



STONEHAVEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
 7 – 9 pm, 11th January 2022
 Hybrid Meeting, Stonehaven

Present
<p>Community Council Members: 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), Steve McQueen (SMcQ), Keith Simpson, <i>Planning Secretary</i> (KS), Jim Stephen (JS), Gerry Towler (GT), Daniel Veltman (DV) and Bill Watson, <i>Chair</i> (BW).</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members: Councillor Wendy Agnew (Cllr A), Councillor Sarah Dickinson and Councillor Dennis Robertson (Cllr R).</p>
In Attendance
Maxine Booth (Quality Improvement Manager, Aberdeenshire Library), Councillor Jeff Hutchison (Cllr JH), Paul Whalley (Early Years Estate Manager, Aberdeenshire Council) and Ian Wylie (Project Manager, Aberdeenshire Council).

1	Chairperson's Welcome – BW	Action
	BW opened the meeting, welcoming members of the community council, meeting attendees and the public.	
2	Apologies	
	<p>Community Councillors: Lindsey Wood</p> <p>Elected Members:</p> <p>Attendees: Marc Camus (Police Scotland)</p>	
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? Proposed by KS and seconded by BW.</p> <p>Result – Agreed.</p>	
5	Last Minute	

5.1	Amendments & Approval of the Last Minutes	
	<p>Amendments:</p> <p><i>Page 1</i> Attendees – DL not acting chair Online not hybrid meeting.</p> <p><i>Page 2</i> Item 5.2.3 – seconded by IH. ACTION – Cllr R facilitates meeting with area managers. ACTION - ongoing continuation of meetings with area managers.</p> <p><i>Page 3</i> Keep Scotland Beautiful Bid – MD</p> <p><i>Page 5</i> Item 6.2 – in place of the first motion - SDCC to provide half the monies of this award along with STP, subject to STP committee approval. ACTION – AL issued presentation previously</p> <p><i>Page 6</i> Item 6.3 – SDCC would get behind the council’s plan, delete ‘beyond creating a plan’ and reword action to SDCC DB and JE speaks with Area Manager on this and links with other community groups. Item 6.4 – Amend action, to invite Mr Palmer to a future meeting. Item 6.6 – add ACTION Emma Storey to help facilitate.</p> <p>Approval: Proposed by BW and seconded by DV.</p> <p>ACTION AL to send PC a copy of amended minutes for publication on the SDCC website.</p>	AL & PC
5.2	Dunnottar Park – Cllr A ACTION - ongoing.	Cllr A
5.3	Bicycle Repair Stand – AL Another meeting of the Stonehaven Town Centre Improvement Group in February ACTION - DB to report back.	DB
5.4	Sale of Council Office, Allardice Street On the agenda for the next area ward meeting. ACTION - Ongoing	Cllr R
5.5	Keep Scotland Beautiful Bid ACTION – bring back item when there is an update.	MD
5.6	Mackie Academy Campus – Cllrs No letters have been sent out to PTAs yet. A separate meeting for parents and PTAs would be useful. Invite parents from all three schools. SDCC to formulate its statutory response based on this.	

	<p>Motion To set up an information gathering meeting with parents and PTAs. Proposed by DB and seconded by PC. Result – agreed.</p> <p>Motion Amendment - discounted To set up a survey alongside a meeting. Proposed by MD Concern expressed that the town are survey weary. Need to involve Council with the meeting.</p> <p>ACTION - DB and AL to write letter with a view to proposing a meeting mid-March.</p>	DB & AL
5.7	<p>Invercarron Resource Centre – Aberdeenshire Councilors Cllr A – the matter will be taken to Area Committee, on Tuesday 11th, confidentially without public given right to respond which Cllr A queried with ES. It was refused to be made public.</p> <p>JS – Mrs Vera Coull contacted with a letter that has been shared on social media seeking to hear what is being done to help all the elderly ‘trapped at home’. Many are getting depressed with lack of stimulation over the past two years.</p> <p>IH – concerned that it will be discussed confidentially. SDCC must object to the holding of this meeting privately.</p> <p>RC – can councillors at the meeting refuse to undertake it confidentially when at the meeting?</p> <p>Motion SDCC writes to Bruce Stewart Area Manager expressing concern that this meeting will be held in private. Proposed by MD and seconded by BW. Result – agreed.</p> <p>ACTION – Keep on the agenda as a live ongoing issue. ACTION – Cllr A to continue to look into this. ACTION – BW to write to Bruce Stewart as per motion.</p>	BW Cllr A BW
5.8	<p>Resilience/Emergency in Response to Storm Arwen - DB</p> <p>No update. ACTION – Ongoing - DB to keep in touch with Emma Storey and will report back.</p>	DB
5.9	<p>Online Meetings - BW</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Council will continue to have online meetings up until March. It will go to full council a week on Thursday. ACTION - Cllr R to report back on any guidance.</p>	Cllr R
5.10	<p>‘Question Time’ Television Opportunity – JS and PC</p>	

