



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

7 – 9 pm, 11th October 2021
Hybrid Meeting, Stonehaven

Present
<p>Community Council Members: Dawn Black (DB), Raymond Christie (RC), Paddy Coffield (PC), Mike Duncan (MD), , Ian Hunter (IH), David Lawman, <i>Treasurer</i> (DL), Alistair Lawrie, <i>Secretary</i> (AL), Donald A. Lawrie Morrison, <i>Vice-Chairperson</i> (DLM), Jim Morrison (JM), Steven McQueen (SMcQ), Gerry Towler (GT), Keith Simpson, <i>Planning Secretary</i> (KS), Jim Stephen (JS), Fiona Tavendale (FT), Bill Watson, <i>Chairperson</i> (BW), Daniel Veltman (DV) and Lyndsey Wood.</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members: Councillor Wendy Agnew (Cllr A), Councillor Sarah Dickinson (Cllr D) and Councillor Dennis Robertson (Cllr R).</p>
In Attendance
Marc Camus (Police Scotland) and residents of Forest Park.

1	Chairperson's Welcome	Action
	BW opened the meeting, welcoming members of the community council, meeting attendees and the public.	
2	Apologies	
	Community Councillors: Janine Esson (JE).	
3	Declarations of Interest	
	None.	
4	Recording the Meeting - KS	
	<p>Motion 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. Result – Agreed.</p> <p>Action – 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.</p>	KS
5	Last Minute	
5.1	Amendments & Approval of the Last Minutes	

	<p>Amendments: Item</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5.27, RC seconded. - 6.2, Cllr R to contact the roads department. - 6.3, KS wrote in support, notwithstanding reservations of traffic management overwhelmingly the SDCC supports this application. - 6.7, RC seconded. <p>ACTION – AL to make the corrections.</p> <p>Approval: Proposed by BW and seconded by XX.</p>	AL
5.2	Matters Arising from the Last Minute	
5.2.1	Extraordinary Meeting in July, Minutes - BW	
	ACTION – to record the gist of the letter or the minutes of that meeting.	XX
5.2.2	<p>Participatory Budgeting Consultation, DB and MD 125 ideas to be narrowed by the steering group for presentation to the public. One more meeting of the steering group for this to happen. No progress from the last meeting.</p> <p>ACTION – ongoing</p>	DB and MD
5.2.3	<p>SDCC Community Award, AL JS and AL still to talk.</p> <p>ACTION – ongoing.</p>	AL and JS
5.2.4	<p>Participatory Request Update/Aberdeenshire Council’s “Draft Engagement Participation Policy”, IH Paper not yet arrived.</p> <p>ACITON – ongoing. IH to send paper to be circulated amongst members once released.</p>	IH
5.2.5	<p>Invercarron Resource Centre - MD Audit Commission Scotland have responded noting SDCC concerns requesting further information from Aberdeenshire Council officers. They noted that demand for day care services at the Invercarron Resource Centre had reduced. They said that had Covid not happened the health care service had planned to return the property to Aberdeenshire Council. It’s understood a stakeholder steering group has been set up in the area to understand what type of services people would like to see in the future. They said they would continue to look into evidence from the Council and into IGB’s decision making. Adding that if there are any significant findings the auditor may comment in their annual audit report.</p> <p>SDCC expects a response not solely a notice in the Audit Commission’s annual report. On Audit Scotland’s reply it should have read that demand for day care had reduced with the addition of a clause that transport grants to allow older people to get there had been removed, but this was not added if</p>	

