



STONEHAVEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
 19:30– 21:45, 20 September 2022
 Meeting held in the Sheriff Court Buildings, Stonehaven

Present
<p>Community Council Members: Ian Hunter (IH), Jim Stephen (JS), Alistair Lawrie, <i>Secretary</i> (AL) (via Zoom), Steve McQueen (SMcQ), Danny Veltman (DV), (via Zoom) Raymond Christie, <i>Vice Chairman</i> (RC), Julia Lawrie Morrison (JLM) (via Zoom), Michael Ogden (MO), Phil Mills-Bishop (PMB), Fiona Tavindale (FT), Bill Watson, <i>Treasurer</i>, (WW), via Zoom, James Morrison (JM), Janine Esson (JE), (Via Zoom), Pauline Brindley (PB)</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members: Alan Turner (Cllr T), Wendy Agnew (Cllr A), Dawn Black (Cllr B)</p>
In Attendance
<p>Fiona Malcolm, <i>Minutes Secretary</i>, Bob Michie (via Zoom), Stuart Young (SY), Stephen Park (SP), Mark Irvine (MI), Chair of Stonehaven Flood Action Group, Bill Munro (BM), Deputy Chair of Stonehaven Flood Action Group, Stuart Young (SY) and Stephen Park (SP), representatives of Dunecht Estates.</p>

1 & 2	Chairperson's Welcome	Action
	<p>The meeting was chaired by RC, <i>Vice Chairman</i>. It was agreed to record the meeting on Zoom to assist the minute taker (to be deleted once minutes agreed). RC welcomed members of the Stonehaven and District Community Council (SDCC), Aberdeenshire Councillors, representatives from Dunecht Estates, and members of the general public. He advised that the meeting would end no later than 21:45.</p>	
3	Apologies and Declarations of Interest	
	<p>David Lawman, <i>Chairman</i>, Janine Esson, Adam Cadamerteri, Andrew McArdle, Caroline Evans, Donald Lawrie Morrison, Cllr Sarah Dickinson, David Charnley (<i>Police Scotland</i>)</p>	
4	Co-option of Community Councillors	
	<p>RC welcomed PB, who has been coopted on to the SDDC. There has been no response to emails from John Emslie, who was also nominated as a coopted member</p>	

5	<p>Police Scotland Report</p>	
	<p>This report covers progress we have made in dealing with your priorities for the Kincardine and Mearns Community Council area for the period 1 to 31 August 2022.</p> <p>The report aims to highlight emerging issues in your area, provide crime prevention advice and guidance to Community Council members and the residents you represent. Our focus is to reduce crime and disorder, help create safer communities and respond effectively to local concerns.</p> <p>Community Policing Priorities</p> <p>Antisocial behaviour, Violence and Disorder:</p> <p>There has been an increase in the number of Anti-social behaviour calls within Kincardine and Mearns for the month of August, with 68 calls being received. This includes youth and adult involvement.</p> <p>There have been 12 Assault crime reports raised within August. 10 are detected and have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal. The remaining are still being investigated.</p> <p>Acquisitive Crime:</p> <p>There have been 14 Thefts throughout the Kincardine and Mearns area during August. 13 remain undetected and are still being investigated.</p> <p>Road Safety & road crime:</p> <p>Drink/Drug Driving</p> <p>In August there was 2 drivers found to be under the influence of alcohol, who have been reported for consideration of prosecution to the Procurator Fiscal.</p> <p>Dangerous Driving</p> <p>There were 1 reported incident of dangerous driving for the month of August and is detected and reported.</p> <p>Careless Driving</p> <p>There have been 3 reported incidents of careless driving for the month of August and 2 have been detected and reported with investigation ongoing for the last.</p> <p>Community Engagement & Reassurance:</p> <p>A new initiative for Kincardine and Mearns is being piloted soon.</p>	

“Coffee with a Copper” will bring back a more personal policing approach whereby Constable Charnley will hope to make use of the community halls in your local areas, towns and villages.

