



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

7:00 to 9:30pm, 10th September 2019
Invercarron Resource Centre, Stonehaven

1.	Chairperson's Welcome	
1.1	Attendance	
1.1.1	SDCC Councillors	
	Raymond Christie (RC), Paddy Coffield (PC), Mike Duncan (MD), Ian Hunter (IH), Paul Lindop (PL), Jim Morrison (JM), Jim Stephen (JS), Fiona Tavendale (FT), Daniel Veltman (DV) and Bill Watson (BW).	
1.1.2	Aberdeenshire Councillors	
	Councillor Agnew (Cllr A) and Councillor Dickinson (Cllr D).	
1.1.3	Others	
	Police Officer Mark Camus, the general public and Julia M. Lawrie Morrison, Minute Taker.	
1.1.4	Apologies	
	Alistair Lawrie (AL), Donald A. Lawrie Morrison (DLM), Steven Holt (SH), Cllr R, Cllr W, Gerry Towler (GT), Lindsay Wood (LW) and Councillors Robertson (Cllr R) and Wallace (Cllr W).	
1.1.5	Declarations of Interest	
	None.	
2.	Minutes	
2.1	Approval of the Last Minute	
	MOTION The approval of the last minute. Proposed DV and seconded JM.	
2.2	Matters Arising from the Last Minutes	
2.2.1	Corrections	
	Missing proposers and seconders to be added. Typo at item 2.2.8, word 'alleviation' to be replaced by 'irrigation'.	
	ACTION RC to add missing proposers and seconders to the last minute.	RC
	ACTION AL to amend typo at 2.2.8	AL
2.2.2	CCTV Proposal, JS and PL	
	No update at present.	
	ACTION JS/PL to report back with an update when available.	PL/JS
2.2.3	Blue Room, Stonehaven Community Centre, RC	
	RC spoke with Aberdeenshire Council who confirmed that there is no money available to renovate this room at present. Discussion ensued regarding the need to wait for the local authority to undertake works, querying whether or not the local community could have a hand in helping to look after community assets. Cllr A suggested the SDCC could speak with Aberdeenshire Council officer Tom Buchan regarding this matter.	
	ACTION PL to speak with Tom Buchan.	PL

2.2.5	Fence within Dunnottar Woods, Cllr D	
	Cllr D spoke with Aberdeenshire Council following up this matter. She established that neither the Forestry Commission nor the local authority are responsible for undertaking the flood irrigation works in the woods but stated that she had no final answer on who is and would seek further clarification on this. Cllr A added that she will check with the person who owns the land. DV added that he had sought comment from the Dunnottar Woodland Group but had not yet received a response.	
	ACTION Cllrs A/D to report back on their findings at the next meeting.	Cllrs A/D
2.2.7	Antisocial Behaviour Question Raised by Douglas Samways at the Last Meeting, Cllr D	
	Cllr D responded regarding the question which had been posed to police officers at the last meeting, stating that should any of the young people responsible for the vandalism in question undertake the reparation of the vandalised wall it would require supervision. Cllr D saw this as a question of how the wall can be cleaned noting that she was aware of another affected area having been cleaned by the homeowner to which that bit of wall belonged. The area that remains to be cleaned belongs to another resident and Cllr D offered to speak with that person, noting and agreeing with DS that to leave it in a vandalised state potentially encourages further acts of the same nature.	
	ACTION Cllr D to report back on how this might be dealt with locally.	Cllr D
2.2.8	Refill Charity Camp Awareness, Fiona Kindness (CHECK NAME)	
	FK, a member of the audience, informed SDCC that she had recently made a presentation at a meeting of the Stonehaven Business Association regarding the Refill Charity and its campaign. She intends on visiting local businesses to promote the same, with the hope of gaining sign-up to the cause. Cllr D noted that the Stonehaven Leisure Centre manager had agreed to pick-up the ongoing costs for the sanitisation of the proposed water refill fountain at leisure centre.	
	ACTION FK offered to inform SDCC on how she gets on speaking with local businesses.	FK
3.	Police Report and Matters, Police Officer Mark Camus	
3.1	Anti-Social Behaviour	
	PO MC confirmed that the Police Report would be emailed to SDCC the next day.	
	No change reported in the level of anti-social behaviour, many of which relate to a specific group of teenagers and include various incidents of assaults, but none were serious.	
3.2	Acquisitive Crime	
	There has been an increase in the number of thefts in the area, including the theft of a caravan. Local shops affected include ASDA, Keystore and the Co-op. One person has been charged and enquiries are ongoing.	
	Three house break-ins were reported including a forced entry of the newly developed David Street block by the afore mentioned group of teenagers, who have been noted as breaking into various private residence back garden summer houses. PO MC confirmed that some members of this teenage group of individuals had been taken, along with their parents to Kittybrewster, with one individual being sent to Glasgow. There is a dedicated patrol of uniformed and non-uniformed officers monitoring this group.	
	PO MC encouraged the local community to engage with Rural Watch Scotland, a similar scheme to Neighbourhood Watch whereby issues of rural acquisitive crime are raised and threats alerted to. Persons interested in getting involved are requested to email in making known suspicious activity in their area.	
3.3	Road Safety and Crime	
	Two cases of drink-driving, four dangerous driving cases and two careless driving incidents reported, one being reported to the Procurator fiscal.	
	Officers continue with operation Cedar issuing 6 tickets for speeding, 1 vehicle being ceased regarding an insurance matter.	