	<p>indeed they are aware of this. The reduction of use noted by the Audit Commission is only with regard to services sent from Aberdeenshire Council whereas lots of other users were using the facility.</p> <p>Cllr A was told the reduction in use was partly because the community council is now using the court building and Alzheimer’s Scotland had said they no longer require it. The nearest day care centre for alzheimers and dementia is in Inverurie. The users had a meeting and said they wanted all to come in the same building but for example the community centre is fully booked. There is a problem finding another facility for all of the users.</p> <p>Cllr D noted with respect of day care facilities at the Invercarron, and not all the other activities, a key factor of that is self-directed support and people opting for support in other ways because they had control over that budget.</p> <p>Members queried the timeline noted in Audit Scotland and what was said originally by the Health and Social Care Partnership. SDCC’s freedom of Information request has not yet been responded to the deadline of which ends around 31st October. If no response or inadequate you can ask for an internal review and then on to the Information Commissioner thereafter if required.</p> <p>Motion SDCC seeks an internal review within Aberdeenshire Council Proposed by MD and seconded by DB. Result – agreed.</p> <p>ACTION – MD to query the timing of a response from Audit Scotland, beyond mention within their annual report. MD</p> <p>ACTION – MD seeks an internal review within Aberdeenshire Council regarding SDCC’s freedom of information request response. MD</p>	
5.2.6	<p>Seagulls, DB DB attended the infrastructure meeting presenting on this matter. Aberdeenshire Council are seeking to deal with this issue. There will be a more detailed report from the infrastructure committee in January which will hopefully contain some action before the nesting season starts.</p> <p>ACTION – Ongoing. DB</p>	
5.2.7	<p>SDCC Business Meetings Members view the meeting as going well. Problems were noted from the online participants regarding the sound quality with possible feedback around the court room and echo. Members agreed to continue in the hybrid online-in-person format. It was noted that a way to include the Minute Secretary by phone was required.</p>	

	<p>ACTION – quality of sound to be looked into.</p> <p>ACTION – method of bringing in Minute Secretary by phone to be found.</p>	<p>XX</p> <p>XX</p>
5.2.8	<p>Dunnottar Park – Cllr A</p> <p>Cllr A took photographs of the area which is a flood plain, speaking with Mr Stewart, the manager, and a planning officer. It is currently in Stuart Milne’s hands. The planning permission doesn’t have an area for a playpark. Some found this odd in that other areas within Stonehaven had planning requirements for housing developments to have playpark facilities, to be paid for by residents, although the Dunnottar Park estate is a newer development. Members noted that this highlights omissions within the local development plan, that when houses are being built there needs to be a plan for community and recreation facilities. Adding that this relates to a lack of strategy from the Council for the town.</p> <p>Motion</p> <p>A letter from the SDCC to Neil Thompson, Managing Director of Stuart Milne, noting that they would like to see a playpark built within the Dunnottar Park development.</p> <p>Proposed by JS, seconded by XX.</p> <p>Result – agreed.</p> <p>Cllr D noted that open space is a fundamental requirement within planning application committees and therefore is unsure why this was not a part of this development and that this could be explored further.</p> <p>Motion</p> <p>SDCC to seek to find out why a playpark was not included in this development.</p> <p>Proposed by MD, seconded by PC.</p> <p>Result – agreed.</p> <p>ACTION – ongoing, Cllr A to update.</p> <p>ACTION – XX to find out why a playpark was not included in this development.</p> <p>ACTION – AL speaks with JS, to write a letter.</p>	<p>Cllr A</p> <p>XX</p> <p>AL and JS</p>
6	Business Matters	
6.1	Presentation: Police Report – Marc Camus (MC)	
	A copy of the police report had been circulated around members prior to the meeting. MC summarised its contents for the meeting. Highlighting the drug warrants and speeding offences in Stonehaven and a decrease in anti-social behavior. The police are taking up positions within Stonehven with a set of lights to give to people who fail to have correct lighting.	
6.2	SDCC Planning Report – KS	
	Scottish Government Community Engagement Consultation	
	Planning Applications	

	<p>- Change of use of Carlton House, from council offices to residential SDCC were unable to submit concerns as the timeframe had elapsed. The Area Committee have deferred the decision to undertake a site visit on 9th November 2021. Key issues were the close proximity to the school, the flats overlooking the school, positioning of bins, visibility of traffic and regarding the historic railings.</p> <p>- Erection of a supermarket on the Ury Estate SDCC submitted comment on this application supporting this with comment regarding traffic management.</p> <p>- Former Coast Guard Station, Boatie Row Change of use to a class 4 business for an office within financial services, or research or any industrial processes that can take place in a residential area. Limited information. It's to be used for storage and some form of fish processing but no mention of retail which would require to come under another class. Letters of objection from nearby residents due to noise, traffic and road safety, smell and waste water. The applicant is the Sea Bothy. KS has a conflict of interest but seeking SDCC interest. Environmental Health object until further information</p> <p>Motion SDCC object until get further information on traffic management, parking, smells and sewage system. Proposed BW, seconded RC. Result - agree</p> <p>ACTION – KS to help BW to compose this.</p>	
6.3	SDCC Treasurer's Report – DL	
	Nothing of note.	
6.4	Correspondence - AL, PC and DB	
	<p>Emails and Letters, AL</p> <p>- Asset Transfer, emails from members of the public Considerable email correspondence received regarding the asset transfer previously discussed.</p> <p>- Bike Rack and Bike Repair Station in the Market Square, email from a member of the public The bike rack is currently missing from the market square since the development of the new seating area. The correspondent asks, first of all, is it going to be reinstated, has it been placed anywhere else, going on to make the case that if it's not going to be its seriously disadvantaging those who might cycle to town for their messages either as visitors or residents. Secondly, the correspondent brings to our attention a bike repair station that contains bike pumps and various tools securely attached to allow people to</p>	

