



**STONEHAVEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**  
7:00 – 9:00pm, 9 August 2022  
Meeting held in the Sheriff Court Buildings, Stonehaven

<b>Present</b>
<p><b>Community Council Members:</b> Ian Hunter (IH), David Lawman, <i>Chairperson</i> (DL), Jim Stephen (JS), , Alistair Lawrie, <i>Secretary</i> (AL ) <b>(via Zoom)</b>, Steve McQueen (SMcQ), Danny Veltman (DV), Raymond Christie, <i>Vice Chairman</i> (RC), Caroline Evans (CE) <b>(via Zoom)</b>, Andy McArdle (AMcA), Adam Cadamerteri (AC), Donald Lawrie Morrison (DLM) <b>(via Zoom)</b>, Julia Lawrie Morrison (JLM) <b>(via Zoom)</b>, Michael Ogden (MO), Phil Mills-Bishop (PMB), Fiona Tavindale (FT)</p> <p><b>Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members:</b> Alan Turner (Cllr T), Wendy Agnew (Cllr A) <b>(via Zoom)</b>, Sarah Dickinson (Cllr D), Dawn Black (Cllr B)</p>
<b>In Attendance</b>
Fiona Malcolm, <i>Minutes Secretary</i> , Jane Cruickshank, <i>The Bellman</i>

1,2	Chairperson's Welcome	Action
	The meeting agreed to record the meeting on Zoom to assist the minute taker (to be deleted once minutes agreed). DL welcomed members of the Stonehaven and District Community Council (SDCC), Aberdeenshire Councillors and the general public.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Apologies</b> Janine Esson, Bill Watson ( <i>Treasurer</i> ), James Morrison, David Charnley ( <i>Police Scotland</i> )	
	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	DL advised that the Agenda Item regarding the Planning Application for the development of Dunnottar Castle Visitor Centre would not be considered at the meeting because full details have not yet been published by Aberdeenshire Council. It was agreed to defer this to the September meeting.	DL
<b>4</b>	<b>Police Report</b>	
	The Police Report was circulated to all members in July. PMB raised concern about an accident earlier in the day at the Beach Promenade. Vehicles have been parked on both sides of the road as well as on the main road, causing problems for pedestrians and drivers. Police Scotland have not been enforcing traffic regulations pertaining to parking restrictions. The meeting agreed that DL will send an e-mail to David Charnley at Police Scotland seeking further information.	DL

5	<b>Housekeeping</b>	
	<p>DL confirmed the appointment of Fiona Malcolm as Minutes Secretary. Phil Mills Bishop has agreed to accept the position of Planning Secretary for SDCC.</p> <p>DL advised that there are 2 positions on SDCC available for co-opted members. There was one late application from Pauline Brindley to the recent recruitment campaign, DL proposed to co-opt Pauline at the next meeting. He also suggested co-opting John Emslie, who has expressed interest. These proposals were agreed by the meeting.</p> <p>AL reminded the meeting that SDCC can co-opt up to two Junior Members (aged under 16 years). IH advised that encouraging Junior Members to participate is a condition of the Constitution, and there should be a re-think about how to do this. DL agreed to contact Mackie Academy after the summer holidays. AL and DV offered to be included in helping to recruit junior members. JS also suggested contacting the other youth organisations in the town.</p> <p>DL suggested that the purchase of an ‘omnidirectional microphone’ at a cost of £130 would improve the overall communications during ‘hybrid’ meetings where some members attend via video/audio link. Cllr T advised he already has a system that could be tried and tested before the next meeting, this was agreed.</p> <p>The meeting approved the use of dedicated SDCC e-mail accounts for the Chairman and Secretary at a cost of £15 per annum for each account.</p> <p><b>SDDC Committees and Sub-Groups and Outside Bodies/Committees</b></p> <p>DL has already received names of members willing to participate in these, but encouraged everyone to consider becoming involved.</p> <p><b>SDDC Committees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Local Development Plan/Local Place Plan DL (lead), JS, JLM, MO, IH, PMB, DV, AL, CE</li> <li>b) Invercarron Resource Centre/Older People’s Services RC (Lead), AL, IH, JS and possibly BW (TBC)</li> <li>c) Community Resilience (providing support to Emergency Services) JE (Lead), DL, JS, MO</li> <li>d) SDDC Communications S McQ (Lead), JLM, DV, JE</li> </ul>	<p>Contact Mackie Academy and local youth organisations to raise awareness and encourage participation of young people</p> <p>DL, AL, DV</p>