3.4	Questions to PO MC	
3.4.1	Upward Trend in Incidents in the Area, IH	
	<p>IH asked PO MC if there was an upward trend in incidents.</p> <p>PO MC noted that there had been during the month of August, specifically relating to the afore mentioned group of teenagers in the town whose behaviour had been very difficult. The teenagers have been truanting school, breaking into private residences, in particular, back garden summer houses in the Cameron Street area, smashing glazing. Most of the individuals involved have been identified.</p> <p>IH asked PO MC if the police were receiving support regarding this matter from other organisations.</p> <p>PO MC confirmed that Bernardos, SACRO and Aberdeenshire Council's Social Work and Education services are providing support. He added that much information had been obtained from CCTV in the area, which helps the process. PO MC added that the local community has suffered greatly as a result of activity of this group of individuals.</p>	
3.4.2	Proportion of Crimes in Stonehaven, BW	
	<p>BW asked PO MC what proportion of the assaults reported in the Kincardine and Mearns area were undertaken in Stonehaven.</p> <p>PO MC noted that most took place in Stonehaven as proportionally busier especially at the weekends.</p>	
3.4.3	Bridge Closure on the Slug Road, PL	
	<p>PL asked PO MC when the bridge is closed on the Slug Road whether it would be possible to have suitable signage erected to warn people of single-track traffic.</p> <p>PO MC confirmed that road signage was within the remit of Aberdeenshire Council's Road department, adding that the Police would appear in case of incidents at which point they can erect a road closed sign as a temporary measure.</p> <p>RC thanked PO MC.</p>	
4.	Issues Not on the Agenda Raised by the Public	
4.1	Ury Estate Kirkwood Homes Planning application, Mitch McKay	
	<p>MM asked PL if SDCC knew about the application by Kirkwood Homes for an additional 36 homes at their Ury Estate development. PL noted that it was not within the Planning department's weekly summary to them and that he would look into this matter.</p>	
	ACTION PL to ask for a stay of execution and for the matter to be added to the October Agenda.	PL
5.	Planning, PL	
5.1	APP/2019/2030 Queen Elizabeth Park – water bottle refill	
	<p>Nothing issued to SDCC to review.</p> <p>APP/2019/2030 Queen Elizabeth Park relates to the installation of a water fountain by Scottish Water. PL felt it worthwhile for a letter to be provided by SDCC in support of the attempt to try to reduce single-use plastics in Stonehaven. PL added that he had written to the applicant to see if and how they plan on gathering water fountain use data in order to see how much plastic is actively saved by the installation of this water fountain.</p> <p>FB informed the meeting that she had been in contact with Gavin Steel of Scottish Water regarding the potential of installing similar water fountains at the Market Square and harbour in Stonehaven. Scottish Water did not suggest this would happen due to concerns regarding the work required to make the water up to standard drinking quality, noting if landowners sought to erect such water fountains they should be directed to the 'Scotland on Tap' website. FB contacted 'Scotland on Tap' who confirmed that water providers for water fountains is put out to competitive tender through Scottish Water. FB is</p>	

