



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

19:15 – 21:00 Tuesday 10 October 2023

Meeting held in the Sheriff Court Buildings, Stonehaven

Present		
Community Council Members: Alistair Lawrie, <i>Secretary</i> (AL) via Zoom , Andrew McArdle (AMcA), David Lawman, <i>Chairman</i> (DL), Daniel Veltman (DV) via Zoom , Denise Bannerman (DB), Ian Hunter (IH), James Stephen (JS), Julie Lindeman (JL), Michael Ogden (MO) <i>Treasurer</i> , Norman McKay (NMck), Pauline Brindley (PB) via Zoom , Raymond Christie (RC), <i>Vice Chairman</i> , Steve McQueen (SMcQ)		
Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members: Alan Turner (Cllr T), Wendy Agnew (Cllr A)		
In Attendance -		
Andrew Newton (AN), Stonehaven Town Partnership , Rachel Shanks (RS) Swim the Bay , Jane Cruickshank (JC), The Bellman , Julie Gray via Zoom , Morag Jamieson via Zoom , Claire Wilson via Zoom , Sarah Mailer 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 Caroline Duguid (CD), Fiona Tavindale (FT), Janine Esson (JE), Donald Lawrie Morrison (DLM), Julia Lawrie Morrison (JLM), Caroline Duguid (DG), David Charnley, Police Scotland (DC), Dawn Black (Cllr B), Cllr Sarah Dickinson (Cllr D), Tim Stephen, Aberdeenshire Council Area Manager (TS)	
4	Police Report	
	The Police Scotland report for August was circulated prior to the meeting. RC asked if there was a reason why there had been more ASBOs reported for Stonehaven compared to other towns in Aberdeenshire?	
5	'Swim the Bay' – Rachel Shanks	
	DL invited Rachel Shanks (RS) to address the meeting.	

RC said there used to be an annual swim from Cowie to the harbour, with medals awarded. She has contacted RNLI, the Sea Cadets and the Open Air Pool, who all have anniversaries in 2024. Kessock Ferry Swim in Inverness ran a similar event earlier this year. RC asked if SDCC would consider, as lead organisation, reinstating a 'Swim the Bay' event to take place in September 2024? This would be an alternative to establishing a new lead entity/body. RC would organise the event, and establish a committee with representatives from other organisations, money would be raised for charities.

DL said if other organisations were keen/committed SDCC could explore insurance options.

MO said SDCC would be accountable for the safety of all participants.

DL agreed, a full risk assessment and event plan would be needed.

RC confirmed the Yacht Club can provide volunteers and crafts to ensure the safety of all participants.

JS queried whether the original event was from Cowie, and asked who will vet the swimmers?

RC suggested the Kessock Swim procedures can be replicated, swimmers self-certify.

DL reflected there are paramedics on site for the Nippy Dip event, this is all considered during the risk assessment, he asked if Community Councillors (CCs) were willing to support this proposal?

JS proposed setting up a sub-group to meet with the organisers before committing. He asked how many participants were anticipated?

RC said there were 200-300 at the Kessock event.

SMcQ asked if this was a one-off or annual event?

RC replied that it was hoped it would be annual.

MO noted that participating organisations need to have a lead representative.

DB asked about other harbour users and what they would do on the day if there was restricted access?

RC confirmed she had contacted the Harbour Master, and the harbour would be closed during the event.

	<p>DL reminded the meeting that these details would be covered as part of the risk assessment, and asked if CCs were willing to volunteer to support the event?</p> <p>IH wondered why the organisers were not forming their own constitution? SDCC's insurance may not cover the proposed event.</p> <p>RC reassured the meeting of the intention to follow the model Kessock event.</p> <p>RC wondered if supporting this would increase SDCC's insurance premium?</p> <p>JS reflected there are many unanswered questions, and put forward his earlier proposal with the addition of contacting the Kessock organisers.</p> <p>DL reiterated the need for commitment from CCs to take this forward.</p> <p>MO thought the insurance query could be resolved quickly.</p> <p>AMcA thought the proposed event was a good idea.</p> <p>DL asked for volunteers to take this forward, JS agreed to lead with support from NMcK, AMcA and SMcQ.</p>	JS
6	Community Council Long Service Awards	
	<p>Cllr A presented Long Service Awards to two SDCC members, RC and IH, in recognition of their commitment of over 20 years.</p> <p>DL added his thanks to both on behalf of SDCC, AL and DV added their congratulations.</p>	
7	SDCC – Future Meeting Format – in-Person or Hybrid?	
	<p>DL reflected it was always better if members are able to attend meetings in person, with an option to attend via Zoom if necessary. This mirrors the practice of Aberdeenshire Council's Area Committee Meetings, and he suggested continuing with this model.</p> <p>AL supported this proposal, as did SMcQ.</p> <p>The meeting agreed unanimously to continue with the hybrid model, wherever possible members should attend in person.</p>	
8	Dangerous Dogs	
	<p>DB introduced this item. There has been a general increase in ownership of dangerous breeds, two young dogs in this category are exercised regularly in Forest Park and let off the lead to run freely. She recently approached the Dog Warden who advised her to</p>	