	<p><b>Outside Bodies/Committees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Transport Action Kincardineshire (TRAK) IH, DV, RC</li> <li>b) KDP Wind Farm Grant Application Reviews JE, DL (back-up)</li> <li>c) Town Centre Improvement Group AL</li> <li>d) Stonehaven Community Resilience Plan JE</li> <li>e) Kincardine and Mearns Community Council Forum This forum is open to all CC members</li> <li>f) Kincardine and Mearns Community Planning Group IH – IH advised this Group is Ward-based (Ward 18), and has no member elections, he suggested it should have.</li> </ul> <p>AL thanked everyone who has already sent information about themselves, their interests and experience. He encouraged everyone to do this, also to identify any issues of concern for SDCC to consider.</p> <p>DL clarified that the formal process for suggesting agenda items is via AL, there is also an Agenda Planning Meeting prior to each SDCC Business Meeting, open to all members, where the agenda is discussed, and items may be suggested.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan With respect to a query from the Community Council about one of the questions in the survey regarding Elected Member involvement, Cllr D agreed to recirculate the confirmation that Elected Members could legitimately consider and agree the conclusions reached in the Evidence report, the Ideas presented in the "call for Ideas", the content of the proposed plan, the topics on which negotiation should take place following consultation on the proposed plan and the Modified proposed Local Development Plan submitted for examination and still take part in consideration of the Aberdeenshire Council LDP when it came to committee.</li> <li>b) Resilience Planning Group (RPG) JS advised this had been a positive meeting, although there are still some barriers to overcome. He clarified that SDCC is not an Emergency Service, rather it provides support in the event of an emergency. Two priority actions were identified by the group – to collate a list of all local groups, and to apply for appropriate funding in the event of emergencies.</li> </ul>	Cllr D

	<p>MO asked about the vetting process for community volunteers to ensure safeguarding and protection of vulnerable groups and individuals.</p> <p>JS said that the role of community groups and volunteers in an emergency is to support the statutory Emergency Services. Most community groups are constituted bodies with their own policies, direct engagement with individual households (e.g. knocking on doors) is done by Local Authority staff.</p> <p>DL said that members of the public should be encouraged to prepare for emergencies, and to look out for their neighbours.</p> <p>JS advised that JE is preparing a report of the RPG meeting and will provide feedback to the SDCC.</p> <p>PMB asked about lists of vulnerable people held by Public Service organisations, including Aberdeenshire Council.</p> <p>Cllr B said that work is ongoing by Aberdeenshire Council to ensure lists of vulnerable individuals and households are up to date, both Housing and Social Work are involved. She advised that the power supply companies also maintain lists of vulnerable households.</p>	JE
<b>7</b>	<b>Approval of Previous Minutes</b>	
	<p>The Minutes from the meeting held on 6 June 2022 were approved by PMB and seconded by DV.</p> <p>The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2027 Community Council Engagement Survey was approved by DV and seconded by DL.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Invercarron Resource Centre – Participation Request</b>	
	<p>BW has completed a form issued by Aberdeenshire Council and sent it to the Area Manager for him to advise on next steps.</p> <p>Note: AL Left the meeting at this point.</p> <p>PMB asked why the Area Manager had been consulted? DL said as part of the “Participation Request Process” issued by Aberdeenshire Council we are encouraged to discuss the request informally with the Area Manager prior to submission.</p> <p>JS asked if other Resource Centre User Groups are doing things themselves, or is the CC representing them? Is enough being done? DL said the Invercarron Resource Centre/Older People’s Service Sub-Group is leading our effort and would work with other groups such as the Older Peoples Forum being formed by the Mearns and Coastal</p>	

	<p>Healthy Living Network. We would not wish to form a separate group and be working in different directions.</p> <p>IH said that the expected rising fuel costs will impact disproportionately on many older people in the coming months, and it is time to re-open the Centre.</p> <p>DL noted that new Covid Vaccination Centre signs are now in place. The CC must ensure that Aberdeenshire Council is actively considering resources for older people.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<b>Mackie Academy Campus</b>	
	<p>DL highlighted the shortage of playing fields in the Local Development Plan. If space is allocated on the plan, but not used after five years, it is less onerous for the Developer seeking planning permission. He asked where the lost space (if the proposed new campus goes ahead) will be replaced?</p> <p>MO said that there was a requirement in the 2017 – 2020 Development Plan that any lost space must be replaced.</p> <p>CE asked if there are any other site options being considered for the Campus?</p> <p>DL said that the planning application for the proposed Mackie site is now at the next stage of consideration, (Gateway Stage 2), this entails detailed design and costings.</p> <p>Cllr D confirmed the Area Committee has agreed to focus on the Mackie site. The Scottish Government encourages Local Authorities to adopt the Campus model when planning to build a new school, and additional funding may be available to support the costs. Dunnottar Primary School is very supportive of the proposed site.</p> <p>PMB asked if there is a zoning issue for parents?</p> <p>Cllr D explained there will be a re-zoning exercise and a formal consultation process.</p> <p>A member of the public attending the meeting (Ian Balgowan) asked why the old gasworks site in the Old Town was not being considered?</p> <p>Cllr T said this site is not big enough and doesn't have any green space.</p> <p>CE asked if this could be looked at again?</p> <p>JS explained that there had been a public meeting at the Town Hall and the Mackie site is the only option being considered.</p>	

Cllr T said that it is positive that we are getting a new school.

CE asked how the decision (about the Mackie site) was made, however she accepted that we need a new school.