This initiative will allow all members of the community an opportunity for a private one on one conversation with their community officer. All questions/queries are welcome. A level of anonymity will be offered.

In these sessions the following and many more opportunities are offered:

- neighbour disputes
- suitable advice
- on occasion depending on success will bring other officers of specialisms with me (fraud, home security/safety advice)
- recruitment advice for persons interested
- parental advice on current drug, alcohol and technology/cybercrime issues facing youths and other ages.

This will not be a crime reporting service, but advice can be given if uncertainty of legalities is required to be established.

Intention will be monthly visits with first visit being either AM or PM allowing the next month to swap for AM or PM respectively meaning opportunity for persons that work during day to catch a session.

One to two hour slots and one to one sessions 10 minutes depending on demand. Pilot will identify areas making use of service and should it be successful consideration to increase amount will be given.

Inspector Rhona Di Meola
Kincardine and Mearns Community Policing Team
Date 10/09/2022

PMB asked PB, who is a resident at Cowie, if she had any views about the Police Scotland report. PB said there is rarely any visible Police Scotland presence in the Cowie and beach area. She confirmed that some drivers ignore the double yellow lines and park their vehicles alongside them. Some Cowie residents have been placing notes on vehicle windscreens reminding owners they should not be parking on double yellow lines.

PMB said it was unfortunate that no one from Police Scotland was at the meeting.

Cllr A confirmed that Police Scotland do have powers to fine motorists who park illegally and do issue fines. However, it depends on available manpower.

	<p>Cllr B said that Police Scotland will robustly enforce traffic regulations in future. She advised that there will be new legislation from the Scottish Government regarding parking on pavements.</p> <p>Cllr A reiterated the lack of Police Scotland manpower locally.</p> <p>PMB asked if Police Scotland has powers to enforce parking restrictions on drivers who park on double yellow lines, this was confirmed.</p> <p>JS noted that some drivers partially park on double yellow lines, but this is still illegal.</p> <p>Cllr B referred to the report on the Traffic Management Review that will come in front of Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee in October, the issue of parking at Cowie and the beach will be addressed then.</p> <p>SMcQ asked if the Aberdeenshire Council Parking Attendant (who monitors parking in the Town Square) could issue parking tickets should parking become decriminalized.</p> <p>Cllr A replied that parking remains the responsibility of Police Scotland, not the Local Authority.</p> <p>PMB asked whether the Traffic Management Committee will review the possibility of the former gasworks site as a place for coaches to park.</p> <p>Cllr B said to wait and see.</p>	
6	Stonehaven Localised Flooding	
	<p>RC welcomed Bill Munro (BM) and Mark Irvine (MI), from Stonehaven Flood Action Group, to the meeting and invited them to explain their concerns about recent flooding in the Carronside area.</p> <p>BM explained that, in spite of the Flood Protection measures, there has been flooding in 2020 and again recently? The storm drain failed to work because the system had not been commissioned. Temporary walls erected by the contractors held water on the street side, and the drains on the riverside were unable to cope with the volume of water. He has sent e-mails to the contractor but has not received a response.</p> <p>MI understood there were problems with obtaining parts for the emergency pump and wished to know what the procedures are for cleaning and maintenance of the equipment, when and how this will be done. He also highlighted the potential for further problems from a proposed second washbay at the BP Garage (planning application submitted for this).</p>	