	<p>do emergency repairs to their bike, useful to those who get flat tires when cycling but also extremely useful to who are involved in pushing prams with tires that are inflatable, quite common nowadays. First, there's the request, what's happened with the old bike rack and, second, is there any way we can promote an interest in establishing a bike repair station in the square.</p> <p>Members noted that the community garden plan did not have the bike rack as part of it but the SDCC were assured by Aberdeenshire Council that they would install another bike rack in the corner diagonally across from McHardy's Butcher in the market square. Stonehaven Town Centre Improvement Group might be interested in the idea of the bike repair station as a possible town centre project.</p> <p>Cllr D noted that the bike rack will be restored but that it is linked to the resurfacing of the car park. Cllr D was advised that the road service have permission to proceed with the tender documents for this work that should go out the next couple of weeks and then allow two weeks for responses and once the contractor is appointed they then have to agree a start date. Probably looking towards late November for that work to take place but it should take only a couple of days once it starts.</p> <p>AL noted that a bike repair station is very economical in its use of space, 3 or 4 feet high</p> <p>Motion SDCC views the bike repair station a good idea and supports its promotion as a town centre project and that AL and DB will present this idea to the STCIP for consideration. In addition, SDCC seeks to clarify that the car park does contain the correct number of disabled parking bays. Proposed by AL, seconded by DB. Result – agreed.</p> <p>ACTION – DB to chase up when the new bike rack is to be installed. ACTION – AL and DB to take the idea of the bike repair station to the Stonehaven Town Centre Improvement Group at their meeting on 3d November 2021. ACTION – AL to send around photographs sent in of bike repair stations. ACTION – to clarify the correct number of disabled parking bays remain within the market square.</p> <p>Website, PC (poor sound quality here) - Queries for BW</p> <p>Social Media, DB (poor sound quality here) - Asset Transfer, member of the public Note of interest to know when it was being discussed in the meeting.</p>	<p>DB AL and DB</p> <p>AL XX</p>
6.5	Mental Health Participatory Request – MD and GT	

	<p>SDCC has raised concerns about this which is yet to be discussed with Councillors and Council Officers.</p> <p>Cllr R had a meeting at which various points were raise along with an officer and the matter is ongoing. Cllrs are hopeful of an additional meeting to see positive outcomes from the work of MD and GT. Probably in around 3 to 4 weeks away. Both Cllr R and Cllr D are working on this.</p> <p>ACTION – add to the November meeting agenda.</p>	
6.6	National Care Service in Scotland - RC	BW
	<p>There is a national care service consultation outlining provision for adult social care services setting out proposals for expanded care including the following: children’s services, community justice, alcohol and drug services, social work and elements of mental health services. A strategic direction would be defined coordinating standards and a framework in Scotland.</p> <p>The consultation proposes that IJBs become social care boards which would be the local delivery body for the national care service funded directly by the Scottish Government. They would have responsibility for planning and procurement of community health and social care and for the management of GP contractual arrangements. They will be able to commission services from local authorities, NHS and the 3rd independent sectors. They will employ their own chief executive and staff.</p> <p>The CE of each community social care board would report to the CE of the national care service. The Scottish Government previously committed to increase funding in social care by around 25%. There are no costings laid out in the consultation in relation to the proposed national care service. The proposed reforms represent one of the most significant pieces of public service reform in Scotland, potentially in decades. The National Care Services would bring a range of services under the direct responsibility of a range of ministers which would be an attack on local democracy bringing an end to community and place planning.</p> <p>The consultation has 7 chapters, 106 questions, with a closing date of 2nd November 2021. The Scottish Government seek to make this law before the end of the preset parliament. This will centralise policy in Holyrood. What would local members do? Members asked to complete the consultation.</p> <p>https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-care-service-scotland-consultation/</p> <p>Cllr R noted that Aberdeenshire Council have had an addition full council meeting on this and their submission has been agreed which will go to the Scottish Government, along with the IGB and that of NHS Grampian. Cllr R urges individuals to make their own representations as well.</p>	

