

**STONEHAVEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

7 – 9 pm, 8th December 2020

Virtual Meeting, Stonehaven

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| **Present:** |
| Bill Watson, Chair (BC), Raymond Christie (RC), Ian Hunter (IH), Mike Duncan (MD), Jim Stephen (JS), Patrick Coffield (PC), Fiona Tavendale (FT), Alastair Lawrie (AL), David Lawman (DL), Steven McQueen (SMcQ), Dawn Black (DB), Christine Mann (CM), Andrew Gorrara (AG), Councillors Dickinson & Agnew |
| **In Attendance:** |
| Jane Cruickshank (Bellman) |

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|  |  | **Action** |
| 1 | **Chairperson Welcome** |  |
| 2 | **Apologies & Declarations of Interest**  Councillor Robertson (Cllr R), Gerry Towler (GT), Lindsay Wood (LW), Daniel Veltman (DV) |  |
| 3 | **Appointment of Co-option**  Andrew Gorrara (AG) was welcomed to the meeting as a member of the SDCC. Proposed: BW, Seconded: AL |  |
| 4 | **Appointment of Treasurer**  BW having been appointed, as Chair a new Treasurer was required; David Lawman volunteered to take up the position.  Proposed: JS, Seconded: AL Action:  DL to send AL his contact details for the Council’s records. | DL / AL |
| 5 | **Minutes of Previous Meeting**  The November minutes were proposed by Bill Watson and Seconded by KS |  |
| 5.1 | Mackie Defibrillator  The previous minutes suggested, incorrectly, that the Council had approved a sum of £1,800 for a new defibrillator at Mackie Academy. The minutes should have read that the Council has approved the installation of a defibrillator unit at Mackie Academy. This will be funded by the SDCC together with pledges from community groups. Costs are estimated between £1,800 – 2,000 for the unit, electrical work and installation. | JS |
| 6 | **Matters Arising** |  |
| 6.1 | Market Square Project Update  DB provided an update on the project.  The planning application has been submitted and it is expected the Area Committee will consider this at their January meeting. A public consultation is underway with local businesses, details will be available to the public at the Hyve pop up, and via the Bellman and Mearns Leader.  DB will also be meeting local police to discuss how potential vandalism may be mitigated. | DB |
| 6.2 | Defibrillator Invoices  JS requested that appropriate funds are ring-fenced in the SDCC accounts to ensure the costs of renewing and replacing of defibrillator batteries and pads can be met.  JS will forward invoices from contractors for the Mackie defibrillator. BW / DL will arrange payment. | BW / DL |
| 6.3 | Craigneil Wind Farm Development  The recent meeting of the Council’s Area Committee voted to defer the planning application pending a site visit. CC members expressed concerns that no timeframe proposed for this visit. Councillors at the meeting advised that this would be determined by the Council’s co-vid policies and were unable to suggest when this might happen  This project has been in development for some 18 months and will offer significant community benefits via community grants. RC will therefore write to Bruce Stewart, Area Manager (CC to elected members and Sam McMillan of ESB) to request that this is completed as soon as possible so that the application can be considered again at the Area Committee’s February meeting. Social distancing practices are well established now and it is hoped that the visit will therefore not be unduly delayed. | RC |
| 7 | **Police Report**  Nothing to report |  |
| 8 | **Planning Report**  Nothing to report on planning.  KS will forward the KDP nomination form for the Auquhirie Wind Farm panel for CC representatives to complete. | KS |
| 9 | **Christmas Tree / Lights**  BW / JS thanked volunteers for their time and efforts in helping to put up the town Christmas tree.  JS will forward invoice for the new tree baubles for payment to BW / DL. | JS / BW / DL |
| 10 | **Margaret Street Toilets**  The toilets remain closed following completion of external repair work. The lack of facilities in the town centre may be impacting on shopping footfall, but due to the extra costs of cleaning during co-vid, the Council is only able to keep one public facility open. On balance, with the boardwalk currently closed and the need to support ‘shop local’ it makes sense to have the Margaret St facilities open instead of the harbour.  DB to write to Bruce Stewart requesting that Margaret St is opened. | DB |