	<p>JS asked if an e-mail summarizing all of the issues could be sent to SDDC?</p> <p>Cllr T advised he has raised issues with Aberdeenshire Council officials. The storm emergency flooding system has not yet been activated remotely, but is operational, it includes two pumps and a third as back-up.</p> <p>BM said it should not have taken two years for the system to be operational. He confirmed he will send copies of e-mail correspondence (with the contractors) to AL.</p> <p>Cllr T advised the system is designed to deal with river flooding rather than surface water (resulting from heavy rainfall).</p> <p>Cllr B sent a report to Aberdeenshire Council after the flooding on 6 September. There was a Ward meeting on 13 September, and the report has since been passed on to the relevant departments. The drainage system is not suited to the recent volume of rainfall. SEPA estimates this will occur once every 41 years. In terms of the 'high risk' areas, work is planned to improve drainage in Barclay Street and Cameron Street. The emergency pumps should now have been activated and be operational.</p> <p>BM asked if there is a back-up generator, in the event of a power cut, and thought probably not.</p> <p>Cllr B explained that gullies are cleaned once a year, there is only one gully cleaner for the local area. She has asked that the 'hotspots' be cleared twice a year. Also, people who know they live in potential 'hotspot' areas should be prepared and can get protective devices from the Council at lower cost (but it is the householder's responsibility to do this).</p> <p>MO asked for reassurance that, in the event of the automatic system failing, a person should be available in situ as a back up to override and reset it manually.</p> <p>Cllr T said the system is automated and detects water levels, and there is no manual system.</p> <p>Cllr A advised the extra water from the second BP Garage washbay will go to the main town drainage system.</p>	<p>Actions –</p> <p>1. Cllr B will forward a copy of her report to SDDC</p> <p>2. BM and MI will send on their queries and concerns to AL</p> <p>3. Cllr T will forward his questions to Cllr B</p>
7	Planning Report & Reviews	
	(A Summary of Planning Application APP/2022/1676 – Dunnottar Castle Development - prepared by PMB, SDDC Planning Secretary, was circulated to all members prior to the meeting.)	

RC invited PMB to introduce this item, 5 minutes were allocated for this, 5 minutes for the Applicant to respond, and a further 5 minutes for general discussion.

PMB advised that there has been no objection to the application from SEPA, and to date Aberdeenshire Council's Roads Department had not submitted anything. Catterline, Kinneff & Dunnottar Community Council (CKDCC) has not submitted an objection, but they do have concerns about visitors boarding and alighting buses from the A92 adjacent to the coastal road corner leading down to the proposed new visitor centre.

RC invited the meeting and wider audience to raise any questions with the Applicant (represented by Stuart Young – SY, and Stephen Park – SP).

JS asked how many visitors were expected to visit each year?

SY replied that in 2019 there were 140,000 visitors to Dunnottar Castle. The Business Case, based on a survey of recent visitors, estimates around 300,000 each year.

MO asked for clarification about the transport report. Although parking capacity will be doubled, the actual vehicle traffic estimate seems very low. The main route into Stonehaven is via a narrow road that runs alongside the Braehead housing development. There are currently no pavements, but many pedestrians, so this raises a safety concern. He said he found some of the figures in the report do not 'gel'.

SY said that visitors already park on the road outside the Castle, and the car park movements have been prepared by professional engineers.

MO asked if there would not be a big increase in the number of cars visiting the facility.

SY advised that the car park would not be built any bigger than necessary. The plans will accommodate all vehicles. Cameron & Ross, Civil and Structural Engineers have taken time to put together their report, but unfortunately no representative was available to attend this meeting.

PMB noted there would be around 300 vehicles visiting the site each day.

JS said that the Stonehaven Town Partnership (STP) is responsible for operating the Land Train. STP has asked the Roads Department to put in laybys on Greenden Road.

MO said that in order to keep people safe, the road should be improved.

Cllr B advised that capital funds are available to add footpaths on the road from Dunnottar Castle to the A92. Regarding Greenden Road, a planning application for East Newtonleys Business Park has been approved, this includes pavements and cycle paths connecting the Business Park to Stonehaven town.

SMcQ asked that if the Land Train returns, and a minibus is available to take visitors from the Castle into Stonehaven, will this mean people park longer?

SY said that an additional footpath is already included in the site plans. He did not have a figure for the number of cars currently visiting Dunnottar Castle.

JS asked if the figures (for estimated vehicles) the structural engineers have based their assumptions on could be clarified?

PMB asked what will happen in the closed/off season?

SY replied that Dunnottar Castle is only closed 4 days each year, the estimated footfall to the new centre is based on a day-time, rather than evening facility. The Visitor Centre and café will provide facilities to support a historic building, and plans have been based on customer feedback.

