



**STONEHAVEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**
19:00 – 21:00 14 February 2023
Meeting held in the Sheriff Court Buildings, Stonehaven

Present
<p>Community Council Members: Ian Hunter (IH), Jim Stephen (JS), Steve McQueen (SMcQ), Alistair Lawrie (AL) via Zoom, Fiona Tavindale (FT), James Morrison (JM), Michael Ogden (MO), Pauline Brindley (PB) 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
David Charnley, Police Scotland (DC), Jane Cruickshank, <i>The Bellman</i> , Fiona Malcolm, <i>Minutes Secretary</i> , David Strang Steel, Mike Wilson, Andrew Newton.

1 & 2	Chairperson's Welcome	Action
	It was agreed to record the meeting on Zoom (to be deleted once minutes agreed). SMcQ confirmed he would chair the meeting in the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, who had sent apologies, and welcomed everyone to the meeting	
3	Apologies and Declarations of Interest	
	Apologies received from David Lawman, <i>Chairman</i> (DL), Daniel Veltman (DV), Raymond Christie (RC), <i>Vice Chairman</i> , William Watson (WW), <i>Treasurer</i> , Janine Esson (JE), Caroline Evans (CE), Adam Cadamerteri (AC), Andrew McHardie (AMcH), Donald Lawrie Morrison (DLM), Julia Lawrie Morrison (JLM),	
4	Police Report	
	DC had circulated his report that evening, he offered to provide further details about crime figures if required. SMcQ asked if it was possible in future for the report to be sent out sooner, ideally by the 6 th of the month, this would enable all members enough time to digest it prior to each business meeting. DC agreed to ensure the monthly report was issued sooner if possible.	DC

	<p>Cllr D asked about the issue of speeding on Arduthie Road.</p> <p>DC confirmed that he had passed this on to his colleagues, and will ask them for an update.</p> <p>Cllr D highlighted that speeding on Arduthie Road poses a safety risk around a school.</p> <p>JS noted the reports on social media about cars being vandalised and car doors being tried in the Cowie area, he asked if there might be more police officers available on foot patrol to deter potential culprits?</p> <p>DC agreed to pass this on to the appropriate Police Scotland (PS) personnel.</p> <p>SMcQ asked about additional CCTV coverage in the town centre?</p> <p>DC agreed to raise this with the appropriate PS personnel, he said that as far as PS is concerned, it would be possible to instal CCTV cameras outside the public toilets.</p> <p>Cllr A confirmed that Aberdeenshire Council is also looking at this.</p>	<p>DC</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</p>	
	<p>a) Stonehaven Flood Group – MO explained there are two separate groups, the Flood Group and the Flood Wardens Group, both groups work together. Aberdeenshire Council provides ongoing support to the wardens. The four individuals who lead the Flood Group are under a lot of other pressure. The focus for the area and properties around the Carron River is flood protection rather than flood prevention. There is potentially additional work for the Flood Group as the Carron Improvement project nears completion, to ensure people are happy, and that the wider community is aware of the risk of flooding.</p> <p>MO asked if the town needs and benefits from the Flood Group, should it be closed, restructured or reorganised? If SDCC is going to support the Flood Group, a number of people (Community Councillors) need to be involved. He encouraged everyone to consider this.</p> <p>Cllr T clarified the Flood Group is a pressure group., with its own insurance. The Flood Wardens Group is covered by SDCC insurance. He asked what does the town need?</p> <p>Jane Cruickshank asked what the Flood Group can achieve that Elected Members cannot?</p> <p>MO said the group can apply pressure.</p>	<p>ALL</p>