	seeking to follow up the potential of water fountains being established in the Market Square and harbour areas.	
	ACTION PL to write to Scottish Water and report back.	PL
	ACTION FB to update PL on her progress with this.	FB
6.	Business Matters	
6.1	Self-Build Proposals for Seminar, IH	
	<p>IH spoke with Jim Stewart who confirmed that the Self-Build Seminar is due to go ahead in November and while concentrating on this would be unable to give a presentation to the SDCC at this time. IH hoped that this seminar would bring about opportunities for young people. MD noted that this topic will be on the next Community Council Forum meeting agenda.</p> <p>This event is to be promoted on the SDCC website. IH queried the visibility of the events section of the Aberdeenshire Council website noting that many departments, such as the library service use Facebook to advertise their events, a platform that not everyone uses. Cllr D noted that Aberdeenshire Council Live Life Aberdeenshire website has a sign-up form for the community to receive email alerts. IH felt that other service events should be promoted within the same events section as those on the Live Life Aberdeenshire website in order for ease of use by people to see what is on covering all topics in the area, not solely those pertaining to libraries, museums and sport as it is at present. Cllr D said she would provide this as feedback to the Council.</p> <p>FB, in the audience, agreed that the library service had invested a lot of effort in advertising their events on Facebook, shifting their means of communication to social media. IH reiterated that a lot of people do not use Facebook and added that this was not an acceptable way for the local authority to publicise its events.</p>	
	ACTION IH to give information for PC to promote on the SDCC website.	IH/PC
	ACTION IH to give information to The Bellman.	IH
6.2	Mental Health Consultation, MD & GT	
	MD and GT have been invited to join 3 working groups. MD still to catch-up with GT.	
	ACTION Add to the SDCC October Business Meeting agenda.	RC
6.3	Greener Kincardine & Mearns, IH	
	<p>IH attended the film showing of 'Tomorrow' at Mearns Community Campus within which many ideas were raised including the fact that San Francisco recycles 80% of its waste. It was noted how important a town council mayor would be in delivering such local initiatives, as in San Francisco. IH noted that a recent documentary aired highlighting that Coca-Cola manufactures 4,000 plastic bottles per second.</p> <p>IH added that it was important for clean water to be accessible for people to refill their bottles. JM noted that Union Square in Aberdeen have added water fountains for this purpose.</p>	
6.4	TrAK (Transport Action Kincardine) Report, IH	
	<p>IH informed members that at the last TrAK meeting they reviewed a recent NESTRANS document which seeks feedback on why people are not using public transport, considering topics such as making it more acceptable to people, providing sheltered bus stops, improving bus station waiting areas, such as that at the Aberdeen Bus Station in Union Square. Issues with people deciphering which buses go from the Aberdeen Bus Station to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary were noted as not being clearly labelled. TrAK suggested that relevant buses put the letter 'H' on to indicate that they go up past the hospital. Display boards were discussed with TrAK seeking one being added within the café at the ASDA supermarket in Portlethen. IH noted that businesses could request bus time display boards inside their premises. IH felt that public transport users are often seen in an unfair light, as marginals without a car.</p> <p>Mitch McKay, in the audience, asked IH how many trains ran between Laurencekirk and Aberdeen every morning, noting that the service appeared to be good. IH noted that it was an hourly service but that</p>	

