**Stonehaven and District Community Council**

**Notes of Business Meeting**

**8 June 2021, 7:15pm via Skype**

Present:

* Dawn Black (**“DB”**)
* Raymond Christie(**“RC”**)
* Paddy Coffield (**“PC”**)
* Cllr Dickinson(**“SD”**)
* Mike Duncan (**“MD”**)
* Janine Esson(**“JE”**)
* Ian Hunter (**“IH”**)
* David Lawman (**“DL”**)
* Alistair Lawrie (**“AL”**)
* Donald Lawrie Morrison(**“DM”**)
* Steve McQueen(**“SM”**)
* Cllr Robertson (**“DR”**)
* Jim Steven (**“JS”**)
* Gerry Towler (**“GT”**)
* Daniel Veltman (**“DV”**)
* Bill Watson (**“BW”**)

In attendance:

* John Cornfield – Service Manager, Aberdeenshire Council (**“JC”**)
* Claire Thomson – Customer Service Team Leader, Aberdeenshire Council (**“CT”**)

**1 Apologies and declarations of interest**

* Jim Morrison
* Keith Simpson
* Fiona Tavendale (**“FT”**)
* Lindsey Wood

No interests declared

**2 Police Report**

Mark Camus not present. Noted that the police report had been previously circulated around the members and that there were no comments.

**3 Presentation on participatory budgeting**

CT addressed SDCC in connection with the proposal to involve the community in the decision-making process on spending the £1.8 million which had been made available for improvements to Leisure and Recreation facilities in the town.

It is proposed that there will be a whole-town approach that is as inclusive as possible involving as many local organisations as possible, including those not normally reached. The aim is that the people of the town will shape the spending priorities for this budget.

A ‘reference group’ will oversee the participatory budgeting process and receive regular updates and will be compromised of a broad group of community representatives. As previously agreed by SDCC, MD and DB will be SDCC’s representatives on the reference group, the first meeting of which is proposed to be held on 9 June 2021.

Based on the priorities identified by the reference group and through community consultation during July and August, a public vote to determine the priorities for this budget will be held in September. Following this a ‘delivery group’ will take charge of implementing the working aspects. Delivery anticipated in March 2023.

John Cornfield said he was excited about process.

He suggested that perhaps by creating engagement in the community they might be able to set up other plans for future spending once they’d sourced funding.

There were some issues to be finalised regarding the mechanics of consultation and voting. There will be secure online voting platform but and face to face focus groups, in conjunction with online consultation.

BW observed that SDCC were very keen to be involved.

MD DB GT spoke of the Community Action Plan Public session in September and asked if they could meet with to discuss how this might relate to these plans.

JC agreed it was the kind of collaboration they’re hoping for and explained the timescale was dictated by working back from when work starts on project.

CT underlined that nothing was already decided. They’d look at plans based on what people tell them.

JC said they want comment about people’s views and want to create general consensus. He made clear it was intended to have phase 1 and phase 2

Reference was made by several councillors to how the closure of the pool at Mackie had been decided without consultation and the question asked if there were preconceived ideas by the authority to which the community were expected to agree.

JC made clear they’d work up ideas but they want ideas from community to inform this LLA spend in the community.

Reference was made to the future of the Invercarron Resource Centre and it was argued we should look at the bigger picture.

Discussion continued about the need for a joined-up approach with regard to other amenities in the town.

Cllr Robertson affirmed would likely be the opportunity to leverage additional funds in the future and that there would be a joined-up approach.

Cllr Dickinson said it is important to bear in mind the wider picture and other aspects even this particular initiative will not be delivering on them.

CT and JC underlined they were looking for a collaborative approach and that it’s about community. The community will decide.

JC made clear he can’t speak for other services but they’d take on board what is said.

It was observed that we need to take what is on offer. The sum is useful but won’t radically change things.

IH spoke of partnership management of the Community Centre in the past. Could there be something similar?

CT said there could be. They intend to keep on listening in future.

**4 Approval of last minute**

Proposed by [xxx], seconded by [xxx]. Passed unanimously.

**5 Matters arising from last minute**

* Community Award

AL noted that a potential recipient had been identified. SDCC to be informed once it was confirmed that potential recipient minded to accept.

* Potholes

MD noted that it had come to his notice that reporting potholes via the Aberdeenshire Council website did not mean a repair would necessarily be undertaken, rather the pothole would be referred to the roads inspector for review, with only the most priority defects immediately addressed, the remainder being placed under monitoring.

Cllr Dickinson confirmed that this was the case, that repairs were undertaken according to priority of defect.

MD noted that during 2020 many potholes within the town were not addressed. The majority of potholes appeared to be under monitoring.

Cllr Dickinson confirmed that due to Covid redeployments pothole repairs had been limited during 2020. Remediation works were to be undertaken in the town, commencing at the end of June. Further noted that significant extra funds had been put into this year’s budget to deal with the maintenance backlog which had arising during 2020.

PC noted that the Aberdeenshire Council website did not make it clear that no action would necessarily be taken as a result of a pothole report.

Cllr Dickinson noted that a job number was generated following a defect report, but the fact that reports would be subject to a prioritisation exercise was not necessarily made clear.

* Defibrillator signage

JS noted that signs had been ordered for the six defibrillator locations. These to be fitted over the next few weeks once received.

