



**STONEHAVEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**  
 7 – 9 pm, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021  
 Virtual Meeting, Stonehaven

<b>Present</b>
<b>Community Council Members:</b> Dawn Black (DB), Raymond Christie (RC), Paddy Coffield (PC), Mike Duncan (MD), Janine Esson (JE), Ian Hunter (IH), David Lawman, <i>Treasurer</i> (DL), Alistair Lawrie, <i>Secretary</i> (AL), Donald A. Lawrie Morrison, <i>Vice-Chairperson</i> (DLM), Steven McQueen (SMcQ), Gerry Towler (GT), Keith Simpson, <i>Planning Secretary</i> (KS), Jim Stephen (JS), Fiona Tavendale (FT), Daniel Veltman and Bill Watson, <i>Chairperson</i> (BW). <b>Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members:</b> Councillor Wendy Agnew (Cllr A) and Councillor Sarah Dickinson.
<b>In Attendance</b>
Jane Cruickshank (The Bellman), Marc Camus (Police Scotland), Julia M. Lawrie Morrison (Minute Taker), Councillor Colin Pike (Aberdeenshire Council, North Kincardine)

1	Chairperson's Welcome	Action
	BW opened the meeting, welcoming members of the community council, meeting attendees and the public.	
2	<b>Apologies</b>	
	<b>Community Councillors:</b> Lindsay Wood (LW). <b>Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members:</b> Councillor Dennis Robertson (Cllr D).	
3	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	None.	
4	<b>Recording the Meeting - KS</b>	
	<b>Motion</b> Are meeting participants happy to be recorded during this business meeting for minute taking purposes only and once minutes agreed that recording to be deleted? KS to stop and re-start the recording when requested by any member or attendee who may prefer not to be recorded speaking. Proposed by KS and seconded by BW. <b>Result – Agreed.</b>  <b>Action –</b> KS to record the meeting, making it available to the Minutes Secretary, deleting the recording once minutes have been agreed at the subsequent business meeting.	<b>KS</b>

<b>5</b>	<b>Last Minute</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Amendments &amp; Approval of the Last Minutes</b>	
	<p><b>Amendments:</b> Item 4 – proposed by BW and seconded by PC. 6 – 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, MD undertook a site visit with others.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – AL to make the corrections.</p> <p><b>Approval:</b> Proposed by BW and seconded by GT.</p>	<b>AL</b>
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Matters Arising from the Last Minute</b>	
<b>5.2.1</b>	<p><b>Participatory Budgeting Consultation</b> Concern was raised by a member of the audience, Jane Cruickshank of The Bellman, that they had received nothing from the press office at Aberdeenshire Council, Live Life Aberdeenshire, regarding the consultation despite it being public. The consultation has been shared on the SDCC Facebook page.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> – DB and MD to continue to attend meetings and to report back. <b>ACTION</b> – DB to prepare a press release on the public consultation for submission in The Bellman.</p>	<b>DB and MD DB</b>
<b>5.2.2</b>	<p><b>Community Action Plan, MD</b> A public drop-in session will run from 9 – 10 September.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> – MD to share public survey document once finalised with members for review.</p>	<b>MD</b>
<b>5.2.3</b>	<p><b>SDCC Community Award, AL</b></p> <p><b>ACTION</b> Ongoing - JS to provide name to AL.</p>	<b>JS</b>
<b>5.2.4</b>	<p><b>Potholes, MD</b> Pothole repair has begun in the town.</p>	
<b>5.2.5</b>	<p><b>Garden and Household Refuse Collection Polices</b> From 1 August this year there has been a change of rules over the use of the local recycling centre and tip. Householders can now bring items in a slightly larger trailer, 10 feet long. There remains a restriction on commercial use of the recycling centre and tip, and it was noted that this prejudiced those who had no recourse to taking items to the centre without a business to do it for them necessitated excess cost having to travel to a centre further afield.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> Cllr D to share information on recent rule changes to AL. <b>ACTION</b> AL to send around members. <b>ACTION</b> DB to share this on the SDCC Facebook page. <b>ACTION</b> PC to share this on the SDCC website.</p>	<b>Cllr D AL DB PC</b>