	<p>some users have complained about the change in provision as many trains require a change at Montrose before users can get to a further south destination. IH added that TrAK are pushing for heated seated areas on both platforms at Montrose railway station.</p> <p>JS raised the issue of the poor lighting and railings situation at Stonehaven Train Station noting and thanking Cllr A having following-up on the situation of the railings. JS added that it is very dark heading up the pathway to the station at the dual carriageway side due to overgrown vegetation. Cllr D noted that she had reported this issue. JS felt that the vegetation, old posts and metal studs affecting the light availability in that area require to be cleared away, adding that this was detrimental to tourism and created a threatening feel to the pathway. Cllr D noted that Aberdeenshire Council is responsible for the lighting and Network Rail is responsible for the vegetation, with nobody being clear on who is responsible for the ramp itself. This poses an added issue during the winter months as it has not been officially adopted by the Council in terms and therefore who is responsible for potential gritting in adverse weather conditions is unclear.</p>	
	ACTION Cllr D to provide Heather Knoller's contact details to RC.	Cllr D
	ACTION RC to contact Network Rail.	RC
6.5	Dog Fouling, MD	
	<p>Bruce Stewart (BS) offered to follow up this issue with Council officer David Couper, at the August SDCC Business meeting. Cllr A and D added that the Council's dog warden is able to patrol, has enforcement powers and provides dog poo bags already. MD felt there was a problem with the frequency of dog warden patrols and suggested that a combined effort of patrols being undertaken by the dog warden, environmental officers and new officials could be delivered on a trial basis in an attempt to determine what times and sites patrols would be most effective. MD felt that the current system is failing, requires to be more visible. BS responded to MD noting that David Couper with whom MD had previously communicated regarding this matter had retired and the matter would be taken up by Economic services for comment.</p> <p>DV highlighted the Council's Green Dog Walker Scheme whereby dog owners can sign up to obtains free dog poo bags, available to collect from the David Street Coop supermarket as well as from Viewmount in Stonehaven.</p> <p>IH raised a concern with late night dog walkers letting their dog off-lead in the dark querying how the owners would be aware of any dog poo requiring to be picked up.</p> <p>JS raised a concern with the lack of enforcement against dog owners failing to pick up after their dogs and in particular with dog excrement being left in school playing fields, such as at Milloforest Primary School. Cllr D noted that Mackie Academy Rector Louise Moir recently asked the Council to take down the sign prohibiting dog walking within the secondary school grounds. JS and MD felt school playing fields should be no-go areas for all dog walking.</p> <p>PL added that while not picking up after your dog is an offence queried what the legal basis of banning dogs from certain locations would be.</p> <p>JM suggested that SDCC Communication Group could advertise the Green Dog Walkers' scheme on the website and Facebook page.</p>	
	ACTION Communication Group to write a piece on this for the SDCC website.	Coms Group
	ACTION MD to report back regarding this, circulating amongst members, by the next meeting.	MD
	ACTION Cllr D will look into this and report back at the next meeting.	Cllr D
6.6	Public Meeting on eConsult at Stonehaven Medical Practice, RC	
	PC and RC attended the Patient Participation Group meeting at Stonehaven Medical Practice.	

