



**STONEHAVEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**
19:00 – 21:00 13 December 2022
Meeting held in the Sheriff Court Buildings, Stonehaven

Present
<p>Community Council Members: Ian Hunter (IH), David Lawman, <i>Chairperson</i> (DL), Jim Stephen (JS), Steve McQueen (SMcQ), Raymond Christie (RC), <i>Vice Chairman</i>, Fiona Tavendale (FT), Mike Ogden (MO), James Morrison (JM), Andrew McArdle (AMcA) via Zoom, Alistair Lawrie (AL) via Zoom, Donald Lawrie Morrison (DLM) via Zoom.</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members: Alan Turner (Cllr T), Wendy Agnew (Cllr A), Dawn Black (Cllr B), Sarah Dickinson (Cllr D) via Zoom.</p>
In Attendance
Jane Cruickshank, <i>The Bellman</i> , Fiona Malcolm, <i>Minutes Secretary</i> .

1 & 2	Chairperson's Welcome	Action
	It was agreed to record the meeting on Zoom (to be deleted once minutes agreed). DL welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
3	Apologies and Declarations of Interest	
	Adam Cadamerteri, Caroline Evans, Danny Veltman, Janine Esson, Julia Lawrie Morrison, Bill Watson, Pauline Brindley.	
4	Police Report	
	DL circulated a Police Scotland Report prior to the meeting. The report is now split into areas covering Laurencekirk, Stonehaven and Portlethen.	
5	Stonehaven Youth Club : Proposed Community Asset Transfer of Old Sea Cadet Hall on the High Street	
	DL invited Cllr B, in her role as Chair of Kincardine and Mearns Youth Clubs, to address the meeting. (A copy of the proposal for the community asset transfer to Stonehaven Youth Club of the former Sea Cadet Hall had been circulated prior to the meeting.) Cllr B explained that three youth clubs have come together as Kincardine and Mearns Youth Clubs and registered as a charity. All three currently rent premises and meet once a week. They are keen to support young people to take ownership and become involved in	

<p>running the clubs, for the clubs to become more inclusive and to be available on more evenings.</p> <p>The Stonehaven Youth Club meets between 19:00 and 21:00 on Friday evenings at Stonehaven Community Centre. The former Sea Cadets premises, which have a history of being used by young people, have recently become available as a potential Community Asset Transfer. The building has lots of flexible space, including offices. However, a lot of work is required to keep the building in the community, preserve the building, and ensure it is fully accessible.</p> <p>Cllr B was seeking in-principal support from SDDC for the asset transfer and for the necessary improvement work, and for Stonehaven Youth Club.</p> <p>MO asked for more information about the Club's operating costs, and whether young people would be interested in helping to renovate the building?</p> <p>Cllr B said the main outgoings are revenue costs required to run the building, which is currently available on a long lease and 'peppercorn' rent. The three youth clubs belong to the young people who use them, they are already involved in running them and there are four young people on each of the three management teams.</p> <p>JS asked if there were any quotes available for the renovation of the Sea Cadet Hall, for example Stonehaven Men's Shed, and wondered what pledges had been made by Aberdeenshire Council to support the project?</p> <p>Cllr B confirmed there were no quotes, and that Aberdeenshire Council had already provided some grant funding, also the Community Learning and Development are fully supportive.</p> <p>JS reflected this project should be a priority for Aberdeenshire Council, and wondered if there might be alternative premises available to the Youth Club, for example at the proposed Community Campus?</p> <p>Cllr B replied that some young people had bad experiences at school, and the majority of youth club members would not want the club to be situated within school premises.</p> <p>JS said that the costs for renovation should not be underestimated.</p> <p>IH said, on behalf of SDDC, that everyone was supportive of the Youth Club and the proposed Asset Transfer. He felt the Community Centre might not be best suited for the young people, as there is a good deal of bureaucracy involved.</p>	
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	<p>Cllr B said there have been visits to other Youth Clubs to learn how they operate.</p> <p>DL asked formally for SDDC members to support Stonehaven Youth Club and their plans to acquire the former Sea Cadets Hall. This was seconded by IH, and unanimously agreed by members.</p>	
6	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes	
	<p>a) Stonehaven Surface Flooding – JS and DL have spoken to David Macdonald, who is seeking SDDC support. Should there be a Flooding Subgroup?</p> <p>Cllr T reminded the meeting that a Flooding Group was established in 2013 to support people affected by floods and to remain informed about the ongoing flood improvement works. The Flooding Group had met a couple of times since 2020, some of the founding members have moved away since 2013, four key people have driven the group since 2020. The Group requires time and volunteers. A draft proposal for four flood schemes was presented to the last Aberdeenshire Council Area Committee meeting. Finance for the schemes is provided by the Scottish Government and SEPA.</p> <p>MO asked what skills were required for the Group? He suggested listening, scrutiny and project management.</p> <p>DL asked how SDDC can provide practical help to the Flooding Group, and was anyone prepared to become involved?</p> <p>JS suggested an open public meeting might encourage new interest from the community.</p> <p>IH supported this suggestion as a good idea.</p> <p>Cllr T said this had been tried before but served no purpose as it didn't get any more people to volunteer.</p> <p>DL felt that if we don't speak to the community, then people are not aware.</p> <p>Cllr T said there needed to be a reason for a public meeting.</p> <p>DL asked if JS was happy to continue to liaise with the Flooding Group?</p> <p>JS suggested asking Aberdeenshire Council and SEPA for an update.</p> <p>MO suggested a Civil Engineer was needed, and that he knew some people who might help.</p>	