	<p>contact Melissa Mayo, Animal Health and Welfare Officer at Aberdeenshire Council.</p> <p>Julie Gray (JG) is Secretary of the Staffordshire and Bull Terrier Club. She suggested inviting a representative from the Metropolitan Police to address a seminar event for the public to raise awareness about responsible dog ownership. She advised contacting Police Scotland (PS) in the event of any incident. They will speak to dog owners if any concerns are raised. She confirmed PS follow a set protocol/procedure and take a measured approach to each case.</p> <p>DB agreed to liaise with JG about a possible public awareness event, including the Metropolitan Police.</p> <p>AL agreed to post information on SDCC website.</p> <p>AN spoke of his personal experience of being bitten by a dog at the harbour and highlighted the challenges for PS of dealing with such an incident if the dog owners live in England/outside Scotland.</p>	<p>DB &JG</p> <p>AL</p>
9	Fly Posting	
	<p>DL was concerned that some fairground events publicise but do not remove their posters, and also use Sellotape to secure posters, these leave a sticky residue. He noted that visiting circuses post their adverts on removable boards. He asked if Aberdeenshire Councillors could ask for something to be added to licenses for visiting events?</p> <p>Cllr A offered to speak to Aberdeenshire Council Legal Department.</p> <p>JS noted there are lots of events, this applies to everyone, and all signs should be removed after each event.</p> <p>IH said good practice should be highlighted to any organisation coming to the town.</p> <p>AMcA suggested imposing a levy or forfeiting the deposit of any offending organisation.</p> <p>Cllr T noted this would need to be cleared with Aberdeenshire Legal Department.</p> <p>SMcQ advised the Stonehaven Town Centre Improvement Group has raised concerns with Aberdeenshire Council about businesses promoting themselves and is trying to get something added to licenses.</p>	<p>Cllr A</p>
10	Royal Mail Building	
	<p>IH said this could be an attractive building, but it looks scruffy. AL agreed to write to Royal Mail to ask them to improve the appearance of the building., this was supported unanimously.</p>	<p>AL</p>

<p>11</p>	<p>Hannah Dyson & Community Awards</p> <p>AL explained the process for inviting nominations and agreeing on recipients will be initiated over the coming months. Nominations are required by the end of 2023/beginning of 2024. He invited SMcQ to help with the selection of successful nominees. SMcQ agreed, and suggested input from another CC, JL agreed to assist.</p>	<p>AL, SMcQ, JL</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</p> <p>a) The Closure of the Haven Community Larder – Future Provision DL provided an update. The Stonehaven Community Collective runs a Living Room Drop-in session each Thursday at the Community Centre. The Haven has installed a community fridge at Inspire on Allardice Street. Local foodbanks continue to provide support, local churches also provide regular events. Carronside Church is hosting a Winter Warmer event later this month. In summary, there is a reasonable amount of local support available.</p> <p>b) CCTV DL confirmed the contractor/company has provided a quote for the required work, this has been sent to Aberdeenshire Planning Department, they have 25 working days to respond. The group continues to meet, and will speak to relevant property owners, the process is ongoing but slow.</p> <p>c) Stonehaven Medical Centre – Link with Patient Participation Group RC recalled this was agreed at the September meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 30 October at 18:00, if anyone wishes to attend. Before Covid, the group had regular presentations on specific topics of interest, this will be reinstated in the new year. DL asked that members advise RC of any queries or issues.</p> <p>d) Himalayan Balsam – Wooded area adjacent to the Glebe IH advised Cllr D had received a response from Aberdeenshire Council. Brambles need to be cleared to access the site, this requires help from the community. DL suggested IH liaises with Cllr D, and link in with Cllr T.</p> <p>e) Stonehaven 24 Hour Public Access Defibrillator Network DL confirmed the successful application for grant ‘match’ funding to replace older equipment.</p> <p>f) Nippy Dip – 1 January 2024 It was unanimously agreed to support the following local charities with proceeds from the event:</p>	<p>IH, Cllr D, Cllr T</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defibrillator Fund • Friends of Kincardine Hospital (to introduce a well-being trolley service to support patients & their families with provision of hygiene, reading material and other items including food and drinks.) • Exercise After Stroke Club 	
13	Approval of Previous Minutes (12 September 2023)	
	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by IH and seconded by DB.	
14	Planning Report	
	<p>a) Request regarding status of potential projects from developers – Update Stonehaven Gateway – Consultation responses are being reviewed. Dunnottar Castle - No further update available. Megray Service Station – Traffic Scotland and SEPA have withdrawn their objections</p> <p>b) APP/2023/1745 - Change of Use of Land to Form Extension to Existing Cemetery, Formation Vehicular Access, Car Parking and Erection of Boundary Enclosure, Land Adjacent To Fetteresso Cemetery, Fetteresso, Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire DB noted it was good this proposed development is being phased and includes planting to attract wildlife.</p> <p>c) APP/2023/1674 - Erection of 5 Dwellinghouse and 6 Flats, Land at Cowgate, Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire (Old Gas Works Site)</p> <p>DL said there had not been enough time to invite the developers to give a presentation to SDCC.</p> <p>JS had been contacted by a local resident concerned about the height of the proposed building and the volume of construction traffic requiring access to the site., also the building design is not in keeping with the neighbourhood. He suggested the site should be reserved for community use and was against the proposal.</p> <p>RC agreed.</p> <p>JL noted the Land Train does not have approval (to access Old Town?) and asked how Aberdeenshire Council could allow construction traffic to do so?</p> <p>DL suggested the consensus was not in favour due to the volume of construction traffic requiring access to the site.</p>	