	<p>Cllr T said it provides a focal point, particularly for the views of local residents, it works with SEPA and Scottish Water, it ensures there is more than one route to resolve issues.</p> <p>Cllr A agreed the Flood Group does have influence on Aberdeenshire Council.</p> <p>Cllr T said that many of the Flood Group’s members have been victims of flooding. Aberdeenshire Council has applied (to SEPA) for money for four studies across Aberdeenshire, two of these focus on Stonehaven. Cllr T is a member of the Flood Group, and said the town needs to decide if it is still needed. It is in a position to freely raise issues. He reminded everyone the Carron Flood Scheme has taken over 10 years and is still not complete.</p> <p>MO reiterated the need for commitment from SDCC members, and asked everyone again to consider if they are willing to support the group. He will pursue the two contact he has that may be able to provide practical and technical support.</p> <p>b) Bervie Braes – Cllr A said that Aberdeenshire Council now has the independent report from the structural engineers, and that its own engineers were considering it. She expects to see the report before the next meeting.</p> <p>c) Library Opening Times – IH advised a separate report had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>AL was concerned about the limits of the survey, and understood the views of only 30 participants had been recorded. He said the findings about limited evening use did not tally with the responses, and felt the report was limited in its scope.</p> <p>Cllr D said there had been over 1000 respondents, and that no issues had ever been raised (with Aberdeenshire Council).</p> <p>d) Hannah Dyson Award and Community Award – AL asked Jane Cruickshank if the awards might be publicised in The Bellman to raise awareness amongst potential applicants across the community. He also encouraged members to spread the word. He offered to provide a copy of the standard letter issued to potential applicants, and to pass on any recommendations</p> <p>e) Status of Kincardine Community Hospital Minor Injuries Unit – Cllr B had circulated the response from NHS Grampian prior to the meeting. Based on the report, there are no plans to re-open the Minor Injuries Unit.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
--	--	-------------------

6	Approval of Previous Minutes (December Business Meeting – 10 January 2023)	
	JS approved and IH seconded the previous minutes.	
7	Planning Report	
	David Strang Steel advised that a Pre-application Request, giving notice of a planning consultation event, had been submitted to Aberdeenshire Council earlier that day. This relates to a planning application on behalf of Ashfield Land, New Mains of Urie, for an EV Charging Point and retail development. The proposed consultation events will be held on 21 and 30 March in the Town Hall. He asked if this item might be added to the agenda for the next meeting, and if the consultation event s could be publicised in The Bellman.	
8	SDDC Committees/Subgroups	
	<p>a) Local Development Plan/Local Place Plan – Defer to next meeting.</p> <p>b) Invercarron Resource Centre/Older People’s Services – Defer to next meeting.</p> <p>c) Community Resilience Plan – MO advised that a second draft of the plan with comments had been completed. The Scout Hut has been added to the list of potential Community Hubs, and he will contact the Sea Cadets about the availability of their building. Local faith groups have offered both halls and church buildings/sanctuaries. However, if they require money, Aberdeenshire Council cannot provide any. St James’s are happy with this. He will find out what else they need.</p> <p>Due to SDCC insurer’s requirements, either SDCC members, or their appointees, must be willing to volunteer if needed. MO suggested this would require cover for 2 shifts per day across up to 3 locations. He proposed setting up a secure WhatsApp Group so that there is a quick response should an issue arise. He asked for members to let him know if they were willing to volunteer, SMcQ and JS agreed to be added to the group.</p> <p>d) SDCC Communications – SMcQ asked for approval of expenditure of £78.00 for the hosting of the new website, this was supported unanimously.</p>	
9	Outside Bodies/Committees	
	a) Transport Action Kincardineshire (TRAK) – IH advised the next meeting is due in April, and that Marie ??? will attend if available.	

	<p>b) KDP – Wind Farm Grant Application Reviews – no update.</p> <p>c) Town Centre Improvement Group – AL attended this, the Bervie Braes was discussed, a survey is underway. There was consensus to resolve the issue ASAP.</p> <p>d) Stonehaven Community Resilience Plan – (See Item 8c)</p> <p>e) Kincardine and Mearns Community Council Forum – no update.</p> <p>f) Kincardine and Mearns Community Planning Group – IH attended this. Bruce Stewart (Aberdeenshire Council Area Manager?) had agreed to raise the issue of passengers needing to change trains at Montrose Railway Station after 21:00.</p> <p>Claire Hancock, a Tenant Participation Officer (Aberdeenshire Council?), gave an overview of that service.</p> <p>Cllr B advised that the Healthy Living Network is looking for money to support a dedicated post for a further 2 years.</p> <p>AL noted the fact that 9 volunteers had expressed an interest in an Older People’s Forum was positive. He said that Arduthie Primary School is supportive.</p> <p>IH recalled that the previous Older People’s Forum had been a conduit and noted there had been 30 attendees at the recent consultation meeting.</p>	
10	Treasurer’s Report	
	The Treasurer’s Report was circulated prior to the meeting and was approved.	
11	Proposed Levelling Up Project for Stonehaven	
	<p>Cllr A highlighted that this project is entirely separate from and additional to the Recreation Ground improvements, which include Participatory Budgeting (PB) funding to improve the existing Leisure Centre facilities. She said the Levelling Up proposal is for a new, fully sustainable building, and was seeking agreement for the project in principle from the Community Council.</p> <p>IH asked about the proposed Community Campus and how this project related to the longer term aims?</p> <p>Cllr A said the £20m bid for Levelling Up funds is for a new purpose-built facility.</p> <p>JM wondered where the funds come from?</p>	