| 11 | **Food Banks**  Stonehaven has three food banks supporting the community - Far & Wide, the Catalyst Church and the Food Larder. These facilities have been well supported by the community to date but there are concerns about the sustainability of this given the uncertain future demand and the impact this may have on public support for other community resources.  It would therefore be helpful to try and get a better understanding of local demand and the costs of sustaining 3 food banks in the community. PC offered to conduct some initial research on this and as a first step, AL will put him in touch with Graham Hooper who has been redeployed at the Council to help support the community’s food banks. | AL / PC |
| 12 | **Virtual Meeting Applications**  The CC discussed the suitability of moving to a video application to improve the meeting experience from the current dial in facility. AL recently emailed all members to see whether there was a desire to move to video for future meetings and all but 4 members have responded. There is a majority in favour of moving to video, but members can still dial in as before should they wish.  The Council has a commercial Skype licence that the CC could utilise for meetings. BW proposed a dry run at the CC’s next meeting on January 12th. KS will issue a meeting invite (members will need to accept or reject). If accepted the meeting will then appear in the device Calendar. KS will also reissue invite on the day of the meeting. Emma Storey can provide training to use Skype as necessary and AL will co-ordinate if anyone requires this. | AL |
| 13 | **Correspondence**  No correspondence |  |
| 14 | **AOCB** |  |
| 14.1 | Hannah Dyson Award 2021  AL has prepared a letter and nomination form which will be sent to schools and uniformed organisations, Scouts, Sea Scouts etc. AL requested members to help with contact details for these organisations. The closing date for nominations is February 5th 2021. The Award details will also be made available via the Bellman. | Members / AL |
| 14.2 | Post Office Facilities  IH noted that due to social distancing there are often lengthy queues outside the post office in Arduthie Road and this is clearly not suitable for a town the size of Stonehaven. Cllr D has written to the CEO of the Post Office about the lack of facilities but the response was disappointing and while applications from individuals have been made to take up the vacant PO franchise, a suitable candidate has yet to apply. It would appear that the PO would prefer an existing business takes this on.  Cllr A has previously written to the Arduthie PO suggesting that they move the service down to the larger David St Co-op but until the vacant franchise is taken up or social distancing requirements change in the new year the situation may not improve.  IH noted other options such as Hermes who offer a home collect & deliver service. Hermes is also available in the David St Co-op. IH will promote this on his Mearns FM radio show and DB will investigate other options. | IH / DB |
| 14.3 | Defibrillator Funding  JS proposed the CC sets up a crowdfunding page to support the costs of replacing defibrillator pads & batteries and to create a small stock of these items. BW seconded. The CC will also approach the Area Committee for match funding, which remains open to February 2021.  JS / DL will action. A link to the crowdfunding page will be made available on the CC website, social media and the Bellman. | JS / DL |
| 14.4 | Mental Health Contract  The Council’s mental health contract (currently with SAMH) ends on December 31st. Despite several requests over the year asking the Council / Aberdeenshire Health Care Partnership for an update on this, it is still unclear what service will be available from January 1st 2021.  Cllr D will follow this up and press for an answer. | Cllr D |
| 14.5 | CC Meeting Attendance  With the recent appointment of co-opted members, the CC is now at capacity (20 members). A number of members have however been absent from meetings for some time. Earlier in the year the Council and CC Officers agreed that during co-vid the CC would not require regular attendance (and apply the 3 meeting rule in its constitution).  It was agreed that this period of grace has ended and BW will write to members to make them aware of this and ask them to attend or stand down if they are unable to make the commitment to attend meetings. | BW |
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**Next Meeting:** 12th January 2021