



## STONEHAVEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

7 – 9 pm, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Virtual Meeting, Stonehaven

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| <b>Present</b>   |
| <p><b>Community Council Members:</b></p> <p>Dawn Black (DB), Raymond Christie (RC), Patrick Coffield (PC), Mike Duncan (MD), Ian Hunter (IH), David Lawman, <i>Treasurer</i> (DL), Christine Mann (CM); Donald A. Lawrie Morrison, <i>Vice-Chairperson</i> (DLM), Steven McQueen (SMcQ), Christine Mann (CM), Keith Simpson, <i>Planning Secretary</i> (KS), Jim Stephen (JS), and Bill Watson, <i>Chairperson</i> (BW), Lindsey Wood (LW).</p> <p><b>Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members:</b></p> <p>Councillor Wendy Agnew (Cllr A), Councillor Sarah Dickinson (Cllr D) and Councillor Dennis Robertson (Cllr R).</p> |
| <b>In Attendance</b>   |
| <p>Julia Lawrie Morrison (Minutes Secretary); Emma Storey (Committee Officer, Aberdeenshire Council); Jane Cruickshank (Bellman); (part meeting) Natasha Stewart Rhythm Nation Dance and Fitness.</p>  |

| 1 | Chairperson's Welcome  | Action |
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|   | BW made observations on the importance of proper order during the conduct of the meeting: that contributions should be made through the Chair; and that different opinions should be considered respectfully. BW expressed his confidence that this would be adhered to. |        |
| 2 | <b>Apologies</b>   |        |
|   | Andrew Gorrara and Alistair Lawrie, <i>Secretary</i> (AL),   |        |
| 3 | <b>Declarations of Interest</b>  |        |
|   | None.  |        |

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| 4     | <p><b>Police Report &amp; Matters Arising</b></p> <p>No report.</p>  |    |
| 5     | <p><b>Presentation by Natasha Stewart Principal Teacher of Rhythm Nation Dance and Fitness</b></p> <p>NS informed the meeting about her contemporary dance class business local to the area, including her accomplishments in dance education, community based dance youthwork, working with local charitable organisations and providing an alternative online dance service during the Covid-19 pandemic, as a way of improving the wellbeing of young people in the area, helping to reduce rural isolation and poverty.</p> <p>NS highlighted that Aberdeenshire Council had noted that the planning application might be recommended for refusal on the basis of their planning policy 1B.</p> <p>NS requested CC support for Rhythm Nation Dance and Fitness' planning application for the change of use of unit 1 at Spurryhillock in order that NS' business might acquire suitable premises for local young people to attend dance classes.</p> <p>BW thanked NS for her presentation to members and confirmed the matter would be discussed along with planning matters.</p> |    |
| 6     | <p><b>Last Minute</b></p>  |    |
| 6.1   | <p><b>Amendments to the Last Minute</b></p> <p>LW to be added in the apologies section.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – AL to update January's business meeting minutes.</p>  | AL |
| 6.2   | <p><b>Approval of the Last Minute</b></p> <p>Proposed by PC and seconded by IH.</p>  |    |
| 6.3   | <p><b>Matters Arising from the Last Minute</b></p>   |    |
| 6.3.1 | <p><b>Stonehaven Market Square Project Update - DB</b></p> <p>This project has been approved by Aberdeenshire Council.</p>   |    |
| 6.3.2 | <p><b>Craigneil Wind Farm Development - RC</b></p> <p>Site visit by Aberdeenshire Council Area Committee had been postponed, due to reported Covid restrictions</p> <p>JS reported that there was an imminent time limit on the period Aberdeenshire Council had to consider this application.</p>   |    |

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| 6.3.3 | <p><b>Christmas Tree, Baubles and Lights - JS</b></p> <p>Invoicing and payment was on-going</p>  |    |
| 6.3.4 | <p><b>Hannah Dyson Award 2021 - AL</b></p> <p>On-going</p>   |    |
| 6.3.5 | <p><b>Stonehaven's Food Banks and Larder - PC</b></p> <p>PC had shared the CC report on Stonehaven's food banks and larder on the CC website. IH had promoted this report on his radio show on Mearns FM.</p> <p>ES confirmed that Aberdeenshire Council's Community Planning were to provide additional support information material for distribution at the food banks and larders.</p>  |    |
| 6.3.6 | <p><b>Skype meetings – KS</b></p> <p>The CC would continue to use Skype for their virtual monthly agenda and business meetings, due to the lack of suitability of other platforms.</p> <p>Skype video would ideally be used by each speaker in turn, but would be a matter of personal preference.</p>   |    |
| 6.3.7 | <p><b>CC Communication - PC</b></p> <p>DB agreed to take on a social media administration role for the CC's facebook page.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – Communications to be added as an agenda item for the March CC business meeting.</p>  | PC |
| 7     | <p><b>Business Matters</b></p>   |    |
| 7.1   | <p><b>Resignation and Vacancy – BW</b></p> <p>Resignation had been received from Stephen Holt from the community council, leaving a vacancy available.</p> <p><b>Motion</b></p> <p><i>The CC to offer to co-opt the person next in line from the previous CC member recruitment drive.</i></p> <p>Proposed by BW and seconded by IH.</p> <p><b>Result</b> – agreed.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – BW to liaise with ES over notification of Area Manager over proposed co-option.</p> | BW |



