<b>2.2.7</b>	<b>B979 Footpath at New Mains of Ury, Cllr D</b>	
	Cllr D noted that the footpath had been completed at the end of last week. She added that further works are required to be followed up regarding lighting.	
	<b>ACTION</b> Cllr D to report back when further information on this activity is available.	<b>Cllr D</b>
<b>2.2.8</b>	<b>Fence within Dunnottar Woods, Cllr D</b>	
	Cllr D checked and noted that this area of fencing is not under the responsibility of Aberdeenshire Council and communication should be directed to the Dunecht Estates or the Dunnottar Woodland Trust.  BW asked Cllr D who undertook the flood alleviation works within the woods. BW noted that the barrier has been installed at same time and that whoever installed it might be responsible.	
	<b>ACTION</b> Cllr D to find out who undertook the flood prevention works in Dunnottar Woods.	<b>Cllr D</b>
	<b>ACTION</b> DV to speak with the Dunnottar Woodland Group regarding this matter.	<b>DV</b>
<b>2.2.9</b>	<b>TraK Report, IH</b>	
	IH reported that TraK are due to meet on 29 <sup>th</sup> August 2019 at Stonehaven Community Centre at 7pm, at which Mairi Gougeon will be in attendance. IH noted that a public meeting was held by Scotrail and at which a lot of discontent was	

	shown regarding the no-through trains without a change at Montrose train station.	
<b>2.2.10</b>	<b>Out of Date Tourist Signposts, Cllr D</b>	
	Cllr D noted that the Gleniffer B&B ones have been removed and added that permission is required before tourist signposts are removed.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Police Report and Matters, PC Rob Philips (PC RP)</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Antisocial Behavior, Violence and Disorder</b>	
	<p>PC RP reported there had been a slight increase with 30 incidents having been reported. There have been a few arrests, 8 assaults in the July period, 5 of those were detected and 3 came about from soft lines of enquiry. These involved youth offending. No serious assaults were reported. Local police undertook a joint patrol on 6<sup>th</sup> July with Mackie Academy Rector Louise Moir. Last Saturday 2 male were found in possession of cannabis and a 13 year old girl was returned home under the influence of alcohol.</p> <p>PC RP noted that youth crimes are usually reported to the Youth Justice Unit and in some cases they will be reported beyond this to the procurator fiscal as some matters are getting out of hand.</p> <p>Member of the public Douglas Samways (DS) asked PC RP regarding the recent case of vandalism in the Manshill Avenue and Arduthie Road area. He asked if the people concerned would be dealt with under the youth justice system and involve restorative approaches and if so will they remove the paint on the wall. PC RP confirmed that he would look into this and added that a range of options are available to youth justice and more area available when matters progress through the civil courts, which can also include letters of apology. Where compensation is sought the matter would require to go through the civil courts which might be difficult due to the age of the culprits. Some recent cases will go to the procurator fiscal and the sheriff has more robust powers. The police can put in recommendations. DS added that it was important to get the culprits to clean it off as the longer it stays there more could be added to it.</p>	
	<b>ACTION</b> PC RP will speak with Douglas Samways regarding this matter and with PC Mark Camus.	<b>PC RP</b>
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Acquisitive Crime</b>	
	<p>PC RP reported that there have been 6 thefts including a caravan, creels, a gas cylinder and shop lifting.</p> <p>In addition, there have been 3 house break-ins, 1 in Laurencekirk, 2 at the old coastal radio station in Stonehaven where youths entered and caused damage. They were caught on CCTV. A Case of business premises theft, 2 house break-ins in Drumoak, too.</p>	
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Road and Traffic Incidents</b>	
	<p>PC RP noted there had been 3 cases of drink driving reported and 5 of dangerous driving. Cedar patrols continued at the weekend noting one case of driving while disqualified, uninsured, speeding, minor defects and 12 cars were stopped related to driving standards. Cases of parking obstruction were noted and local residents were advised to contact 101 to inform the police of areas requiring patrols.</p>	
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Scams</b>	
	PC Mike Urquhart to take on scams, taking over from PC Kevin Maron.	
<b>3.5</b>	<b>Missing Persons</b>	
	LW asked PC RP if there was any news on the men reported missing recently. PC RP noted that 2 men had been reported missing, 1 in Peterhead and 1 in Kemnay. He added that there had been sight of the Kemnay man getting off a bus in Stonehaven along Barclay Street and that local licenced premises had posters up.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Issues Not on the Agenda Raised by the Public</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Refill Charity Campaign Awareness Raising, Fiona Basword (FB)</b>	
	FB informed the meeting about the Bristol-based charity Refill which seeks to try and reduce single use plastic. FB is speaking with local businesses seeking to establish water re-fill locations and ways to reduce waste. FB will meet with the Stonehaven Business Association seeking buy-in and raising	