	<p>Stonehaven Medical Practice area keen to have another public meeting in order to provide more information on their e-consult online system and have requested SDCC assistance again in order to have this set up. They have suggested holding it on a Tuesday or Thursday in early or late October, outwith school holiday time. Wherein early October is too soon, early November is also another possible time for this meeting.</p> <p>PL asked if this could be held alongside the SDCC Business meeting. RC noted that it was intended that this meeting should be held separately. Members considered potential locations for the meeting. PL asked members to remember that the surgery refused to put up SDCC election posters and that wherein SDCC were assisting them with the setting up this meeting they might agree to put up future SDCC election posters at the surgery. RC agreed.</p>	
	ACTION JS to find out about the courthouse capacity.	JS
	ACTION RC to find out when the town hall is free for this event.	RC
6.7	Community Council Forum Report, RC/IH/PC	
	Further information regarding the las CCF meeting discussion in AOCB. The next CCF meeting will be held on 19 th November at 7.00pm.	
6.8	New SDCC Email Addresses, Communication Group, BW	
	<p>BW reported on the Communication Group activity relating to the setting up of SDCC email accounts. The system can potentially set up 4 to 5 email addresses which can be formatted to any name and password controlled with more than one person being able to log in. There would be the potential to set up officer email addresses. BW added there might be use in setting up a project-specific email address too.</p> <p>PC added that one account has been set up, with people able to test it at projects@stonehaven.cc.uk.</p> <p>PL asked if the emails could be set up to forward on to pre-existing email addresses used by officers. BW noted this was possible.</p> <p>DV asked if members wanted to provide a short bio for the SDCC website. BW noted that this information could still be added should members want this information to be published.</p>	
	ACTION Coms Group to set up a Planning email address.	Coms Group
	ACTION PC to speak to AL regarding setting up a Secretary email address.	PC
	ACTION SDCC Members who want their details added to the SDCC website to communicate with BW	ALL
6.9	Christmas Tree and Nippy Dip, JS	
	<p>JS met with the Stonehaven Business Association, the Stonehaven Town Partnership and the Lions to discuss the Christmas Lights switch on and Christmas Tree for this year's event in December. The Lions have agreed to organise this with SBA taking care of the Christmas lights around the town. The Lions, Round Table and Rotary Club will be organising stalls at the switch on event, with setting up commencing on Saturday 30th November. Progress is good and a drafted flying is about to go around for consent.</p> <p>JS noted that while some repairs are required for the Christmas lights funds are available and also required for potential fencing around the Christmas tree and for paint. The Men's' Shed might get involved too. JS added that the old banner should be able to be reused.</p> <p>In terms of the Christmas tree, JS noted everything is on track having held discussions with Richard Holman-Baird. Cllr A asked if Richard Holman-Baird is going to provide the Christmas tree this year. JS has been in discussion with Richard and will continue to speak with him regarding the tree. JS hopes that clarity has been achieved and would be delighted if Richard would like to donate the tree again this year.</p> <p>JS has been in talks also with Diane Strachan of Aberdeenshire Council regarding roads permissions and car park closure for the event.</p>	

	<p>JS noted that if anyone would like to help with the Christmas Light switch on event they would be able to assist at various points from Friday 29th to Saturday 30th November. All help gratefully received.</p> <p>In terms of the Nippy Dip JS noted that the licence has still to be arranged for the event and the charity for collections agreed. Members considered possible local charitable organisations who could potentially be this year's beneficiary. JS added that money raised by the RNLI could not be shared with the chosen charity and event collections as this was against RNLI policy. A method for determining which local charity should be chosen was discussed.</p> <p>JS requested those interested in helping out at this event to get in touch. Members suggested that the chosen charity could provide volunteers too.</p> <p>PL asked members to consider the potential of setting up an event Just Giving web page in order to increase donations. JS said this could be discussed with the RNLI.</p> <p>JL, of STP in the audience, added that STP will assist SDCC with this event.</p> <p>Cllr A suggested the use Baird park for event car parking to take pressure off of the harbour area.</p>	
	ACTION JS to ask KDP for suggestions of suitable local charities, who area able to contribute volunteers for the event. Information to be passed on to PL and RC.	JS
	ACTION JS to ask identified charities what they can each provide for the running of the event, if interested in being considered as the beneficiary of event collections. Information to be passed on to PL and RC.	JS
	ACTION Decision making of the charity beneficiary to be added to the October SDCC Business meeting agenda.	RC
	ACTION JS to circulate draft flyer to members.	JS
	ACTION JS to speak with Richard Holman-Baird regarding the Christmas Tree.	JS
	ACTION PL to look-into the setting up of a Nippy Dip Just Giving page.	PL
7.	Correspondence	
	None.	
8.	Future Dates and Events	
	Community Council Forum meeting, 17 th November, at 7.00pm.	
9.	A.O.C.B.	
9.1	Stonehaven Twinning, IH	
	<p>IH informed the meeting that while attending a meeting of the Community Council Forum he was informed by other Community Councils in Aberdeenshire that they were unaware of the 'Stonehaven and North East Scotland Twinning Group'. IH added that 'SNET' therefore does not represent the North East of Scotland.</p> <p>IH spoke with Bruce Stewart, Acting Area Manager for Kincardine and Mearns at Aberdeenshire Council, who confirmed that the Council has nothing to do with 'SNET', but IH noted that, to some extent, the Council must have validated the recent Athens event as the local provost was planning on attending.</p> <p>IH noted that the recent Athens delegate visit to Stonehaven had been reported on within the 'Athens Courier', adding that the management of the alleged twinning between the two places had ill-served the people of Athens, as well as those in Stonehaven.</p> <p>Reconfirming discussion undertaken on this topic at the August SDCC Business meeting, JS highlighted that 'SNET' or the twinning group had not undertaken public consultation, with no local organisations being written to; the Stonehaven Business Association, the Stonehaven Tourism Group had not been notified by the twinning group, including the SDCC and the Stonehaven Town Partnership. JS added that any lacking in the reception afforded the</p>	