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| <p><b>7.4</b></p> | <p><b>CC Training – ES</b></p> <p>ES is looking for a date for a joint member training session with other CCs, that will be open to all CC members.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – add to the March business meeting agenda.</p>   | <p><b>BW</b></p> |
| <p><b>7.5</b></p> | <p><b>Proposed Closure of Mackie Pool – BW</b></p> <p>BW asked the Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members for a report on this matter:</p> <p>Cllr A advised that Aberdeenshire Council’s Area Committee had approved the proposed alterations to Mackie Academy following receipt of information such as how well the pool was used, and feedback from a consultation. The consultation informed members that pupils at the school preferred the removal of the pool in order to facilitate the provision of increased changing rooms and toilets. Members had also been informed that Stonehaven Leisure Centre had ample room to accommodate any users who might have previously used the school pool.</p> <p>Cllr D added that the proposed alterations included for the filling-in of the pool and the provision of an improved fitness and drama suite. Cllr D explained that consultation on these proposals had included the Mackie Parent Council, the pupils, and the pool user groups.</p> <p>Cllr R added that the consultation process had been on the basis of what the best use of the space for the children at the school themselves would be.</p> <p>RC noted that Aberdeenshire Council officers should have attended a CC meeting at the time of their consultation with the school over this matter, in accordance with their community planning obligations, as the general public in the area were unaware of these proposals.</p> <p>DL queried as to whether the pool at Mackie was a school or community asset, noting the general move in other Aberdeenshire towns towards community school campuses with shared facilities and assets.</p> <p>IH agreed that the pool at Mackie is a community asset and was once greatly used outwith school hours and that any current underuse is due to Aberdeenshire Council’s lack of attention to community development letting interest and demand in such a facility dwindle.</p> <p>PC agreed that the Mackie pool is a community asset, noting disagreement with the suggestion that the consultation had been undertaken thoroughly, given the wider local community knew nothing about it.</p> <p>DB highlighted that, as a member of the Mackie Parent Council, she had been involved with the consultation undertaken, that it had taken users into account and that the plans for the school will be a much needed improvement, adding that it would be useful for CC members to see these plans themselves.</p> |                  |

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|                   | <p>JS and LW raised concerns over the lack of improvement of other community facilities such as those at the Carronhill School and the Leisure Centre.</p> <p>Cllrs R &amp; D suggested that Aberdeenshire Council officers attend a future CC business meeting, so as to make a presentation as to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the future vision for Mackie Academy and</li> <li>- also address questions as to the future of the other community facilities within Stonehaven.</li> </ul> <p>Two motions were proposed:</p> <p><b>Motion A</b></p> <p><i>The CC requests Aberdeenshire Council postpones the closure of the pool at Mackie Academy until such time as the wider community have been consulted</i></p> <p>Proposed by PC and seconded by IH.</p> <p><b>Motion B – Counter to A</b></p> <p><i>The CC accepts the decision with regard to the pool closure and asks that the plans for the alterations of Mackie Academy be presented at the next CC meeting.</i></p> <p>Proposed by DB and seconded by JS.</p> <p><b>Result</b></p> <p>Motion A was approved, 8 to 5</p> <p><b>Action</b> – To write to Area Manager requesting postponement of the proposed pool closure and calling for a wider community consultation to be undertaken.</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <p>To invite Aberdeenshire Council (Live Life Aberdeenshire) officers to attend the March business meeting, so as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to present the plans for the future of Mackie Academy and</li> <li>- to also address the questions about the future of the other community and leisure facilities within Stonehaven.</li> </ul> | <p>BW</p> <p>AL</p> |
| <p><b>7.6</b></p> | <p><b>Aberdeenshire Council Winter Services – MD</b></p> <p><b>Motion</b></p> <p><i>To acknowledge the excellent work this year by Council services to keep roads and pavements gritted.</i></p> <p>Proposed MD and Seconded <b>xx</b>.</p> <p><b>Result – Agreed</b></p>   |                     |

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| <b>8</b>   | <b>Correspondence</b>  |                        |
| <b>8.1</b> | <b>Broadband</b><br>There had been a media enquiry about broadband speeds in neighbourhood. DB volunteered to respond  | <b>DB</b>              |
| <b>8.1</b> | <b>Aberdeenshire Council Town Centre Tool Kit Project</b><br>Aberdeenshire Council were to launch this "Tool Kit" on 3rd March. This may lead to the potential for the CC to work with other groups on a Town Centre proposal. JS would find out if SBA/Diane Henderson was aware of this launch.<br><b>Action</b> – add to the March business meeting agenda.               | <b>JS</b><br><b>BW</b> |
| <b>8.2</b> | <b>Public Member Enquiry on The Haven Crowd Funding Event</b><br>A member of the public had submitted an enquiry to the CC seeking information on the use of funds raised by The Haven during its November 2020 Crowd Funder fundraising event.<br><b>Action</b> – The CC would add this query to its enquiries about the funding of the local area's food banks and larder. | <b>AL</b>              |
| <b>9</b>   | <b>AOCB (Urgent or For Next Meeting)</b>   |                        |
| <b>9.1</b> | <b>Use of Bequest Fund - JS</b><br>JS noted that an earlier proposal had been mooted by RC regarding the use of funds in the benefit fund could be allocated amongst worthy causes in the community.<br><b>Action</b> – use of funds in the CC Bequest Account to be added to the March business meeting agenda.   | <b>BW</b>              |
| <b>9.2</b> | Horizon wished to make a presentation of their future plans<br><b>Action</b> –to be added to the March business meeting agenda   | <b>BW</b>              |

**Next Meeting:** 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021