* Youth Club

DB noted that the results of the recent survey had now been collated and forwarded on to the membership – 92 responses had been received.

An online meeting was to be held to explore options within the next two weeks, discussions as to how this would be facilitated.

Cllr Robertson noted that SDCC was entitled to a Zoom licence through Aberdeenshire Council which could be used for public meetings. DB to investigate.

**6**  **Planning report & reviews**

BW noted no new applications.

Riverside Drive application which was considered by SDCC at the last meeting has been withdrawn. The agent has clarified that the withdrawal is to enable the applicant to revise the application take account of residents’ views and it will reappear in due course. Agent has invited SDCC to engage and represent community view in terms of revisions to the application. BW proposed that this would be inappropriate given SDCC’s role as a statutory consultee.

PC said to treat the application as usual, with no special arrangements. It would be inappropriate for SDCC to get too involved with applicant.

MD suggested a visit to look at the place, not to get too close to the applicant but purely to find out facts on the ground.

BW said he was wary of getting too involved while application is being prepared and stated that SDCC should only deal with it as a future application and not get involved in development work beforehand.

DB suggested that as and when any further application is made, SDCC should act swiftly to get views of interested parties.

BW observed that SDCC would be glad of any advance notice of an application, but that there should be no involvement in development work.

DL noted that SDCC should look at changed plan.

Discussion ensued and it was agreed that SDCC should consider any further application in the usual manner at such time as it was made. Any further discussion would be deferred until this point.

7 **Community Action Plan / Scottish Government consultation**

MD reported that the Scottish Government were currently running a consultation, seeking to engage the community in responding to Community Action Plans on a more formal basis. Scottish Government seeking a local community body which could take the lead on behalf of the community.

Email had been received from Aberdeenshire Council inviting SDCC to respond to this consultation. MD noted it was good to get more engaged in community planning process and was happy to respond on behalf of SDCC. Did the Council want to take part in this process?

Proposed by MD, seconded by DB. Passed unanimously.

8 **Treasurer’s report**

Report was provided as part of the AGM immediately prior to the business meeting.

Separately DL noted that only one of the recipients of the Hannah Dyson Award had cashed their award cheque as at the date of the meeting. AL to follow up to confirm that there are no issues.

**9 Use of Bequest Funds**

Following discussions at previous meetings, JS reported that it was proposed that the bequest funds held by SDCC should be dispensed by way of grant to individuals and organisations working for the benefit of the community. These grants each to be a maximum of £500, and to be adjudicated by a sub-group of SDCC.

Proposed by DL, seconded by JS. Passed unanimously.

**10 Garden and household refuse collection policies**

In FT’s absence, discussion deferred to next meeting.

11 **Bin collections: town centre, beach and harbour**

JS reported that he had spoken to Diane Henderson regarding the bigger bins at the promenade, no negative feedback received.

Cllr Dickinson confirmed there are more day trippers coming but so far so good with collections. Further noted that there were additional smaller bins at leisure centre which would remain for the moment as they were bring used to capacity.

JS noted that as a condition of licencing, takeaways should be required to take responsibility for their packaging. Further noted that while the current collection rota is operating well he understood that the overtime rota on weekends was voluntary.

Cllr Dickinson noted there is an existing requirement for takeaways to pick up litter within a radius of 50 metres from their door. Cllr Dickinson had discussed with Mark Gracie, the Community Waste Officer, as to the possibility of a second collection on Saturdays and Sundays especially during the summer months. Feedback on this point would be possible for the forthcoming Town Centre Improvement Group meeting.

MD asked whether the council would consider putting stickers on the bins and whether legal duties under the 50 metre rule were being enforced.

Cllr Dickinson noted that legislation was expected to follow in respect of the use of excessive packaging, which would impact on waste levels.

12 **Activities Fayre**

DL proposed that community groups should hold an event in the Town Hall, provisionally in Aug/Sept, for groups to promote themselves and recruit new members. SDCC support sought for this initiative.

DB noted that the community sports hub was planning to hold an open day event in to provide taster sessions for different sport. Discussions as to whether the proposed Activities Fayre could be integrated with this. Provisionally agreed that late Aug/early Sept would be best option, independent of the sports event in July.

DL suggested SDCC could cover hall hire, proposed SDCC to underwrite letting of Hall of budget up to £300.

DB, GT, DL to meet and formulate plan.

Proposed by DL, seconded by DB. Passed unanimously.

13 **Participation Request Update/Aberdeenshire Council's “Draft Engagement and Participation Policy”**

IH noted progress with participatory budgeting process, with discussions ongoing between Aberdeenshire Council and community councils. A paper is being prepared by Aberdeenshire Council to be issued to 35 community councils which have indicated interest. IH to circulate to members once paper comes out.

**14 Correspondence**

One request received from Aberdeenshire Councils libraries for SDCC to publicise doorstep delivery library service on website/Facebook page.

**15** **AOCB**

DL asked whether given that there is no meeting in July, should things move quickly regarding the proposed use of Invercarron Resource Centre as a vaccination centre, whether it would be possible for SDCC to meet sooner. Agreed SDCC would call an extraordinary meeting if there was a proposal during the summer break regarding the Resource Centre.