



**STONEHAVEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

19:15 – 21:00 Tuesday 12 September 2023

Meeting held in the Sheriff Court Buildings, Stonehaven

Present		
Community Council Members: David Lawman, <i>Chairman</i> (DL), Raymond Christie (RC), <i>Vice Chairman</i> , Ian Hunter (IH), Jim Stephen (JS), Fiona Tavindale (FT), Michael Ogden (MO) <i>Treasurer</i> , via Zoom , Daniel Veltman (DV) via Zoom , Norman Mackay (NM) via Zoom ,		
Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members: Alan Turner (Cllr T), Wendy Agnew (Cllr A) via Zoom , Sarah Dickinson (Cllr D) via Zoom		
In Attendance - check		
Andrew Newton, Jane Cruickshank (JC), The Bellman , Alexander Inglis via Zoom , Rachel Frame via Zoom , Morag Jamieson via Zoom , Natalie Jurdeczka via Zoom , Ian Shewan via Zoom , Fiona Malcolm, <i>Minutes Secretary</i>		
1 & 2	Chairperson's Welcome and Rollcall	Action
	DL welcomed everyone to the meeting, including those who were attending via Zoom.	
3	Apologies and Declarations of Interest	
	Apologies received from Alistair Lawrie (AL), <i>Secretary</i> , Janine Esson (JE), Andrew McArdle (AMcA), Caroline Evans (CE), Steve McQueen (SMcQ), Bill Wilson (WW), Donald Lawrie Morrison (DLM), Julia Lawrie Morrison (JLM), James Morrison (JM), Pauline Brindley (PB), Denise Bannerman (DB), Caroline Duguid (DG), Julie Lindeman (JL), David Charnley, Police Scotland (DC), Dawn Black (Cllr B), Tim Stephen, Aberdeenshire Council Area Manager (TS)	
4	SDCC Membership	
	DL proposed Denise Bannerman, Caroline Duguid, Julie Lindemann and Norman Mackay be co-opted as members. This was approved unanimously. DL will on pass information regarding facilitate induction training being hosted by Aberdeenshire Council for new members in person in Inverurie or via Zoom on 28 September at 18:30.	DL
5	Police Report	

	<p>No report had been received from Police Scotland (PS). RC recently met with David Charnley (DC), Police Scotland. DC had suggested attending SDCC meetings 3 times a year. Members felt this was unsatisfactory, and suggested a compromise might be agreed with PS, with a representative attending more regularly (but not necessarily every meeting. It was agreed to raise this with PS via official channels.</p> <p>IH suggested PS could respond to any relevant points minuted at meetings.</p> <p>DV asked if PS could look again at the situation at Dunnottar Woods, for example misuse of the firepit and uncontrolled dogs.</p> <p>Cllr T noted last month's PS report was late, he asked if it can be sent a week in advance of future SDCC meetings.</p>	
6	Stonehaven Roads Maintenance Programme Update Request	
	<p>RC reported that an update had been provided at the last Town Centre Improvement Group (TCIG) meeting. Following current work being undertaken by SGN, Academy Road will be re-surfaced. Cllr T confirmed that re-surfacing work is scheduled for Ann Street, Thomson Terrace, Dunnottar Avenue and Bridgefield.</p>	
7	Stonehaven Traffic Management Review Update Request	
	<p>Cllr T advised that an architectural technician is looking at parking options for Beach Road, this will be followed by further public consultation. There will also be a consultation about a one-way system for Belmont Brae. Land ownership affecting Golf Road is an issue. Design work is underway for the railway station.</p> <p>Cllr D said Aberdeenshire Council is also looking at how buses are managed in the town.</p>	
8	Mackie Academy – RAAC Status	
	<p>DL had been contacted by a parent asking for the community to be fully updated on what is being inspected at Mackie Academy.</p> <p>Cllr T said a communication had been sent to parents signposting them to information on Aberdeenshire Council's website. He offered to circulate the relevant links. Further investigations will be done.</p>	Cllr T
9	Himalayan Balsam – Wooded Area Adjacent to The Glebe	
	<p>IH highlighted a problem at The Glebe of Himalayan Balsam, a major invasive non-native species, which is also growing at the Carron River beside the White Bridge.</p>	