	ACTION – DB and PC to add the link to the website and facebook page.	DB and PC
6.7	Overcrowding on Pavement, Bridgefield - LW	
	<p>There does not appear to be any kind of queuing system outside the Carron Chip Shop and the Bucket and Spade ice cream shop at Bridgefield which impedes pedestrian movement along the pavement. Double car parking is also an issue nearby this location.</p> <p>ACTION – Cllr R will take this forward with Aberdeenshire Council and Marc Camus.</p>	Cllr R
6.8	Sale of Council Office, Allardice Street - IH	
	<p>This building has been a community serving building for many years. It has a great potential due to its location and car park behind. The local community in Montrose took over an old swimming pool to turn into a cinema.</p> <p>Motion The SDCC asks Aberdeenshire Council to suspend the sale of this building to give the Stonehaven community time to access other uses for the building. Proposed by IH, seconded by XX.</p> <p>Result – agreed.</p> <p>The town has lost a number of assets in recent times. A lack of forward thinking by the Council was noted regarding its decision to sell off various assets in recent times. It was felt that the town needs to work with Planning to work out a vision and masterplan for the area and that the SDCC should view local development plans during their next development with extra time to consider them for meaningful contributions.</p> <p>Elected members were asked what decision making processes council buildings go through within the council before they are sold or redeveloped.</p> <p>Cllr D understands that when an asset no longer has a use to a service it is offered to other services within the Council and if there's no interest it's then looked at for further disposal. In terms of local development plans and long term planning, the community council has a critical role in community planning, taking it to councilors, something that has been there for a long time. The plans are there to inform the council. Elected members would welcome this input when SDCC has had a chance to look at the output of the community plan consultation. The community sports hub meet with clubs in the town talking about their future needs with respect of sport and leisure.</p> <p>Elected members were asked if Aberdeenshire Council asked them what they thought the community would prefer to see out of service Council buildings used for before putting them up for re-use or sale. Cllr D noted that the community can at any point in time can step forward seeking an asset transfer of a council controlled asset. The SDCC noted that it would be useful for councilors, once appraised by council officers of an out of service building, to consider how it might be of use to their community rather than</p>	

	<p>leaving it up to the community to act, who might not realise the asset is up for acquisition until it is almost too late to do anything material about it. It was mooted that it should be a requirement that council officers bring such matters as the disposal of out of service assets to the councilors to consider. It was noted that something was not working with the way the local authority delivers housing and planning, as if there is not linked strategic plan with community priorities.</p> <p>It was suggested by some members that a new site should be visited for the proposed relocation of the Dunnottar and Carronhill schools away from the currently identified Mackie Academy play fields. It was noted that although the local authority could not identify a better location, that Mackie itself as an old property would require replacing and ideally that would take place within the same grounds as proposed for Dunnottar and Carronhill.</p> <p>On the topic of council relations with the community's interest in council controlled assets for community use, it was noted that they were in their style of communication rather unsupportive of the idea of it being used as the location of a youth club for the town. Question was raised over whether the council would accept a community asset transfer of their buildings to then be in receipt of a peppercorn rent over placing them on the open market.</p> <p>Motion SDCC puts together a steering group bringing together groups in the town and the Council together to creation this vision and an improved local development plan. Proposed by JS, seconded by RC. Result – agreed.</p> <p>JS wanted it noted within the minutes that there might have been confusion over his discussion with Cllr A earlier in the meeting on the possibility of Dunnottar and Carronhill schools going to Mackie. JS asked for clarification from Cllr A, if this move had been voted on by councilors, with Cllr A responding to say she thought that is where it was heading. Cllr A is not on the Education Committee but noted she was told it was going there. BW noted that it would be a planning not education matter.</p> <p>ACTION – SDCC contacts Aberdeenshire Council regarding this. ACTION – Cllr D to check on when the new local development plan will begin. ACTION – SDCC attend community sport hub meetings. ACTION – JS, RC and DB put together a steering group as noted within the motion and call its first meeting. ACTION – Cllr D to email BW to clarify the Dunnottar and Carronhill School matter in response to comments made within the meeting.</p>	<p>XX Cllr D</p> <p>XX JS, RC and DB Cllr D</p>
6.9	Roads Repair - MD	