	<p>PC write to Head Teacher at Mackie Academy. Depending on the timing they would be keen on hosting.</p> <p>Motion PC to complete a form suggesting they come to Stonehaven proposing Mackie Academy as the venue around October time. Proposed by PC and seconded by BW. Result – agreed.</p> <p>ACTION – PC to complete the form as per the motion.</p>	
6	Business Matters	PC
6.1	Presentation: Police Report – Marc Camus (MC)	
	No police officer in attendance.	
6.2	Presentation: Dunnottar School and Carronhill School Relocation Proposals, Aberdeenshire Council’s Learning Estates – Maxine Booth (MB), Iain Wylie (IW) and Paul Whalley (PW)	
	<p>MB – introduced team members and slides shared virtually.</p> <p>PW – gave a background on the two schools and motivation behind the proposal. Long desired plans to replace Dunnottar School to improve layout and indoor/outdoor space provision. Seeking to replace with a new school that can accommodate 217 children that meets education estate ambitions. Relocating special schools with other schools is happening in other parts of Aberdeenshire. Proposed to create a new Carronhill school with Dunnottar to accommodate 48 children. Options appraisal has been done on site location looking into: the existing Dunnottar school site, land at Braehead, Forest Park including the existing Carronhill school site, Ury playing fields and Dunnottar woods. No confirmed location at present. Officers have worked up costed proposals at Ury playing fields, other assessments will be done on the other sites. Some of identified sites are too small, eg Dunnottar school existing site. Timeline currently at the beginning, informal engagement phase with local community which precedes the statutory consultation process. Start to finish timeline overall 2022 to summer 2025 subject to consultation and approvals.</p> <p><i>Questions:</i></p> <p>JE – Is there space on the grounds of Mackie Academy for this proposal to be built when consideration the likelihood of Mackie Academy requiring rebuilt in the future on the same site?</p> <p>RC – Does Aberdeenshire Council get more money from the Scottish Government if it chooses the site at Mackie Academy?</p> <p>DL – Other side of the bypass will see an increase in population growth. Other towns have put schools near similar growth. Mackie Academy is not located near this growth in our town. Would it not be sensible to locate the</p>	

new school near the population growth?

Response:

MB – Scottish Government provides funding through the Scottish Estate Area Programme (LEAP currently in the third phase). Aberdeenshire Council gained budget for phase 1 for Inverurie Campus. Looking to bid for funding and to gain best educational benefits, looking at carbon footprint and digitally enabled buildings. A campus approach at Mackie Academy would help this bid. Looking ahead at school needs, conditions suitable approach and growth considered. Rebuilding Mackie has been considered. That site could be used for this proposal and enable a phased approach to the demolition and rebuilding of Mackie in the future. School forecasting been done and will be done again including a rezoning of the catchment area. No need to build near where the new houses are going to be because plenty space within each school to match the demand of where they lie in the catchment as it will be rezoned.

Questions:

JS – What size of footprint have Dunnottar and Carronhill schools at present? Concerned that using the Mackie Academy site will remove greenspace. Concerned over fitting two different schools into one.

DB – Concerned about the school rezoning, that children who currently go to Dunnottar school might be rezoned to Arduthie whereas they might have thought they would continue to attend Dunnottar at the new school. Concerned that some of the children attending a special needs school combined with a primary school might not cope with a busy, noisy campus approach.

Response:

IW – Area of the buildings studied. Internal flow area of Dunnottar and Carronhill will be 1650m². Plenty of greenspace for play and circulation around the school in the plan.

MB – Relocation of Dunnottar school won't be a whole shift of children. Rezoning is done for new children coming in. This will be subject to statutory consultation, proposals will be shared before anything is taken forward. Experience with St Andrews School in Inverurie. Parents wanted its identity kept which will be the same with Carronhill with its design important, including shelter in design. Children at Carronhill will have a blended approach between the primary school and the secondary school. Some of the children will not blend and the design will keep them separate and safe.