<b>5.2.6</b>	<b>Activities Fayre, DB/GT/DL</b> Response low, this item will be parked until next year.	
<b>5.2.7</b>	<b>Participatory Request Update/Aberdeenshire Council's "Draft Engagement Participation Policy"</b> No update. <b>ACTION</b> ongoing – IH to circulate to members once paper comes out.	<b>IH</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Business Matters</b>	
<b>6.1</b>	<b>Presentation: Police Report – Marc Camus (MC)</b>	
	A copy of the police report had been circulated around members prior to the meeting. MC summarised its contents noting that while there had been some incidents of anti-social behaviour, specifically at Stonehaven Harbour amongst the youth, numbers of incidents were decreasing. No questions put forward to MC at the meeting.	
<b>6.2</b>	<b>SDCC Planning Report – KS</b>	
	<p><b>Scottish Government Community Engagement Consultation</b> Request sought from the Scottish Government consulting on their community engagement plan. Circulated to members. SDCC is happy to be a consultee wherein these is not a legal obligation</p> <p><b>New Planning Applications</b> Planning application submitted proposes to convert Carlton House into 16 residential flats. Notes of objection have been submitted by various persons regarding the impact of increased traffic in the area, its proximity to Arduthie Primary school and parking issues.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> Members to review this planning application and forward feedback to KS within the next couple of days before the public consultation period closes.</p> <p><b>Craigneil Windfarm Planning Application</b> The developer is expected to appeal the refusal of planning permission. SDCC will have an opportunity to provide representations should this application go to appeal.</p> <p>Cllr A, who had the casting vote, deciding on the application noted that she made the decision with reference to 'Imagine Stonehaven' a community engagement document created in 2007 in which people stated their desire to protect the area's skyline and landscape character of the town with a formal planning designation.</p> <p>A full account of reasoning on this decision is publicly available to view online at the Aberdeenshire Council's website.</p>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>6.3</b>	<b>SDCC Treasurer's Report – DL</b>	
	MD now set up. No changes in income or outgoings.	
<b>6.4</b>	<b>Correspondence, AL/PC/DB</b>	
	<b>Emails and Letters</b> Item received for closed session.	

	<p><b>Social Media</b> Engagements, followers and likes have increased on the SDCC Facebook page.</p> <p><b>Website</b> Four enquiries were submitted to the SDCC website, regarding the library Books of Legs scheme, how to join the community council, asking advice on buying and refurbishing property and a complaint about Gurney Street parking and the Stonehaven Medical Practice staff. <b>ACTION</b> PC to pass on the parking query to the medical centre.</p>	<b>PC</b>
<b>6.5</b>	<b>Defibrillators – DL</b>	
	<p><b>Defibrillator Signage</b> Error with first delivery, with incorrect order received. Corrected signage will be delivered in the next couple of weeks. <b>ACTION</b> update ongoing.</p>	<b>DL</b>
<b>6.6</b>	<b>Invercarron Resource Centre</b>	
	<p>Members decided to add the topic of the proposed closure and re-use of the Invercarron Resource Centre onto the meeting agenda out of concern for an update on this matter, due to public interest.</p> <p>The SDCC letter agreed at the July extraordinary meeting, at which Aberdeenshire Council officers were in attendance to answer questions, has been circulated around members and is ready to send out to Aberdeenshire Council and other parties. The Council have a period of 21 days within which to reply. Cllrs A and D both endorsed the SDCC letter.</p> <p><b>Motion</b> Councillors present at the meeting to provide members an update on progress on the proposed change of use of the Invercarron Resource Centre. Proposed by DL and seconded by XX.</p> <p><b>Result</b> – agreed.</p> <p>Cllr A is seeking to find out why this decision was taken, having spoken with other areas receiving a vaccination centre without displacing others. A meeting will be held in Holyrood on Thursday.</p> <p>Cllr D has been responding to correspondence on this, communicating with Aberdeenshire council officers and clarified on social media the proposed vaccination uses for the centre. This is an alive topic; a further meeting is due to take place and information is being sought. The opinion of the community is being put across at every opportunity.</p> <p>It was noted that the decision on this matter was taken by Aberdeenshire Council officers and not by the elected members who were not given an opportunity to vote. Members noted that a decision such as this, taken without community consultation and not regarded subject to approval to elected members is lacking democracy.</p>	

	<p><b>Motion</b> SDCC asks Jim Savage, Chief Executive of Aberdeenshire Council, and the representative of the Integrated Joint Board to attend an extraordinary meeting before the September business meeting. Proposed by JS and seconded by IH. <b>Result</b> – agreed.</p> <p><b>Motion</b> SDCC writes to Audit Scotland and to Marie Goujeon MSP over Aberdeenshire Council’s lack of consultation, making this decision without community consultation or approval from elected members. Affix SDCC original letter on this. Proposed by MD and seconded by GT. <b>Result</b> – AL and MD to draft this.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> AL to compile minutes from the extraordinary meeting held in July from the recording. These to be attached to the August minutes, along with a copy of the letter sent out. <b>ACTION</b> Cllr D to send information on vaccinations proposed for the centre to AL <b>ACTION</b> AL to circulate this. <b>ACTION</b> DB/PC the SDCC letter drafted in response to this matter to be put in the public domain with personal information redacted.</p>	<p><b>AL</b></p> <p><b>Cllr D</b></p> <p><b>AL</b> <b>DB/PC</b></p>
6.7	<b>Seagulls, DB</b>	
	<p>Concern was raised over the increased seagull issue this year in the town, both nearby the sea and inland too. Members discussed how this matter had been tackled in the past, with local businesses affected contributing towards nest culling, to potential barriers against similar actions taking place in the future. A long-term sustainable solution is sought.</p> <p>Cllrs A and D noted the matter will be on the September Infrastructure Services meeting. Cllr D added that council officers are actively monitoring comment on this issue and the public as advised to submit their comments on this to them via the council feedback system on the Aberdeenshire Council website. It was noted that one possibility of funding nest culling might be to seek match funding but that to obtain the necessary license the council requires lots of feedback to submit in their application.</p> <p>A member of the audience asked whether the streets could be washed periodically. Cllr D noted that she has asked this previously and was informed that there was resource to fund this, and the rain washes it away.</p> <p>Cllr Colin Pike, in the meeting audience, invited the SDCC attend the Infrastructure Service committee what is happening in Stonehaven, asking a member of that committee to attend a business meeting.</p> <p><b>MOTION</b> <u>DB</u> and JS will attend a meeting of the Infrastructure Services committee to pose questions on this matter. Proposed by BW and seconded by DB.</p>	