	<p>awareness.</p> <p>IH asked the elected members present if Aberdeenshire Council can play a part in this idea, by providing water refill points at places such as the leisure centre. Cllr D has met with FB and FB has been in touch with the local authority Sustainability Officer regarding the potential for local Council facilities, such as the community centre, library etc hosting water refill stations. Cllr D noted that currently there is no water refill at the leisure centre but they are working on trying to change this as part of an existing Council scheme. Elected members had recently won £500 as part of a Council scheme and had agreed that this could go towards the purchase of a water fountain. It was noted that, however, the cost of water fountain maintenance and sanitisation at £45 twice yearly would not be covered by the £500 and would require to be covered by the leisure centre's budget.</p> <p>IH added that water fountains were once a normal part of the community that it should be public policy to bring this back.</p> <p>AL added that the community centre had a water fountain until a couple of years ago with Aberdeenshire Council removed it due to sanitisation reasons.</p> <p>PC added that drinking water had been previously available at the leisure centre.</p> <p>SH asked Cllr D if Aberdeenshire Council could find another way for the sanitization costs of the leisure centre water fountain to be paid if it could not be undertaken by the centre.</p>	
<b>4.2</b>	<b>SDCC Promotion of Events, Mitch MacKay (MM)</b>	
	<p>MM raised an issue with what he viewed as SDCC poor promotion of/at local events such as the Stonehaven Feein' Market and Christmas Tree. He sought assurance from SDCC that efforts would be directed into this. RC stated that these matters would be considered by SDCC in due course at future meetings.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Planning</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Dunnottar Park – New Foot Bridge – APP/2019/1766, PL</b>	
	<p>PL noted that the Dunnottar Woodland Group had concerns regarding the development in case of increased traffic on the bridge, but it was noted that the planning application gave permission to develop the foot bridge. The application had not been open in consultation and was just updated. DV had sent the Dunnottar Woodland Group a link to the application update and had no more comment in response.</p> <p>PL asked the meeting to consider if the development might affect fishing in the area along Toucks burn. No comment regarding any possibly adverse effect of the proposed development was put forward.</p>	
	<b>ACTION</b> PL to write regarding the application inconsistency with what SEPA and they say over the temporary river diversion. The letter will not be written by PL as an official consultee.	<b>PL</b>
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Fetteresso Wind Farm, PL</b>	
	<p>PL noted that the developer is seeking to adjust plans regarding the turbine blades following on from consultation.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Business Matters</b>	
<b>6.1</b>	<b>Self-Build (Proposals for Seminar), IH</b>	
	<p>IH did not attend the last KDP meeting. IH spoke to Jim Stewart, the building who is still on board and will seek to progress this. RC asked IH if Jim Stewart can attend and speak at an SDCC meeting.</p>	
	<b>ACTION</b> IH to ask Jim Stewart if he can attend and speak at the SDCC September Business Meeting.	<b>IH</b>
<b>6.2</b>	<b>Park Smart Campaign, Emma Storey (ES)</b>	
	<p>ES highlighted that 11 schools in the area had signed up and that the campaign would be run independently by them. ES had ordered banners for each school for the start of term with this cost being met by Aberdeenshire Council. The aim is for this campaign to be run out at all schools in the</p>	