	Cllr D suggested this should be reported to the Aberdeenshire Council Environmental Health team, IH confirmed this had been done. Cllr D will follow this up with the team.	Cllr D
10	Stonehaven Medical Centre – Suggested Link with Patient Participation Group	
	RC, a member of the Patient Participation Group (PPG) has e-mailed Dr Chris McLaughlin about this proposal and is awaiting a reply. The PPG plans to meet on 18 September, this can be raised then. FT confirmed she was in agreement, RC will take this forward (at that meeting).	RC
11	Residents' Request for a Garden Waste Centre	
	<p>IH asked if Aberdeenshire Council could set up a service that residents would pay for, as all other Scottish Local Authorities (SLAs) provide this.</p> <p>DB asked if such a scheme would be compulsory, rather than 'opt-in'?</p> <p>Cllr T said this had been looked at last year and was found to be not economically viable because of the cost of equipment and additional labour. It will be looked at again.</p> <p>DL asked why, if other SLAs have managed to offer a garden waste service, then why not Aberdeenshire?</p>	
12	Stonehaven Christmas Tree – 25 November 2023	
	DL said that, traditionally, Stonehaven Business Association (SBA) provides the Christmas decorations and SDCC the Christmas tree every year and will do so this year. JS is the lead on behalf of SDCC.	JS
13	Stonehaven 24 Hour Public Access Defibrillator Network	
	<p>DL provided an update. There are 7 defibrillators at locations across the town. The defibrillator at the Leisure Centre has been relocated to the Beach Toilets whilst the Centre is closed for renovation work. Fundraising will be required to cover maintenance costs, some of the other older models need to be replaced. At the moment, there is £2,500 in the Defibrillator Fund. An application for match funding has been submitted to the Aberdeenshire Council Area Budget to buy new defibrillators,</p> <p>IH asked if a map showing locations was available? DL confirmed this information is on the Stonehaven Chat Facebook Page, and the SDCC website.</p> <p>JS advised in the event of a medical emergency, one should call 999. The Ambulance Service (who hold and maintain the national database) will direct the caller to the nearest defibrillator and provide</p>	

	<p>step-by-step instructions on what to do and how to use the equipment. Volunteers check the equipment after each use, replacing necessary parts.</p> <p>Cllr D confirmed from her own experience that this is what happens if there is a medical emergency.</p> <p>DL said that, in addition to the 7 defibrillators provided by SDCC, many local businesses also provide them. Always dial 999 first!</p>	
14	Nippy Dip – 1 January 2024	
	<p>It was unanimously agreed to hold a Nippy Dip on 1 January 2024. A team will be needed to plan, coordinate and run the event – DL will process paperwork, RC is the lead for the actual day, DL will co-ordinate planning.</p> <p>Members were asked to think about which charities should benefit from donations, before the next meeting.</p> <p>Cllr T offered his support for the event, and suggested using a card machine for donations as many people last year wished to make a donation but had no cash.</p> <p>DL agreed to look into this and highlighted the need for volunteers at the event.</p>	DL
15	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes	
	<p>a) The Closure of the Haven Community Larder – Future Provision</p> <p>DL updated the meeting. The Community Collective will be holding weekly drop-in sessions at the Community Centre. Local foodbanks are managing to respond to demand. Citizens Advice Scotland have people seeking help with money and debt advice but have not seen a significant increase in food poverty. The Haven offers a drop-in on Mondays, local churches and Edenhme also provide similar events. Details of all of these should be shared with those who might benefit. Scottish Government policy is moving away from food banks, focusing instead on enabling people to have their own money. All of this is positive.</p> <p>IH advised the Over 50s Forum is collating information to make available to people, he noted that people, especially women, are looking for a place to meet.</p> <p>Cllr D confirmed that Edenhme hosts a drop-in on the last Friday each month.</p> <p>b) CCTV –</p> <p>DL said that SBA, STP, Aberdeenshire Council, Police Scotland and SDCC are looking at CCTV and what other towns have or are getting. A company is looking at the costs and technological possibilities,</p>	

	<p>once the results are available, there will be community consultation. Funding will also be explored, other places have successfully funded CCTVs. If CCTV is linked to Police Scotland, this removes Data Protection issues. (Footage is recorded rather than monitored.)</p> <p>JS suggested a need to identify where the hotspots (for potential CCTV) should be.</p> <p>DL noted that CCTV technology can now use fibre and other new infrastructure.</p> <p>c) SSEN Kintore-Fiddes Tealing East Coast OHL & 400V Substations</p> <p>IH said there was nothing to update on this item, SDCC has lodged objections.</p>	
16	Approval of Previous Minutes (8 August 2023)	
	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by RC and seconded by DV.	
17	Planning Report	
	<p>DL noted that many planning proposals have been brought before SDCC meetings for consideration/information/support (e.g. Dunnottar Castle Visitor Centre and housing development, AWPR Service Station), He asked if SDCC should ask for updates?</p> <p>JS proposed this should be done, this was supported unanimously, DL and AL will take forward.</p>	DL & AL
18	SDDC Committees/Subgroups	
	<p>a) Local Development Plan/Local Place Plan – DL reported that work on the website and the consultation is progressing well. All members have been sent information, people need to look at this and provide feedback as soon as possible.</p> <p>MO advised that at the next meeting in early October the group will finalise the questionnaire.</p> <p>DL recorded his thanks to the team for their work on this.</p> <p>b) Invercarron Resource Centre/Older People’s Services – Participation Request - RC will follow up on potential links between with the Health and Social Care Partnership and the Mearns Healthy Living Network.</p> <p>c) Community Resilience Plan – MO is following up with some of the partners to confirm their commitment. He will set up 3 WhatsApp groups – one with Councillors, one for SDCC members and one for volunteers (via</p>	RC