PMB asked about the potential for surface water run-off, and expressed concern that this may contribute to flood risks elsewhere away from the development. There needs to be commitment from the Structural Engineers that the risk of additional surface water run-off will not be increased.

SY explained that there is a drawing that sets out plans for drainage, this is based on robust proposals from the Engineers.

RC thanked PMB and confirmed that any comments about the planning application must be formally logged with Aberdeenshire Council by Friday 23 September.

JS asked what will be in the Visitor Centre?

SY replied that the Visitor Centre has been designed with an exhibition area that will bring Dunnottar Castle to life, particularly for visitors who are unable to visit the Castle in person. In addition, there may be opportunities for different displays, perhaps opened up to local schools.

SMcQ proposed that SDDC should support the planning application. JS seconded this.

	<p>PMB suggested the support should include conditions. MO seconded this proposal.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the conditions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Structural Engineers respond to PMB's queries about roads infrastructure, transport, and parking. b) Reaffirmation from the Structural Engineers that water run-off will not affect Stonehaven's hydrology. <p>IH advised he wished to abstain from voting on this item. He felt there should be separate planning applications for the housing development and the visitor centre.</p> <p>SY advised there will be a private water system for the site.</p> <p>JS, AL, DV, FT, JM, JLM, MO, WW, PMB, RC, SMcQ and PB all supported the planning application, subject to the above conditions.</p> <p>IH abstained.</p> <p>AL gave his apologies and left the meeting.</p> <p>IH asked that this item, and the decisions made, be properly minuted.</p>	<p>Action – PMB to draft a response which includes the conditions agreed by the meeting and submit to Aberdeenshire Council by Friday 23 September</p>
8	SDDC Committees/Sub Groups	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Local Development Plan/Local Place Plan – no report b) Invercarron Resource Centre – see Item 10c c) Community Resilience Plan – see Item 9d d) SDDC Communications – no report 	
9	Outside Bodies/Committees	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Transport Action Kincardineshire (TRAK) - DV will attend the next meeting from 19:30 – 21:00 on 5 October 2022 b) KDP – Wind Farm Grant Application Reviews – no report c) Town Centre Improvement Group – AL has circulated a copy of the notes. d) Stonehaven Community Resilience Plan – JS advised that costs for a funding application for equipment have been prepared, there will be a further meeting before the end of September e) Kincardine and Mearns Community Council Forum <p>PMB said there seemed to be a poor relationship between Aberdeenshire Council and Scottish Water (regarding flooding?) The Forum discussed the process for the Local Development</p>	

	<p>Plan, and Academy towns. The Forum is keen to support Community Councils.</p> <p>Cllr T said that Philip McKay (Aberdeenshire Council) had clarified at the Forum that flooding prevention and resilience is a legal responsibility of property owners.</p> <p>PMB said that parking and safety at Newtonhill Primary School had also been discussed.</p> <p>f) Kincardine and Mearns Community Planning Group</p> <p>IH reported that many local voluntary groups require volunteers. The Healthy Living Network is actively promoting Community Cafes, support for these is available from the Group. He expressed concern that Claire Taylor Brown, Aberdeenshire Council Community Worker, is being moved to a different location. This will be a loss to the local community.</p> <p>RC recalled that the Community Worker's Contract of Employment specifies the employee may be relocated to a different area.</p> <p>IH said the Council's policy to move workers on is not beneficial to the community. He wished to raise this issue as there is a benefit to the local community when a community worker is active long term in that community.</p>	
10	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes	
	<p>a) Report back on Microphone/Speaker Trial</p> <p>The decision to purchase equipment to enhance and improve hybrid meetings, at a cost of £170, was deferred until the next meeting. Cllr T had lent his own 'kit' for this meeting, and was willing to do so again before SDDC makes a commitment.</p> <p>DV said the sound quality improved as the meeting went on.</p> <p>WW was unable to hear many of the speakers.</p> <p>MO agreed to check the settings, and in future make better use of the hand-held mic as back-up.</p> <p>JS suggested using the pole to capture contributions from participants at the back of the room</p> <p>b) Dedicated SDDC e-mail accounts</p> <p>This is in hand, PMB, Planning Secretary will also have a dedicated e-mail account.</p> <p>c) Invercarron Resource Centre</p> <p>SDDC has submitted a Participation Request to Aberdeenshire Council and NHS Grampian, operating separately and jointly as Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership. A copy of the document was circulated prior to the meeting.</p>	