	<p>JS replied that Aberdeenshire Council has civil engineers and should be held to account.</p> <p>Cllr T said it was not just the Council, but SEPA and Scottish Water, and noted the Flood Group deals with more than the Carron River Defences.</p> <p>DL again asked what can SDDC do, and suggested that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) MO identifies a Civil Engineer and] 2) SDDC meets the Flood Group early in 2023 to ask if they want to have another public meeting. <p>Cllr B noted that the third pump (Carron River Flood Defence) was now operational.</p> <p>b) Nippy Dip, 1 January 2023 – DL asked members to spread the word about this event, and if possible, to help on the day. Stewards are required between 11:30 and 12:30. Cllr D, Cllr B, Cllr T and MO all said they were happy to help. JS, RC and DL will meet for an update prior to the event.</p> <p>c) Bervie Braes – report still pending.</p>	
7	<p>Approval of Previous Minutes 8 November 2022</p>	
	<p>The previous minutes were approved by JS and seconded by AL.</p>	
8	<p>Stonehaven Traffic Management Consultation</p>	
	<p>DL invited Cllr B to provide an update. The Area Committee had received proposals in November and had now approved recommendations for three categories of project – short, medium and long term. Each individual project will go out for public consultation in due course. SDDC will also be consulted.</p> <p>DL asked if the projects are being considered as a whole, Cllr B confirmed this was the case, with projects covering between six months and five years.</p> <p>IH asked when the consultations will take place?</p> <p>Cllr D explained that all of the projects resulted from public consultation. Further consultations will be focused on the detail of individual projects, and ongoing work that would happen anyway, for example the siting of double yellow lines.</p> <p>IH noted it was important to have ongoing consultation.</p> <p>Cllr T agreed and said other things can be looked at too.</p>	

9	Planning Report	
	<p>DL advised that a link to a detailed planning application for an extension to Stonehaven Leisure Centre had been sent to all members, and is available to everyone on-line. The plan includes the provision of changing facilities for disabled people and an extension to the gym.</p> <p>JS said that £1.4m (from Aberdeenshire Council) was insufficient, and that SDDC needs to push back. He asked who SDDC should write to?</p> <p>IH noted that the £1.4m was allocated following a Community Participatory Budgeting exercise, SDDC had wanted a say in how that was run.</p> <p>DL asked who SDDC should write to and suggested Aberdeenshire Council CEO?</p> <p>JS said the leisure centre facilities are not sufficient.</p> <p>IH reflected that resources are scarce and this is a difficult problem.</p> <p>JS suggested Stonehaven should look at other communities and see what they have done.</p> <p>RC noted that Aberdeenshire Council got (rental) income from young people's dance and martial arts clubs, they should be doing something to find better premises for these groups.</p>	
10	SDDC Committees/Subgroups	
	<p>a) Local Development Plan/Local Place Plan – SDDC is speaking to other groups across the community with a view to get more people involved in the LDP/LPP group. This needs commitment from other SDDC members, SDDC needs to bring people on board.</p> <p>IH noted it is essential to identify people who might be interested and provide positive contributions. A McA asked what other areas are doing differently? He suggested a strategic approach is required otherwise people won't get involved.</p> <p>MO suggested speaking to Social Work and get feedback from the Family Centre, also Stonehaven Business Association?</p> <p>JS noted the Garioch Trust had struggled to coordinate all the sport groups, they tried to unify everyone and bring groups on board to the Place Plan. This will be a big chance for Stonehaven.</p> <p>DL said the next meeting will be in January.</p>	