	<p>Athens' delegates was not the responsibility of the people or organisations of Stonehaven but was due to the management of the twinning process by the twinning group itself.</p> <p>IH sought clarity over whether the twinning arrangement with Athens still stands as legitimate. If it does, whether the local community and organisations accept it. If it does not, IH queried whether or not the local community needs to communicate this with Athens. Members JM and JS added they did not believe the twinning agreement stands.</p> <p>On the topic of the Acheres Concordat, FT added that she believes Mr Phil Mills-Bishop, Twinning Co-ordinator of SNET retains the paper signed agreement in his possession.</p> <p>RC closed the discussion, reminded the meeting of the position of SDCC and the motion passed on the matter at the August Business Meeting.</p>	
	ACTION RC to discuss with AL.	RC
	ACTION AL to report back regarding any response to letters sent at the next meeting.	AL
9.2	Hillhead of Acquiry Wind Farm Award Committee, MD	
	<p>MD reported on his recent attendance at the Hillhead of Acquiry Wind Farm fund award committee meeting at which they were tasked with distributing around £17,000, 12 proposals for funds submitted by Stonehaven organisations. Attended award committee, c17k to distribute 12 proposals submitted majority Stonehaven. Around £13,000 was awarded with £4,000 being carried forward. One of the organisations awarded a grant from the fund included the Stonehaven Business Association who sought money to reprint another stock of their local area maps. There will be an award ceremony.</p> <p>MD informed SDCC members that attending these award committees was a good opportunity to meet representatives of other community councils.</p>	
9.3	Local Authority Area Managers Reporting Structure, IH	
	<p>IH asked Councillors present at the meeting about the reporting structure of Area Managers.</p> <p>Cllr D noted that two Area Managers report to Steven Archer, two report to the Education Service and two report to Ritchie Johnson. Cllr A added that all Area Managers can speak to other Council Directors.</p> <p>IH queried this structure. Cllr D noted that it had been in place for a long time, having been set up under Colm McKenzie, adding that Area Managers do interact with each other.</p> <p>IH asked where the Chief Executive fits into the structure. Cllr A answered stating that issues are usually dealt with amongst themselves within the structure but problematic issues go straight to the Chief Executive.</p>	
9.4	Hannah Dyson Award and Community Award	
	RC and AL have undertaken the organising of these awards over the past few years and seek members interested in helping them.	
	ACTION AL to send around Awards criteria to members.	AL
	ACTION Members interested in helping RC and AL to let them know.	ALL
9.5	DV New signage for SDCC	
	DV notified members that he would be creating new name signs to be displayed at SDCC Business meetings.	
	ACTION DV to create new SDCC member table name signs.	DV
9.6	The Bellman Article, MD	
	<p>MD notified members that despite his article written in The Bellman back in in August seeking new SDCC members there had been no response from the general public, unfortunately.</p> <p>Steve McQueen, of SBA in the audience, added that whilst no one sought to join on the back of the</p>	

	article it had alerted the public to the SDCC meetings encouraging them to attend which is a good start.	
10.	Date of Next Meetings	
10.1	Agenda Meeting:	
	Tuesday 1 st October 2019, 7:00pm start, Invercarron Resource Centre, Stonehaven.	
10.2	Business Meeting:	
	Tuesday 8 th October, 7:00pm start, Invercarron Resource Centre, Stonehaven.	