	<p>d) Mackie Academy Campus This has now moved to the next stage of consideration – Gateway Stage 2. This allows for more detailed design and cost planning to take place. Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee has previously agreed that the Ury playing fields at Mackie Academy should be adopted as the preferred location for the development.</p> <p>MO noted that the Local Development Plan specifies that alternative space must be provided – but asked how this can happen if no alternative space is available?</p> <p>JS cited the example of Inverurie campus, which got flexible alternative sporting facilities.</p> <p>A motion requesting that Aberdeenshire Council replaces any lost open space/sports playing fields as per current Local Development Plan obligations was proposed by IH and seconded by JS.</p> <p>e) Nippy Dip January 2023 DL and JS have met to plan for this event, but volunteers from SDDC on the day are still required. This will only be for a couple of hours, more details will be available at the next meeting.</p> <p>f) Formal Complaint against SDDC by Member of the Public, regarding Traffic Management Review – Project Scope An email from Bruce Stewart, Area Manager, Kincardine and Mearns, to DL, was circulated prior to the meeting. He is comfortable that a correct process was carried out by SDDC in response to the complainant.</p> <p>PMB asked who had suggested parking and why had Aberdeenshire Council approved the proposal? He had been told that the Complainant is now taking the matter to the Ombudsman. The Area Committee is looking at the process that was followed, but the complainant is not complaining about the process.</p> <p>JS asked if the complainant had initially approached SDCC.</p> <p>g) Community Council Connectivity and Engagement Plan Pilot DL and SMCQ will attend training for this.</p>	<p>Action – AL to submit this request in writing to Aberdeenshire Council</p>
11	<p>Approval of Previous Minutes 9 August 2022</p>	
	<p>PMB asked why this item appeared so far down the Agenda? RC offered to raise this with DL at the next Agenda Planning Meeting.</p>	

	The Meeting subsequently approved the Minutes of 9 August.	
12	Treasurer's Report	
	<p>The Monthly Financial Summary for August was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>PMB asked what had happened to the Bequeath Fund? WW confirmed these monies are now absorbed within the general Administration Fund.</p> <p>Cllr B had circulated an email clarifying the Community Council Funding Formula, however not everyone had received this. She agreed to send this again.</p>	Action – Cllr B
13	Extending Coastal Paths Around Stonehaven	
	This item was deferred to the next meeting.	
14	Forest Park – Asset Transfer	
	<p>IH raised his concern about the apparent non-neutrality of the Aberdeenshire Council officer who advised Elected Members to vote against an Asset Transfer. He said officers should advise Elected Members of options, rather than making a recommendation about a decision.</p> <p>Cllr A said that, in the event a Committee turns down a proposal, it is referred to a different Committee to reconsider.</p> <p>Cllr B confirmed this is the case.</p> <p>PMB asked if SDDC can have any input to a Committee?</p> <p>Cllr T suggested requesting to attend and contribute to a Committee in person rather than attending virtually.</p> <p>Cllr B said this item is included on the November Agenda, she offered to check and provide contact details of the relevant official.</p>	Action - Cllr B
15	Correspondence	
	No correspondence to be considered.	
16	AOCB	
	None	
17	Dates of Next Meetings	
	<p>Agenda Discussion Meeting – Tuesday 4 October</p> <p>CC Business Meeting – Tuesday 11 October</p>	

18	Carried Forward to Future Meetings	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Local Place Plans – Meeting (EGM) with Ailsa Anderson (Aberdeenshire Council) to be arranged, potentially September (date slipped) regarding what support Aberdeenshire Council can provide regarding the preparation of a Local Place Plan b) Traffic Management consultation, second stage 	