



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

<b>Present</b>
<p><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> and <i>Acting Chair</i> (DL), Alistair Lawrie, <i>Secretary</i> (AL), Donald A. Lawrie Morrison, <i>Vice-Chairperson</i> (DLM), Jim Morrison (JM), Gerry Towler (GT), Keith Simpson, <i>Planning Secretary</i> (KS), Jim Stephen (JS), Fiona Tavendale (FT), Gerry Towler (GT) and Daniel Veltman (DV).</p> <p><b>Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members:</b>          Councillor Wendy Agnew (Cllr A), Councillor Sarah Dickinson (Cllr D) and Councillor Dennis Robertson (Cllr R).</p>
<b>In Attendance</b>
<p>Marc Camus (Police Scotland), Emma Storey (Aberdeenshire Council), Andrew Webster (Save Our Park), Alan Venters (Vice-President, Mackie Academy Former Pupils Rugby Club), Steven Park (Managing Director, Dunecht Estates), George Pearson (owner of Dunnottar Castle), Daniel Harrington (XX?), Stuart Young (Chief- Executive, Dunecht Estates) and Michael Fotheringham (XX?).</p>

1	Chairperson's Welcome – DL <i>Acting Chair</i>	Action
	The meeting start was delayed for technical reasons, starting at approximately 7.25pm.	
2	<b>Apologies</b> <b>Community Councillors:</b> Bill Watson and Lyndsey Wood.	
3	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> None.	
4	<b>Recording the Meeting - KS</b> No recording was made due to technical reasons.	
5	<b>Last Minute</b>	
5.1	<b>Amendments &amp; Approval of the Last Minutes</b> <b>Amendments:</b> XX?  <b>Approval:</b> Proposed by DV and seconded by RC.	
5.2	<b>Matters Arising from the Last Minute</b>	

5.2.1	<p><b>SDCC Community Award, AL</b>  The recipient of the Community Award is Steven Smith. Steven is a retired gentleman who spends his days clearing litter from the streets of Stonehaven. Steven was incredibly humbled to receive this honour.</p>	
5.2.2	<p><b>Dunnottar Park – Cllr A</b>  <b>ACTION</b> - Cllr A to chase-up a reply from Stewart Milne.</p>	Cllr A
5.2.3	<p><b>Bicycle Repair Stand – AL</b>  STCIG agreed with SDCC’s proposal to set up a bicycle repair stand, possible 2 in the town.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> – George to send AL <b>XX?</b></p>	<b>XX?</b>
6	<b>Business Matters</b>	
6.1	<b>Presentation: Police Report – Marc Camus (MC)</b>	
	<p>A copy of the police report had been circulated around members prior to the meeting. MC summarised its contents for the meeting. MC noted there had been a decrease in anti-social behaviour calls, 6 assaults detected and reported to the Procurator Fiscal, 4 thefts that remain undetected, 2 break-ins at commercial premises that remain undetected, no drink driving reports and 3 reports of careless driving in the area.</p>	
6.2	<b>Presentation: Proposed Asset Transfer at Forest Drive, by Forest Drive Residents and the Mackie Former Pupils Rugby Club</b>	
	<p><b>Peter Webster, Forest Drive, on behalf of Save Our Park:-</b></p> <p>Save Our Park has delivered fliers informing people about the proposed asset transfer, including councilors, MSPs and several groups. It has been noted that parents who use the park are not prepared to let their children walk to other open spaces. Three reasons for objection against the asset transfer noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Since the Rugby club moved the park has evolved and is used by several groups</li> <li>2) The area was upgraded as a park by Aberdeenshire Council</li> <li>3) Since lockdown local residents have become aware of the need for the park, with many using it for walks, games, socializing and as a thoroughfare.</li> </ol> <p>The Rugby Club is primarily concern with the provision of rugby. The owner of their current site has confirmed that he will renew their lease on a yearly basis until a replacement site is found. The asset transfer and development proposal would see many shrubs, plants and trees lost from the area. Save Our Park has collected over 1,000 signatures in their petition showing there is considerable local anger and fear that this amenity will be lost.</p> <p><b>Alan Venters, Vice-President, on behalf of the Rugby Club:-</b></p> <p>The Rugby Club’s current lease ends by 2026. The site above this is too expensive for the club to lease. The site at Mackie Academy is likely to be used for a new primary school and there will not be enough space. There is a site on the Ury estate but only on a rolling lease. There was a site at</p>	