Questions:

	<p>AL – What is the pressing need to shift Carronhill which has proved itself to be a very successful school? Glad to hear it will retain its identity. Keen to look at how security will operate. There is significant danger for some special school pupils to be in proximity with certain primary or secondary school pupils.</p> <p>MD – Drop off and pick up outside of Mackie Academy already chaotic, with existing concerns from residents at present. What consideration of associated traffic and parking will there be?</p> <p>BW – grass area around and adjacent Mackie not just used for the school for also by the community, e.g. Highland Games.</p> <p><i>Response:</i></p> <p>MB – Carronhill although not within the top 5 list for rebuilding but funding has been found for rebuilding ASN facilities and this presents a huge opportunity to give the school, community and children a better facility than they have currently. A suitability assessment has been carried out. Know of parents’ concerns. The team will sit down with parents and incorporate these into the building design. St Andrews has 1600 capacity secondary school next door and good feedback. Carronhill parents will be able to view St Andrews school too.</p> <p>PW – need to meet requirement of traffic and parking, this provides an opportunity to rethink the layout of drop off and access. These would be subject to planning considerations.</p> <p>IW – initial studies show drop off away from the road.</p> <p>MB – vital to get members knowledge and opinion on the proposals. Learned from many school rebuilding in the area. Can become a standing item on SDCC agenda throughout the development. The statutory consultation begins in August.</p> <p>ACTION – IW to speak with MD re drop off pick up design. ACTION – Learning Estates team to share documents with SDCC. ACTION – Learning Estates team to update SDCC on milestones. ACTION – Invite Learning Estates to a Summertime SDCC meeting.</p>	<p>IW Learning Estates BW</p>
<p>6.3</p>	<p>Aberdeenshire Council’s Review of Planning Delegations - DL</p>	
	<p>Aberdeenshire Council are looking to assess how the powers are delegated of elected members and individuals. For example, it might now require 10 people writing in regarding a planning application before it goes to Area Committee whereas before it was only 5. Concern it is an erosion of controls, checks and balances. From community it is seen as less opportunity to get</p>	

	<p>something onto the committee.</p> <p>Cllr A – chair of the committee – no comment at this time, other than it is a mess.</p> <p>Cllr R – note concerns of SDCC. Fellow Cllrs can discuss in more detail at the next area meeting. Collectively would like to reflect views as note of concern. Elected members will come to a decision on this in time. SDCC views at this meeting will be taken forward to the next committee meeting.</p> <p>Cllr D – views will be reflected at the next area meeting next week</p> <p>Motion SDCC write to Bruce Stewart restating concerns copied to elected members. Proposed by MD and seconded by DB.</p> <p>Result -</p> <p>ACTION – ongoing, add to February agenda. ACTION – BW contacts Bruce Stewart as per motion.</p>	<p>BW BW</p>
6.4	SDCC Hannah Dyson and Community Awards - AL	
	<p>Looking to put out the press releases about the Hannah Dyson and Community Award in the near future and welcome member assistance. SMcQ and JE will assist AL.</p> <p>ACTION – JS to feedback to AL from STP trustees meeting re the Wyne Edwards award.</p>	JS
6.5	SDCC Planning Report – KS	
	<p>Local Development Plan – Request Aberdeenshire Council Planners to Attend Future SDCC Business Meeting</p> <p>Post- Planning Application for Fuel Tanks at the Coop Petrol Station This is presumably a renovation of the fuel forecourt. Seeking comments. Concern that during development good access to the coop and post office would be maintained.</p> <p>ACTION – Members to let KS know of any comments regarding the weekly list planning applications.</p> <p>Planning Application for an extension and driveway at 5 Bridgefield Terrace – DB Correspondence received and although past comment date raising this with SDCC. The driveway and taking down the wall might affect the architectural heritage integrity.</p> <p>ACTION – KS to enquire if SDCC can add comment at this change of the planning application and to report back. ACTION – KS to circulate plans to members and gather responses and to submit a comment if not too late to do so.</p> <p>Ury Estate, Bulldozed tracks – PC</p>	<p>ALL Members</p> <p>KS KS</p>