	area. All schools in Stonehaven are currently involved.	
<b>6.3</b>	<b>Mental Health Consultation, MD/GT</b>	
	MD and GT not here. ACTION report in Sep	
	<b>ACTION</b> MD and GT to report on this a the SDCC September Business Meeting.	<b>MD&amp;GT</b>
<b>6.4</b>	<b>Greener Kincardine, IH</b>	
	<p>IH informed the group that a meeting was held at the end of July, at which Dr Bill Turrell talked regarding the effects of litter and of wind, high and low tide. Dr Bill Turrell had noted that there is not a lot of litter in the sea, that it collects on the beach. IH noted that there have been efforts to seek milk delivery in the area using renewable glass bottles, such as exists in Laurencekirk.</p> <p>RC noted that a service exists in Aberdeen but stops short of Stonehaven at Portlethen.</p> <p>Member of the public Julie Lindeman noted that she gets glass bottled milk delivered from Aberdeen.</p> <p>Public – gets delivered to Stonehaven in bottles comes from Aberdeen.</p> <p>IH promoted an event running on 5<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm at the Mearns Community Campus – free cinema showing of an environmental film called ‘Tomorrow’.</p>	
	<b>ACTION</b> Julie Lindeman (JL) to email RC the contact details of her milk delivery.	<b>JL/RC</b>
<b>6.5</b>	<b>Dog Fouling Letter Response, MD</b>	
	<p>RC informed members that MD had written to David Couper, Environmental Health Manager at Aberdeenshire Council regarding dog fouling. His response had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. RC informed the group that MD is happy to reply to David Couper if members wish him to.</p> <p>RC summarised the content of David’s response which stated that the Council would be seeking to train additional dog wardens.</p>	
	<b>ACTION</b> BS will seek clarification of when further dog wardens will be trained, in place of MD responding to David Couper.	<b>BS</b>
<b>6.6</b>	<b>Twinning Campaign Public Discussion, RC</b>	
	<p>The Secretary AL read from a prepared statement indicating the connection and involvement that SDCC had with recent twinning activities within Stonehaven. AL added that information provided could be backed up with further detail and email evidence, if required.</p> <p>AL began with the Acheres twinning and informed the meeting that this arose as a result of an approach made to the town via the Tolbooth Museum in late 2015. This was passed on to the SDCC who discussed the matter with Aberdeenshire Council. Aberdeenshire Council noted from the outset that they were not in a position to provide financial support towards this initiative. Soon after, Phil Mills-Bishop (PMB) became SDCC Chair and, with the support of SDCC, initiated proceedings to bring about the twinning of Stonehaven with Acheres. In addition to the support of SDCC as a body, a number of SDCC members took an active role in facilitating activities with the twinning with Acheres, including a visit over in France prior to the twinning ceremony.</p> <p>AL noted that following the June 2018 AGM there had been a change in SDCC officers, in particular the election of a new SDCC Chair. The AGM and change of officers took place before the final twinning ceremony with Acheres was to take place, however, given that the formal twinning ceremony was to follow shortly after in July, in the interests of continuity it was agreed that PMB would continue to take the lead in respect of the twinning arrangements.</p> <p>Following the AGM it was made clear to PMB that he and the twinning initiative had the full support of SDCC. SDCC made clear that they were willing to provide any further assistance needed. PMB replied by email that, other than the Community Councillors who were already booked to participate, no</p>	

further help from SDCC was required in respect of the Acheres twinning.

Subsequent to the AGM it was noted that items of correspondence were being issued, and publicity announcements were being made, by PMB in his capacity as Chair/Coordinator of the 'Stonehaven and North East Scotland Twinning Group'. SDCC had no prior knowledge of this group. SDCC believed at the time that the twinning remained an SDCC initiative, run by PMB as an SDCC member with a mandate to do so from SDCC. On this assumption SDCC and Elected Members supported and attended the ceremony in their official capacities.