	<p>b) Invercarron Resource Centre/Older People’s Services – The response from Aberdeenshire Council has been circulated. RC, A McA, and DL will meet with the Council, NHS Grampian and Aberdeenshire HSCP, IH and JS are also involved.</p> <p>RC spoke to Jane Mitchell at Mearns Healthy Living Network about using the Resource Centre as a base. As they would need money from elsewhere, RC suggested writing to Aberdeenshire HSCP to ask how long the post is funded, and how many vaccinations have been done?</p> <p>Cllr B has this information and will send it out via e-mail.</p> <p>DL asked RC to draft a letter and pass it to AL to send out.</p> <p>IH confirmed he had also spoken to Jane Mitchell. She has concerns about the long-term running costs of the Resource Centre, and would need her Board to approve any proposal to consider relocating there.</p> <p>c) Community Resilience Plan – MO explained the focus on how people can get access to warm space, all four churches are supportive, he is speaking to the Scouts too. They will all require SDDC Public Liability Insurance cover, however this is only valid if a member of SDDC is present to supervise. He proposed a two-shift system, and asked if volunteers (from other organisations) appointed by SDDC would be acceptable to the insurers? The Plan will be made available to all members. He asked SDDC members to consider if they would consider covering shifts? The main reason for using ‘warm spaces’ would be in the event of power cuts. He asked volunteers to come forward, so they are kept informed.</p> <p>d) SDDC Communications – S McQ confirmed a sub-committee meeting is planned for February.</p>	<p>RC</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Outside Bodies/Committees</p>	
	<p>a) Transport Action Kincardineshire (TRAK) – no update.</p> <p>b) KDP – Wind Farm Grant Application Reviews – no update.</p> <p>c) Town Centre Improvement Group –AL had circulated the minutes.</p> <p>d) Stonehaven Community Resilience Plan – (See Item 10c)</p> <p>e) Kincardine and Mearns Community Council Forum – (n/a as meeting was postponed)</p>	

	f) Kincardine and Mearns Community Planning Group – meeting postponed until January.	
12	Treasurer's Report	
	The Treasurer's Report was circulated prior to the meeting and was approved.	
13	Hannah Dyson Award & Community Award	
	AL will re-draft letters to go out to all schools and to be published in The Bellman. DL asked if the money had been distributed to the previous award winners? AL agreed to check with WW.	AL
14	Library Opening Times	
	IH noted that Stonehaven Library still has limited opening times, and wondered if any of the elected members present knew why? Cllr D agreed to find out and report back via letter IH suggested Aberdeenshire Council buildings should be available as warm spaces for members of the public. Cllr D wondered why people come into spaces like the Library, and said she would ask and feedback.	
15	Electric Vehicle Charging Points	
	JS noted that Stonehaven lacks charging points for Electric Vehicles (EVs). He asked the elected members why this is? Cllr D replied saying Aberdeenshire Council recognises this. There are three EV charging points at the Leisure Centre, one at Viewmont and the points at the Station are being reviewed. SG funding is available, and the private sector a critical partner, for example Starbucks. There are places in Stonehaven where more charging points could be located, work on identifying these is ongoing. DL asked if larger bays would be made available for bigger vehicles? Cllr D will check. JS noted that all of the current charging points are located in places frequented by visitors to the town, and asked if more locations for local people were being considered? Cllr D advised that the new school sites should include charging points, as well as existing schools, she agreed it needs to be easier for people to access charging points.	Cllr D

	<p>DL suggested the shop at Brickfield might be suitable, and there might be many other places too?</p> <p>Cllr T said that engineers needed to assess technical requirements (for suitability of potential sites), also noted that EV technology is evolving.</p> <p>DL suggested there is potential for more suitable places for charging points in Stonehaven in addition to public car parks.</p> <p>JS reiterated that lots of the charging points will be used by tourists because of their location.</p> <p>Cllr D said that some places had more EV charging points based on the number of EVs registered by people living there.</p>	
16	Correspondence	
	None.	
17	AOCB	
	None, however AL thanked DL for his help in sending out the papers for this meeting.	
18	Date of Next Meetings	
	<p>There will be no Agenda Planning Meeting on 3 January 2023. Members are invited to e-mail any agenda items to AL, SDDC Secretary.</p> <p>Next full SDDC Business Meeting – Tuesday 10 January 2023.</p>	
19	Carried Forward to Future Meetings	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ury Estate/FM Developments Update b) 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. 	