	<p><b>Result</b> – agreed.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> JS to attend the Infrastructure Services meeting.  <b>ACTION</b> DB to post on the SDCC Facebook page notifying the public to give feedback on the seagull issue at the Aberdeenshire Council website.</p>	<p><b>JS</b> <b>DB</b></p>
<b>6.8</b>	<b>Co-option Opportunities, BW</b>	
	<p>SDCC will seek to fill its vacancies by co-opting members.  Proposed by BW and seconded by AL.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> DB to publicise the opportunity on the SDCC Facebook page.  <b>ACTION</b> DB to send information on this for promotion in The Bellman</p>	<p><b>DB</b> <b>DB</b></p>
<b>6.9</b>	<b>Beautiful Scotland Bid, BW</b>	
	<p><b>Motion</b>  SDCC thanks and gives congratulations to all those involved in the Horizon-led Beautiful Scotland team which involved many community participants.  Proposed by BW and seconded by DB.  <b>Result</b> – agreed.</p>	
<b>6.10</b>	<b>Windfarm Funding Committee Representative, RC</b>	
	<p>RC stepped down as the SDCC KDP grant windfarm funding committee representative.</p> <p><b>Motion</b>  JE to take over this role, with KS as substitute.  Proposed by BW and seconded by AL.  <b>Result</b> – agreed.</p>	
<b>6.11</b>	<b>Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members and Community Engagement, SMcQ</b>	
	<p>Members considered the role of elected members in relation to community council meetings.</p> <p><b>Motion</b>  Proposed by SMcQ and seconded by BW.  SDCC will write elected members encouraging them to engage with their community and attend community council meetings.</p> <p><b>Amended Motion</b>  Proposed by DL and seconded by IH.  SDCC write to the elected member not engaging with nor attending community council meetings, noting its disappointment with this.  Result – agreed.</p> <p><b>Amended and Final Motion</b>  Proposed by DB and seconded by <b>XX</b>.  SDCC write to the elected member not engaging with nor attending community council meetings, noting said elected member has a bad record of attending meetings in the Kincardine and Mearns area, and poor interaction with the community, responds in an unreasonable time and they are disappointed with this</p>	

	<p>Councillor Colin Pike, from the audience, highlighted to members that elected members were under no obligation to attend more than one formal council meeting every six months and that many councillors work, according to their role and responsibilities, in different ways.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> DL and DB to write a draft letter and to send to AL.  <b>ACTION</b> AL to provide elected member role and responsibilities document to DL and DB.  <b>ACTION</b> AL to do final revision of letter and send to the elected member on behalf of SDCC.</p>	<p><b>DL/DB</b>  <b>AL</b>  <b>AL</b></p>
<b>7</b>	<b>AOCB (Urgent or For Next Meeting)</b>	
<b>7.1</b>	<b>SDCC Business Meetings</b>	
	<p>The practicalities of business meetings becoming a blend of in-person and virtual, to be accessible, was discussed. It was highlighted that SDCC had an obligation not to bar its members or members of the public from attending their business meetings because of inaccessibility or health and safety risk and wherein meetings resumed in-person, those attending virtually should not be put at a disadvantage. Matters relating to technology, the need for individual microphones, adequate Wi-Fi, public liability insurance, were raised. The pre-Covid venue, at the Sheriff Court House, and the Council Chambers at Aberdeenshire Council's Viewmount office were mooted. A pre-business meeting trial-run would be necessary to arrange.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> AL to check with Emma Story for Aberdeenshire Council's advice on starting community council in-person and virtual meetings.  <b>ACTION</b> Other community councils to be asked how they are handling business meetings.  <b>ACTION</b> JS to report back on the new microphones being added to the court room at the Sheriff Court House.  <b>ACTION</b> AL and KS to report on the possibility of using Council Chambers at Viewmount, speaking with Bruce Stuart.  <b>ACTION</b> ALL MEMBERS to take part in a test run online/in person meetings at a venue before the September Business Meeting.  <b>ACTION</b> RC to arrange trial run at a venue, inviting members to attend.</p>	<p><b>AL</b>  <b>JS</b>  <b>AL/KS</b>  <b>ALL</b>  <b>RC</b></p>
<b>7.2</b>	<b>SDCC Code of Conduct, JE</b>	
	<p>Members were asked to be mindful of the SDCC Code of Conduct, in their communication with guest speakers and elected members, showing respect for their attendance, and that their pride in their community should be reflected in their behaviour and conduct in meetings and elsewhere.</p>	
<b>7.3</b>	<b>Item in Private Session.</b>	

**Next Meeting:** 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021