DL said with Chapelton being the go-to area for new development, and the agreement in place to open a new school when 489 houses have been built, at this time there are more houses with planning permission on the other side of the by-pass, so using that logic we will need a school on that side of the by-pass, we are not looking far enough ahead.

PMB asked who suggested the sites for the new Campus?

RC said that money is tight and as there is a lot of money available from the Scottish Government for the Campus Model, that has influenced the decision.

Cllr D explained that the Council's Learning Estates team brought forward proposals, confirmed that the Council is fully committed to building a new school, if additional money is available, then we should ensure we gain from it, and there are other positive examples of Campus Model schools elsewhere across Aberdeenshire.

AMcA asked how the Scottish Government money impacts on Developer obligations?

Cllr D clarified that every planning application is assessed individually and levies imposed where required. A Developer cannot be responsible for fixing a deficit.

FT asked if the proposed new schools will be bigger than existing ones?

Cllr D confirmed that what is anticipated will ensure there is capacity.

Cllr B said that the existing Dunnottar School building is not fit for purpose, so needs to be replaced. Mill O' Forest is currently under capacity, So there is in theory capacity presently across Stonehaven's primary schools.

DL said there are money concerns about the new proposed campus. There remains a good deal of convincing to be done, and it is Hobson's Choice. There isn't an alternative better solution, however the Council needs to do a lot to convince the town.

<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Planning Report and Reviews</b></p> <p>The Dunnottar Castle Visitor Centre and housing development planning application had at the time of the meeting not been validated. DL proposed this item be deferred until the next meeting.</p> <p>PMB asked about the Harbour Seafood Bothy planning application. There have been 70 representations from the community about this.</p> <p>DL said when putting the agenda together, although there had been a significant number of representations (many for and some against), it was decided not to include the planning application on the agenda for discussion, as it was a small individual application, which would not normally warrant a full discussion at a SDCC meeting. He acknowledged the concerns of some neighboring residents, but understood the business was working to address these. In summary, it wasn't appropriate for the meeting to discuss this planning application, in detail.</p>	
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p>	
	<p>DL advised that the Treasurer (BW) was on holiday. The following items as advised in the agenda were approved –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Re-confirmation of delegated powers for project teams (within available funds) for Defibrillator and Christmas Tree lights</li> <li>b) Re-confirmation of £65 all-inclusive fee per meeting for Minutes Secretary</li> <li>c) Confirmation of a small donation (£50 pa) in lieu of Account Examination</li> </ul> <p>MO asked where the money for the Christmas Tree comes from? DL explained funds come from various local groups to SDCC which acts as banker on their behalf. There are two defibrillator funds supported by local groups. SDCC receives a grant from the Council to support admin and running costs.</p> <p>PMB asked when the amount of the grant will be reviewed by the Council?</p> <p>DL said the Council Area Committee agrees the amount based on the Electorate, the formula is never changed.</p> <p>Cllr B offered to investigate and feed back to the next meeting.</p>	<p>Cllr B</p>
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>Nippy Dip 1 January 2023</b></p>	
	<p>DL explained that a volunteer is required to take the lead, prepare an Event Plan and apply for a Public Entertainment License.</p> <p>After discussion about the requirements, RC agreed to co-opt Mike Duncan to lead on the preparation of the Event Plan and JS offered to</p>	

	<p>speak to other local groups to ask for support for the event itself. DL clarified that it must be a CC member who takes responsibility and whose name must be on the License application. He offered to support RC if he takes the lead.</p>	
<b>13</b>	<b>Formal Complaint Against SDCC by Member of the Public</b>	
	<p><i>DL read out a written statement</i>  Complaint: Regarding “how SDCC’s response to Aberdeenshire Council’s “Stonehaven Traffic Management Review” was compiled. SDCC’s officers had responded to the individual, but as they were still unhappy, they (as per the process allows), have on passed the complaint to Aberdeenshire Council, where the Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager has instigated an investigation, which is ongoing – SDCC awaits the outcome of the investigation.</p>	
<b>14</b>	<b>Condition of Allardice Street (IH)</b>	
	<p>IH raised the issue of the poor condition of the road surface along Allardice Street.</p> <p>Cllr B said she had received a complaint from a local resident, and had subsequently been in touch with the Roads Department to ask them to investigate. She confirmed that the resurfacing of Allardice Street and Dunnottar Avenue is in this year’s workplan, and repairs will be undertaken before the flood prevention work is complete, hopefully the roadworks will be done during September.</p>	
<b>15</b>	<b>Correspondence (AL)</b>	
	No correspondence to be considered.	
<b>16</b>	<b>AOCB</b>	
	DL wished to record his thanks on behalf of SDCC to the Horizon Group and all other local groups who worked so hard to prepare for the town’s entry in the Keep Scotland Beautiful competition. This was supported enthusiastically and unanimously.	
	<b>Dates of Next Meetings</b>	
	<p>Agenda Discussion Meeting – Tuesday 6 September  CC Business Meeting – Tuesday 13 September</p>	