Following the June 2018 AGM, PMB attended one further SDCC business meeting, in August 2018, which he attended in part. By November that year PMB had submitted his resignation as a member of SDCC.

Following the Acheres twinning process, no further requests of support were received from PMB or any other party relating to any further twinning initiatives. Only one e mail, in September 2018, indicated initial discussions by the Twinning Group on a relationship with a town in Alabama. No other communication was sent regarding twinning. SDCC were not consulted then, nor was their opinion sought at any time thereafter, regarding any proposed twinning agreement with Athens, Alabama. As a result, SDCC was not in a position to discuss or take a formal position regarding this issue.

The Chair RC informed the meeting that in recent days SDCC had received a number of expressions of concern from the general public and local businesses regarding the proposed twinning agreement with Athens, Alabama. RC also noted that a current serving member of SDCC had been listed in the Athens twinning initiative literature as having been present at the recent twinning event in their capacity as an SDCC member. RC confirmed that SDCC did not give permission for this member to attend on behalf of the community council, nor did this member seek such permission. In any event the SDCC member in question did not in fact attend the second twinning event and was not in a position to do so. The unauthorised addition of the SDCC member in question by the twinning group had caused this member considerable embarrassment.

PC added that the new twinning group had been created by PMB immediately after he left SDCC last year. LW confirmed that PMB had contacted her about the new twinning group the same night he had lost the SDCC Chair in June 2018. She confirmed that PMB had asked her to be in this new group, but that she had not attended any of the meetings.

AL added that SDCC had received one email regarding the new twinning group, in September 2018, where, as part of discussion regarding Stonehaven's continued connections with Acheres, PMB informed SDCC a constitution for the new twinning group was in the process of being drafted.

RC stated that he had received numerous emails and telephone calls in the past few weeks asking what SDCC had to do with the Athens-Stonehaven twinning event; these requests had come in from members of the public and from elected members of the local council. RC added that it was therefore a matter of community interest to clarify SDCC's position in relation to the twinning initiative with Athens, and therefore what relation SDCC and more widely the local community has had with the twinning group.

IH raised concerns with the twinning group purporting to represent not just Stonehaven but also the North East of Scotland, being so called the 'Stonehaven and North East Scotland Twinning Group'. He asked members and the public in attendance to consider if it was acceptable for an unelected group of individuals to decide to twin a town with somewhere else without getting the full consent of the town. JM asserted that it was not acceptable for this to have happened.

SH asked if the twinning group had been constituted and approved by Aberdeenshire Council. Acting

Area Manager Bruce Stewart of Aberdeenshire Council commented that the 'Stonehaven and North East Scotland Twinning Group' had no connection with Aberdeenshire Council and that the Council was not involved with this group at all. SH asked members why they would want to have anything to do with this group in that case.

JM informed the group that he had been part of the 'Stonehaven and North East of Scotland Twinning Group' and he confirmed that he had made clear to them that he was not involved as an SDCC councillor but only in a personal capacity. He did not attend the recent Athens delegates' visit as he was on holiday. He informed members that last Tuesday he was shown a pamphlet that had been created by the twinning group in which they had added his name and title as an SDCC Councillor without his permission. JM added that this was not right and had caused him and SDCC embarrassment.

SH added that the 'Stonehaven and North East of Scotland Twinning Group' also added Mearns FM as being a supporter of the Athens twinning initiative on the same pamphlet. This had been done without their permission. SH is also a member of the Mearns FM Board. SH added that the twinning group have added a large number of other local businesses as named supporters of their group and its activities on their twinning website, [www.twinning.scot](http://www.twinning.scot). SH questioned if these businesses were aware of this.

AL added that this matter was important for SDCC to discuss in their public business meeting both because they had been asked to add this to the agenda, but also as a result of recent newspaper articles in which PMB and the twinning group had implied that SDCC did not support and had nothing to do with the Acheres twinning. This was manifestly incorrect and misleading and SDCC felt it was necessary to publicly clarify their position.