	<p>Cemetery Hill but Aberdeenshire Council bought it. The Rugby Club has had a relationship with Forest Park since the mid 1980s and still pay for the electricity. The area is safe for young people who would attend the club. Approximately 400 young people play rugby in the area. Other groups would also use the facility. The club provides a lot of work with local school children. The development proposal seeks to erect two grass pitches and 4 changing rooms.</p> <p>The club is waiting on the outcome of their asset transfer request. They seek to work with the local community to enable groups to use the facility. The car park would not be closed completely. The club will not make money from this transfer.</p> <p><b>Questions:-</b></p> <p>It was noted that the development would cost around £600,000 and would be open all year round.</p> <p>It was queried as to whether a suitable site could be added into Aberdeenshire Council's Local Development Plan and its omission was a point of concern, showing a lack of vision for the area.</p> <p><b>Motion</b> The SDCC does not support the Rugby Club taking over Forest Park Proposed by PC and seconded by IH. <b>Result</b> – agreed, 1 abstaining.</p> <p><b>Motion</b> The issue of where to house the Rugby Club should go to Aberdeenshire Council and Councillors to come back with a suitable alternative. Proposed by MD and seconded by AL. <b>Result</b> – unanimously agreed.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> – Cllrs to take concerns regarding the local development plan, land allocated for amenity purposes and vision for Stonehaven to the Area Manager. <b>ACTION</b> – Cllrs to come back with suggestions of a suitable alternative site after speaking with Aberdeenshire Council officers.</p>	<p>Cllrs</p> <p>Cllrs</p>
6.3	<p><b>Presentation: Dunnottar Castle Proposals – Steven Park (SP), George Pearson (GP), Daniel Harrington (DH), Stuart Young (SY) and Michael Fotheringham (MF)</b></p>	
	<p><b>DH:-</b></p> <p>Dunnottar Castle lacks a visitor centre and is the only monument in Scotland of its scale without one. The proposed development of a visitor centre was described. Additional car, coach and motor home parking was noted at the current car park site. The visitor centre would have a café, retail and</p>	

	<p>interpretation centre. The site will also contain housing with enabling funding. They are seeking to use enabling funding to cover immediate development costs.</p> <p><b>Questions:-</b></p> <p>Concern was raised about permitting housing on site to ensure funding and that large houses of the type noted are not selling well in the area at present. It was noted that development does not require the houses to be sold before commencing.</p>	
<b>6.4</b>	<b>SDCC Planning Report – KS</b>	
	No report.	
<b>6.5</b>	<b>SDCC Treasurer’s Report – DL</b>	
	It was highlighted that cheque to the value of £500 had been paid in and then withdrawn from the account as it had been deposited in error. Apology noted for the mistake and action taken to rectify the matter with signatories approving the correction.	
<b>6.6</b>	<b>Correspondence - AL, PC and DB</b>	
	None.	
<b>6.7</b>	<b>Traffic Management Review - DB</b>	
	<p>DB circulated a report to members before the meeting. Discussion about the barrier in the road next to the allotments.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> – DB to amend the report as discussed and to submit it.</p>	<b>DB</b>
<b>6.8</b>	<b>Mental Health Participatory Request – Cllrs D and R</b>	
	Cllrs D and R have met to discuss issues regarding participatory request in this area, particularly the feeling that the process had been inadequate. Council officers are looking again at how this will be dealt with. Cllr R congratulated MD and GT for their work in this area which has had enormous benefits for those parts of the community concerned. Noting that this process needs a right of appeal if something hasn’t had a satisfactory outcome and that both MD and GT have had a positive impact on the process. Both MD and GT feel frustrated by the process which has yet to conclude.	
<b>6.9</b>	<b>Invercarron Resource Centre - BW</b>	
	Proposed letter by Chair accepted and agreed.	
<b>6.10</b>	<b>Notice Boards - BW</b>	
	<p>Ian Balgowan has asked if the SDCC wants him to continue servicing the notice boards. It was agreed that if he was willing to do so he should.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> – DB to inform Ian Balgowan.</p>	<b>DB</b>
<b>6.11</b>	<b>Sale of Council Office, Allardice Street - IH</b>	
	<b>ACTION</b> – Cllr D to find out if this sale can be stopped and report back.	<b>Cllr D</b>
<b>6.12</b>	<b>Christmas Tree - JS</b>	
	Holman Baird is providing this year’s tree. The Christmas tree light switch on	

	will take place on Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> November.	
<b>6.13</b>	<b>Nippy Dip - JS</b>	
	The Nippy Dip will go ahead. They have volunteers to help out and have yet to decide who will benefit from money raised at the event.	
<b>7</b>	<b>AOCB (Urgent or For Next Meeting)</b>	
<b>7.1</b>	<b>Keep Scotland Beautiful Bid - MD</b>	
	MD seeking information to prepare an action plan.	

**Next Meeting:**            Agenda Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021  
                                      Business Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021