	<p>STP). He receives flood alerts from SEPA, if these are relevant he will post on the SDCC website and Stonehaven Chat Facebook page. He is waiting for SSEN to come back about the funding application that has been submitted.</p> <p>Cllr T clarified that SEPA have two levels of communication about potential flooding – Level 1 is an alert, Level 2 is a warning.</p> <p>d) SDCC Communications – This item is deferred until the next meeting as SMcQ is keen to involve new members in this.</p>	
<p>19</p>	<p>Outside Bodies/Committees</p>	
	<p>a) Transport Action Kincardineshire (TRAK) – IH received a response from Scotrail about the inadequate facilities available to passengers having to change trains at Montrose. They have said the rainshelters provided are of standard design.</p> <p>b) KDP – Wind Farm Grant Application Reviews – DL reported that one group decided not to accept the grant awarded, the committee reconvened to ensure the funds were reallocated. There was £12k available for distribution from the fund, bids received were in the region of £64k. The committee is considering restricting the amount groups can apply for in future, this would enable more beneficiaries.</p> <p>c) Town Centre Improvement Group – Roads, CCTV and the Flood Prevention Scheme were raised at the latest meeting.</p> <p>JS noted the Beach Toilets have re-opened due to the closure of the Leisure Centre, he hoped these could remain open once the Leisure Centre reopens. He suggested there be a review of opening hours (for the toilets) as local businesses have been under pressure to make their facilities available to the public. Overall, this has been very positive, he wished to record his thanks to local councillors for pursuing this.</p> <p>DL agreed there must be possible solutions to extending opening times. He noted the Town Centre Improvement Group is a good forum and a positive group.</p> <p>d) Kincardine and Mearns Community Council Forum – DL highlighted Aberdeenshire Council’s policy for responding to enquiries from Community Councils. Officials should acknowledge receipt within 5 days, and provide a full response within 20 working days. He noted that many respond much more quickly.</p> <p>IH said that if these timings are not adhered to, the Area Office should be contacted.</p>	

	<p>He noted KDP has changed its constitution, this enables a member of the public rather than a Community Council, to put forward nominations. IH suggested inviting KDP to attend a future SDCC meeting.</p> <p>Cllr D confirmed the change in KDP constitution.</p> <p>Cllr T said he had followed up (the issue about responding to enquiries) with the Community Councillor who had raised this.</p> <p>e) Kincardine and Mearns Community Planning Group – IH said there was no date for the next meeting.</p>	
20	Treasurer's Report	
	<p>The Treasurer's Report was circulated prior to the meeting. MO highlighted the £1517 grant received from Aberdeenshire Council was £382 less than the amount that had been allocated in the budget. The admin account is over-budget. £300 has been allocated for the Local Place Plan.</p> <p>DL noted that, as Portlethen CC has been re-instated, the overall budget for Community Councils has reduced.. There may be a need to fundraise in future. The Defibrillator Consumables expenditure is not fixed as this depends on when equipment is used. The local community always supports fundraising.</p> <p>RC queried why there are 2 Defibrillator funds.</p> <p>DL explained one was for day-to-day the other was long-term. He also clarified that SDCC manages the Defibrillator and Christmas Tree funds on behalf of the community. The admin budget comes directly from Aberdeenshire Council.</p>	
21	Correspondence	
	<p>DL has written to Live Life Aberdeenshire inviting their representatives to attend either the October or November SDCC meeting.</p>	
22	AOCB	
	<p>MO highlighted a Resilience Conference being held on 2 October at the Beach Ballroom, and asked if anyone can attend as he is unavailable.</p> <p>DL explained the purpose of Agenda Discussion meetings for the benefit of new members.</p>	
	Dates of Next Meetings	

	Agenda Discussion and Planning Meeting – Tuesday 3 October 2023, 19:00 Next SDDC Business Meeting – Tuesday 10 October 2023, 19:00	
--	---	--