Member of the public Douglas Samways asked the meeting if anyone knew if there was any kind of internationally recognised procedure or regulations that governed such twinning processes. He asked if there was could the actions of the PMB and twinning group have been in violation of any such governing regulations.

RC noted the existence of the EU-sponsored website [www.twinning.org](http://www.twinning.org). This website does not indicate any official EU or national status and appears to be advisory only.

Cllr R spoke raising concern with the recent Athens twinning activity in that the twinning group had publicly presented this initiative as being supported by Stonehaven as a community. This had been picked up by many journals and newspaper articles including in air time and by BBC Scotland. Cllr R was quite concerned that the twinning with Athens continued to be portrayed as an event which Stonehaven supported. Cllr R was not aware of any local group being in support of this initiative. He raised concern with the number of groups and local businesses being shown as supporters of the twinning group on the twinning group website. Cllr R queried whether these organisations and businesses were aware of their names being associated with this. Cllr R was also disturbed by the twinning group having promoted activity seeking additional twinning ventures with Germany, Portugal and Japan. He was unsure what the connection was between Stonehaven and Athens that the twinning group sought to nurture and develop given that Athens is geographically located in an entirely different setting to Stonehaven, it being landlocked, with a population of 26 thousand inhabitants, it bears no resemblance to our town and as far as he was aware no philanthropic connections with past Stonehaven inhabitants who might have moved there had been made. Cllr R added that it should be made clear publicly that this twinning group does not have the support of the community of Stonehaven, nor of SDCC with relation to this second and ongoing proposed twinning activity of this group. A lot of people out there are being duped into thinking that this latest activity and this group is community and civic backed when it is not.

JM noted his agreement with Cllr R.

AL repeated that SDCC were never asked to support the Athens twinning activity.

LW added that the twinning group have plans to twin with another 6 towns.

Cllr A agreed that twinning with another place should be based on a sharing a similarity of some kind, as well as community support.

SH added that for sport and youth links to be established between places there was no need for twinning towns, that it had long been practice to establish twins through organisations and clubs themselves and that this was another way such links could be achieved.

RC added that twinning processes in France were generally supported with a lot of money by the French government and that PMB had known from the outset of the Acheres twinning that our own local authority was unable to fund this activity at all.

Bruce Stewart (BS), of Aberdeenshire Council, added that when he was first contacted recently he was informed that on the twinning group's website that Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Councils had been advertised as civic supporters of the twinning group's activities. BS stated that it was the case that Aberdeenshire Council were completely unaware of this activity and advertising on that website.

BS added that as Area Manager for Aberdeenshire Council he did not know anything about this initiative, that no formal approach had been made by the twinning group to either him or anyone in his team or indeed any other part of Aberdeenshire Council. BS first became aware of the recent initiative from another source one week before the Athens visit was due to take place.

Member of the public Julie Lindeman asked why the twinning group had any authority to act, or purport to do so, on behalf of Stonehaven without community consultation. She added that it was her personal belief that twinning and having our town associated with a political environment so alien to her, and she assumed Stonehaven's, principles was appalling. Julie added that her teenage daughter thinks exactly the same way. She thanked all the Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members and the SDCC for their responses at the meeting regarding this matter. She added that although she had contacted the twinning group for comment about this matter she had yet to receive any response from them whatsoever.

IH asked how it was possible for the twinning group to get this far. He asserted that a small, self-selected group of individuals should not have been allowed to determine themselves as the town's twinning group. He added that such a group should only be formed and act with the support of the town. Any such twinning group should only act when they have the full support of local community groups and organisations and without this then they have no status to act on behalf of the community whatsoever.

BS said that given the current debate and questions arising in the community he questioned how the twinning group managed to get this far. He speculated that potentially the twinning group may have referred to advisory guidance within [www.twinning.org](http://www.twinning.org) but questioned how it could proceed when within that guidance having the support of the community comes up as one the first points to establish with any twinning activity. BS suggested that comments might also be directed at [www.twinning.org](http://www.twinning.org) for their consideration of the activity of the twinning group. BS was unsure if [www.twinning.org](http://www.twinning.org) have a governing responsibility over the activity of twinning groups.