	<p>Correspondence received expressing concern over tracks from the middle of the estate heading northwards, that it has destroyed a big area of habitat including a couple of ponds that were there. What is the purpose of this and is it subject to planning permission?</p> <p>Cllr D – also received the same query. Exchanged have occurred since regarding the planning permission and the original correspondent.</p> <p>ACTION – PC to follow the exchange in communication regarding the tracks.</p>	PC
6.6	SDCC Treasurer’s Report – DL	
	<p>SDCC Small Grants</p> <p>Monthly statement sent to SDCC members. Members to contact DL if they have any questions. BW thanked DL for his work.</p> <p>Equipment (Laptop) and Software (Zoom) Proposed Purchase</p> <p>ACTION – Ongoing - DL to purchase laptop and zoom</p>	DL
6.7	Correspondence - AL, PC and DB	
	<p>Emails and letters – AL</p> <p>Two pieces of correspondence received from two different people on preschool provision in the town:</p> <p>Lack of Crèche Facility in Stonehaven</p> <p>The crèche is no longer run at the community centre, something that stopped during lockdown. It was the only one of its kind in the town. It goes on to point out that private nurseries take children under the ages of 2 but not all parents can afford this. The community centre crèche used to be run 2 mornings a weeks and used to cost around £9 for 2.5 hours which is considerably cheaper than the apparently £25 to £35 for half a day at a private nursery. That not everyone qualifies for tax free childcare. That Stonehaven is large. A number of parents have expressed their concern that the crèche facility is reestablished, to help their own economic provision, to give them time to themselves and possibly allow them to work part time. The correspondent realises SDCC can’t bring about the creation of a private business but is seeking this matter to be looked into by us asking if there is any crèche facility provided locally, can we ascertain if the previous crèche will restart and can local councilors speak with relevant officers within the council either from Early Years or from Community Learning and Development to see if there’s anyway such a facility can be developed, possibly with interested parents taking over.</p> <p>Council Pre-school Gymnastic Sessions in Stonehaven have not restarted</p> <p>The sessions that did run for children aged 2-3.5 years appear to have stopped in January 2020, previously being run at the leisure and community centres in Stonehaven. The Council is apparently able to run these sessions</p>	

in other places such as Inverbervie. The correspondent has contacted the leisure centre and after some difficulty got a response pointing out that the community centre is currently housing clubs and classes that have been moved from the town hall, with the quote 'we hoped the vaccination centre would have moved to another building but unfortunately this is not the case... we hope to restart after the Easter holidays but it will depend on what happens to the coronavirus vaccinations'. The correspondent goes on to find out why they are not running and underlining the importance of fitness for young children.

Comments:

DB – used both of these facilities and disappointed to note they are not currently available especially if they are open elsewhere and asks why is that provision is not being given back into Stonehaven too. Both should be provided as soon as it is feasibly possible.

AL – question for Cllrs – a crèche facility is a worthy cause for those less well off than the rest of us, can this be looked into to see if there is such provision or an intent to provide or pass it to those whose position it might be to provide such?

Cllr R – if the correspondence is shared with the elected members they will be happy to do this.

Cllr D – also happy to follow up on this.

DL – this highlights an important issue that the community centre is no longer run by its users who would have helped develop the programme of its provision, from kinder gym to crèches. We have lost the link to the community as a whole steering things. Need to tap into the enthusiasm of the community and build in a user interface into the community centre.

IH – the community centre used to have enterprise, with some classes helping to subsidise others such as a crèche.

Cllr A – good idea but there may be a problem with insurance and training which could be expensive.

AL – the previous crèche was run successfully and it is not known why it has not restarted. This is a precise example of what the community centre should be doing but no longer does and there is no one left at the community centre whose business it is to do it.

ACTION – AL to forward the correspondence with the elected members.

ACTION – Cllrs to feedback at the next meeting.

Social media – DB

Correspondence received about the resurfacing of Belmont Brae which was

**AL
Cllrs**

	<p>due to happen in December. The state of the surface was of concern.</p> <p>Cllr D – it was due to be rescheduled early in the new year. It was preferred not to have it done before Christmas for the benefit of the town centre.</p> <p>ACTION – Cllr D to report back on timescale for the resurfacing and send a picture of how far up the works will go to DB</p> <p>Website – PC No website correspondence.</p>	Cllr D
7	AOCB (Urgent or For Next Meeting)	
7.1	Local Groups and Rising Rental Costs – JS	
	<p>Noted concern that between the Lion’s Den and Rhythm Nation Dance their rent combined to Aberdeenshire Council is nearly £5000 per month. Stonehaven Gymnastics club are looking for a unit to rent to house their equipment but they have yet to hear from the Council as there is a waiting list of over 100 people looking to rent. JS noted concern that local groups are being forced to turn into businesses to be able to afford to rent these facilities which will in turn be passed onto parents in increased fees. These groups will be writing to SDCC highlighting these issues.</p>	

Next Meeting: Agenda Meeting 1st February 2022
 Business Meeting 8th February 2022
 Special Meeting: Local Development Plan 22nd February 2002