	<p>Potholes Councillors responded highlighting that contractors will return on 18th October to carry on repair to potholes in the town. Unsure if this will be to conclude the work.</p> <p>Roads Review Councillors were asked to confirm it would take into consideration the impact of the proposed supermarket development, looking at appropriate measures on Belmont Brae and the bottom of the Slug Road to cope with the increased volume in traffic. No response as of yet.</p> <p>Cllr R gave feedback noting that the Belmont Brae will be part of the public consultation for the traffic management review. Cllr R noted that contractors are returning to complete the pothole repair works.</p> <p>Temporary Traffic Lights at Low Wood Road/Carron Gardens It was noted that a Give Way line had not yet been painted on the road after 4 weeks of the road being resurfaced. Cllrs R and D noted that the council are struggling to get a road painter to undertake this task and that the temporary lights cannot therefore be removed due to health and safety.</p> <p>ACTION – ongoing. ACTION – to monitor the situation at Low Wood Road/Carron Gardens.</p>	<p>MD DB</p>
7	AOCB (Urgent or For Next Meeting)	
7.1	Asset Transfer of the Land at Mill O' Forest - DL	
	<p>Nearby resident Fiona Stewart noted there is an issue with the traffic in the area in question and into Brickfield. It was highlighted that when rugby games are on this problem would increase. It is an issue that the proposed pitch lights sit right up against local residents' back gardens, added to by the potential for noise disturbance. It was noted that the park is used by children and people of all ages and abilities. It was felt that the area is not big enough for the rugby club. It was highlighted that the onsite car park was originally built for the overspill of Forest Park residents and is demonstrated as such within their property title deeds. Some residents are still unaware of this proposed development. Children are already not allowed to play in the school grounds of Mill O' Forest and Carronhill school, this development removes another area for playing. Residents are trying to organise a meeting to raise awareness.</p> <p>Representations on this proposed asset transfer close on 12th November 2021. Some of the comments made have been expressed before at an SDCC meeting. Future recreation ground could be added to the Aberdeenshire Council's local development plan. A solution for all needs to be found. Concern was raised over the setting a precedent of a public park being taken over for a sporting facility. Residents were encouraged to submit concerns directly to Aberdeenshire Council regarding this application before the 12th November. Comment has been raised in the past with Aberdeenshire Council</p>	

	<p>that there was no comprehensive vision for Stonehaven. People have sympathy with the plight of the rugby club trying to get a home. Land near Dunnottar Woods had been brought to their attention and the landowner has still not heard from the rugby club regarding it but Aberdeenshire Council should be working with them to secure a suitable location. Cllr A also notified the rugby club of the Dunnottar Woods area which should be investigated further.</p> <p>Motion Take this to November meeting. Proposed BW seconded XX Result – agreed.</p> <p>Nearby resident Lorna Ritchie informed the meeting that Spaces for People during lockdown showed how vital the park is. With mental health being such a big issue, green space is vital and it is unsafe for children to cross busy roads to go elsewhere. People from Malcolms Mount, Forest Park, Brickfield and the schools use it regularly. Residents are organising a leaflet drop, a petition and a public meeting regarding this application.</p> <p>ACTION – Add to the agenda for the November meeting. ACTION – Seek if the development proposal has changed from when the rugby club attended SDCC last. ACTION – Invite the rugby club and an officer of Aberdeenshire Council to the November meeting.</p>	<p>BW XX BW</p>
7.2	Stonehaven’s Silver Guild Award, Keep Scotland Beautiful - AL	
	<p>Motion SDCC offers congratulations and thanks to the whole of the Horizon Group and to John Cruickshank in particular and to every single person in Stonehaven who helped them achieve winning the Silver Guild Award from Keep Scotland Beautiful and a certificate for the Burns Memorial Garden. Proposed by AL and seconded by XX. Result – agreed.</p> <p>A member had recently spoken with a local resident who, having lived in the town for over 35 years, was unaware of the existence of the Burns Garden. It was put forward that this garden should be better signposted.</p>	
7.3	Business Meeting Recording - AL	
	Assistance sought from members with IT expertise on the recording of the meeting.	

Next Meeting: Agenda Meeting 2nd November 2021
 Business Meeting 9th November 2021