Cllr D agreed that concerns over the legitimacy of the Twinning Group have been well made by others during the meeting. She added that it is clear that the general public have reacted to significant



developments that have occurred in Alabama in the last 3 or 4 months on certain key moral and social issues and that people are reacting to this. Cllr D added that neither SDCC or Aberdeenshire Council have authority to police individual groups. The community should be asked to give an opinion on this and SDCC are at the ground level representing the local community. Cllr D asked if this matter could have been picked up sooner noting that an article relating to the twinning group's interest in twinning with Athens in Alabama was published in November last year. Cllr D added that the Provost came to support the signing of the concordat with Acheres last year in support of SDCC. It was noted that it is a difficult situation as nobody is able to police what the twinning group have undertaken but it does raise the question over where authority to do so does lie.

RC added that it was unfortunate that the Provost had been dragged into this situation and that it had reflected badly on the local authority and themselves as a result but added that it was not their fault.

Member of the public Douglas Samways added that presumably [www.twinning.org](http://www.twinning.org) would not be happy with the way the twinning group had conducted themselves and a way to put a stop to this local group continuing should be sought, otherwise similar activity could continue.

RC was unsure of how to stop the twinning group but added that the Stonehaven Business Association were considering contacting [www.twinning.org](http://www.twinning.org) regarding this matter.

PC added that the twinning group's activity was never actually between two towns but in fact was between one small independent and self-appointed group of individuals with another. PC was unsure whether Acheres or Athens were aware of the true standing of the twinning group. JM agreed with PC.

BW noted three potential actions that SDCC could undertake, writing to the twinning group asking them to cease including JM as an SDCC councillor where he is included in twinning group literature, the twinning group should be instructed to desist from implying any kind of SDCC support of their activity, and SDCC should make their position clear in the local media creating a suitable press release. BW added that SDCC, however, cannot stop individuals travelling to places such as Japan to try their luck or police groups such as these.

JS felt that somebody has to stand up and say enough is enough adding that PMB took this upon himself to seek to deliver additional twinings when most of the local community groups and organisations, including the local authority had never been involved.

IH added that while any individual can try his luck in places such as Japan it was of concern when said individual purports to represent the town, that Japan would likely have no idea that the twinning group does not in fact represent the town. IH added that SDCC needs to say that the twinning group does not represent the town.

AL added that SDCC needs to be careful what it says and that as a community council it cannot police the activities of a group, when even the local authority admitted that they cannot police it. AL highlighted the three potential actions noted by BW in which SDCC might act, including concerning where an SDCC councillor had his name linked to the event in an official capacity. The question over who does or who should police such groups has been raised.

IH sought to propose a motion to confirm that a group such as the twinning group cannot purport to represent the town when it does not. IH sought SDCC to state that the twinning group does not represent the town or North East Scotland.

Cllr A and some SDCC members added that the wording of said motion needs to be careful in that SDCC cannot speak on behalf of the town without seeking a public consultation first. Question was raised over whether SDCC, Stonehaven Town Partnership and the Stonehaven Business Association