<p>Cllr A clarified that Levelling Up, now in its third tranche, is delivered by the UK Government, and is the successor to the European Structural Fund.</p> <p>MO confirmed that this proposal is separate from the PB project. He asked if there was a paper available setting out a timeline?</p> <p>Cllr A advised there will be a public consultation at the end of July.</p> <p>MO asked who is the focal point?</p> <p>IH reflected that we currently have a Sports Centre, not a Leisure Centre, and we need the latter.</p> <p>Cllr T noted the land at Cowie is set aside for leisure activities.</p> <p>JS said that Stonehaven is playing catch-up, and that SDCC should be asking what can we get now? In his view, the Leisure Centre should not have been included in the PB list of potential projects, rather Aberdeenshire Council should have paid for the work. He was doubtful of there ever being a Community Campus. He noted that both Banchory and Inverurie got new leisure centres, there were lots of volunteers across these communities to support these.</p> <p>IH said that Aberdeenshire Council must be held to the commitments already set out in the Place Plan.</p> <p>JS agreed, and suggested that introducing new sport to the town may secure funding from Sport Scotland.</p> <p>FT asked what will happen to the current school buildings when the new Community Campus is built? She suggested these buildings might provide space for community groups?</p> <p>SMcQ asked if Levelling Up funding has to focus on the Leisure Centre?</p> <p>Cllr A confirmed that Aberdeenshire Council owns the land.</p> <p>Cllr T pointed out that any proposed project must meet the criteria for the fund.</p> <p>SMcQ asked if there was a group?</p> <p>Cllr A advised that she and Cllr T had suggested the project, it was agreed although there had been some other ideas.</p> <p>Cllr T said that Levelling Up focuses on less affluent areas, so the bid may not be successful.</p>	
--	--

	<p>JM asked about National Lottery funding?</p> <p>Cllr A agreed this may be a possibility.</p> <p>MO asked if SDCC could submit ideas to Cllr A, she confirmed this was possible.</p> <p>In summary, Cllr A asked if SDCC agreed to the proposal in principle, this was supported unanimously.</p> <p>MO noted the facilities at Garthdee are a good example.</p>	
12	Community Council Participation Request	
	<p>IH said that the Participatory Budget Funding should have been channelled through the Community Council. A Draft Participation Engagement Guide had been produced with no mention of Community Councils. He will contact other Community Councils to try to get them into the discussion, and noted that there is at present no CC in Portlethen, but will keep everyone informed.</p>	IH
13	Correspondence	
	<p>AL had received a letter from the Scottish Draughts Association, they are planning to bring their annual championship event to Stonehaven from 25 – 29 September 2023. The event will involve international participants. The Association is seeking support from SDCC, and wish to hire Stonehaven Town Hall. AL noted that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) SDCC cannot influence lets of the Town hall and, B) We have a limited budget so could not offer financial support. <p>He thought it might be worth referring them to the appropriate officers at Aberdeenshire Council? He also wondered if SDCC could help with volunteers to support the event, and perhaps advertise it via social media?</p> <p>Cllr D suggested signposting the Association to Aberdeenshire Council’s Economic Development Department.</p> <p>AL asked the meeting if members were broadly in agreement to the proposal to offer support?</p> <p>MO asked if SDCC ought to contact the Town Hall on the Association’s behalf to check availability of the venue?</p> <p>JM felt this was not appropriate, as it would set a precedent, this was agreed by the meeting.</p> <p>IH suggested the Recreation Group might be an alternative venue for them.</p>	

	AL will draft a reply offering in principle support on behalf of SDCC to the Scottish Draughts Association plan to hold their annual event in Stonehaven	AL
14	AOCB	
	None tabled.	
15	Dates of Next Meetings	
	Agenda Discussion and Planning Meeting – Tuesday 7 March 2023 Next full SDDC Business Meeting – Tuesday 14 March 2023	