	<p>should release a joint statement. Concern was raised over this matter dragging on in SDCC business for months and that a statement should be made by the SDCC without waiting for other groups. Julie Lindeman in the audience, speaking on behalf of STP, added that they had not yet discussed this matter formally.</p> <p>BS added that the ethos of twinning activity between towns relates around the communities and the strength of activity has to come from those communities.</p> <p>SDCC members discussed potential wording of the motion.</p> <p>The Vice Chair DLM read out the amended wording of the Motion.</p> <p><b>MOTION</b>  “Stonehaven and District Community Council requires that any group purporting to represent Stonehaven on twinning issues demonstrates that it has the broad support of the town by consulting and seeking the endorsement of its representative local bodies.”</p> <p>Proposed by IH, seconded by SH.</p> <p><b>VOTE</b>  12 in agreement/1 abstention, motion carried forward.</p> <p>It was clarified that this motion provides SDCC with a mandate on the matter.</p> <p>PC added that it was only fair that SDCC clarifies its position in the press. IH agreed adding that the twinning group were misleading people abroad and a way of stopping this happening had to be found.</p> <p><b>MOTION</b>  SDCC writes a letter to the ‘Stonehaven and North East of Scotland Twinning Group’ expressing concern regarding their adding the name of an SDCC member in their SDCC capacity. Proposed by AL, seconded by JM.</p> <p><b>VOTE</b>  Unanimous agreement, motion carried forward.</p> <p>RC thanked everyone for their discussion.</p>	
	<p><b>ACTION</b> Contact <a href="http://www.twinning.org">www.twinning.org</a> to determine their knowledge and governing responsibility over the Stonehaven and North East of Scotland Twinning Group.</p>	<p><b>XX</b></p>
	<p><b>ACTION</b> Letter to the Twinning Group to be sent as per the motion.</p>	<p><b>AL</b></p>
<p><b>6.7</b></p>	<p><b>SDCC Comms Group, BW &amp; PC</b></p>	
	<p>PC informed members that SDCC email account had not yet been set up as technical configuration is required.</p> <p>BW added that website updates have been happening and the SDCC website has received a number of comments which should really have been addressed to Aberdeenshire Council however issues with their website were noted. BW asked if SDCC could speak to Aberdeenshire Council asking what plans were afoot to make their website more user friendly.</p> <p>IH noted that the new Live Life Aberdeenshire website of Aberdeenshire Council is more user friendly.</p> <p>RC highlighted that a comment added to the SDCC website instead of contacting Aberdeenshire Council had been resolved successfully with the assistance of Diane Strachan of the Council. The request concerned the location of a particular grave in the area.</p>	

	BS commented that Officers themselves at times find the Council website problematic to navigate and suggested that SDCC provide the Council with feedback on their website. BS added that he would take away comments noted at the meeting on this topic.	
	<b>ACTION</b> SDCC Comms Group to link to Aberdeenshire Council's Live Life Aberdeenshire website on the SDCC website.	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>	
	None.	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Future Dates and Events</b>	
<b>8.1</b>	Stonehaven Harbour Festival – Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	
<b>8.2</b>	Community Council Forum – Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2019, 7.00pm, Carlton House Stonehaven. SDCC Members welcome to attend. Aberdeenshire Council talk on planning.	
<b>8.3</b>	Grow Your Own Group Funding Fair – Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2019, 10.00am, Stonehaven Town Hall	
<b>8.4</b>	Supporting Communities Event – Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2019, 9.00am, Kemnay Village Hall. SDCC Members interested in attending need to apply by 30 <sup>th</sup> August. Travel expenses offered.	
<b>9.</b>	<b>A.O.C.B.</b>	
<b>9.1</b>	<b>Dunnottar Bodgers Group, RC</b>	
	RC informed the members of a previous SDCC agreement to lend the group Dunnottar Bodgers their support asking if they were in agreement to continue this arrangement. RC noted that this was support in name only, without a cost to SDCC. Having SDCC support assists the group cut their costs.  <b>MOTION</b> SDCC to support the Dunnottar Bodgers again. Proposed by RC, seconded by AL.  <b>VOTE</b> unanimous agreement, motion carried forward.	
<b>9.2</b>	<b>Hill Head Community Wind Fund, RC</b>	
	Hill Head community wind fund seek an SDCC member to sit on their committee to assist in deciding where the fund is allocated. The next Committee meeting is on 4 <sup>th</sup> September. MD has undertaken this role for another wind fund.	
	<b>ACTION</b> RC to inform MD of this role and meeting.	<b>RC/MD</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Date of Next Meetings</b>	
<b>10.1</b>	<b>Agenda Meeting:</b>	
	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2019, 7:00pm start, Invercarron Resource Centre, Stonehaven.	
<b>10.2</b>	<b>Business Meeting:</b>	
	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September, 7:00pm start, Invercarron Resource Centre, Stonehaven.	