	<p>DB added that there would be building congestion.</p> <p>MO asked if the site could be used for residents' parking? JS felt that as Aberdeenshire Council has no money, they have sold the land to allow the new owners to decide what to do. There has already been a planning application for a care home, now residential flats.</p> <p>It was agreed unanimously not to support the application due to traffic and building congestion, DL will respond on behalf of SDCC.</p> <p>d) It was noted that Tesco is taking over the filling station.</p>	<p>DL</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>SDDC Committees/Subgroups</p>	
	<p>a) Local Development Plan/Local Place Plan – MO updated the meeting. The consultation questionnaire is ready to be issued, the Town Hall is booked for 18 November, posters and fliers will be distributed through letterboxes between 1 and 4 November, assistance is required for this.</p> <p>JC agreed to ask the Running Club for volunteers, CC members also offered to help.</p> <p>MO said the initial community consultation will ask for ideas for projects, the follow up will consult on a list of these. He was concerned there is no coordinating structure to promote and take forward achievable projects.</p> <p>DL noted that very few local projects had been successful with applications to the Shared Prosperity Fund.</p> <p>Cllr A had a meeting with other Councillors and said the focus (for the Fund) had been the Banff and Buchan area. Andrew Bowie, MP was confident Stonehaven will get funding.</p> <p>Cllr T is the Deputy Chair of the Shared Prosperity Fund Aberdeenshire panel, he explained the application process. Expressions of interest need to be submitted this week. Projects need to meet the Fund criteria and targets. The Area Management team will liaise with all deferred projects and offer support. He noted that many of the successful applications were for 'shovel-ready' projects. Time constraints and tight timescales make it difficult for applicants with less developed projects.</p> <p>DL asked how we can get projects ready, and what support can we get?</p> <p>Cllr A suggested looking at the Fund criteria, and deciding which projects fit.</p>	<p>JC</p>

	<p>MO asked how SDCC can draw out projects that people want to see.</p> <p>Cllr T noted the Marr and Formartine area did well with applications to the Place Based Investment Fund. Officers reviewed applications, Councillors made the final decisions and MPs were also involved.</p> <p>AN said securing planning permission and land ownership are the main obstacles in submitting comprehensive applications</p> <p>JL welcomed the positive support from Council officers, MO said this is needed for the consultation phase too.</p> <p>DL asked JS to help with photographs for the consultation publicity documents and posters.</p> <p>b) Invercarron Resource Centre/Older People’s Services – Participation Request – Date of next meeting in November tbc.</p> <p>c) Community Resilience Plan – MO has had two definite commitments for Community Hubs. He will hold a meeting for volunteers soon. SSEN still to confirm funding for the hubs.</p> <p>d) SDCC Communications – DL is keen to involve new members, SMcQ proposed meeting with them half an hour before the next SDCC meeting, JS agreed to assist.</p>	<p>JS</p> <p>SMcQ, JS</p>
Outside Bodies/Committees		
	<p>a) Transport Action Kincardineshire (TRAK) – IH advised there is a meeting about Community Transport between St Cyrus and Johnshaven on Monday 16 October.</p> <p>b) KDP – Wind Farm Grant Application Reviews – DL confirmed the unallocated funding (for withdrawn applications) had been distributed amongst approved projects. He asked for volunteers to help with the next funding round, SMcQ offered to assist. JL was also prepared to help but decided against this due to potential conflict of interest.</p> <p>c) Town Centre Improvement Group – It was agreed to add Fly Posting to the agenda, JL agreed to take this forward.</p> <p>d) Kincardine and Mearns Community Council Forum – The next meeting is on 6 December, IH suggested Aberdeenshire Council officers should be asked to attend, this was agreed.</p>	<p>SMcQ</p> <p>JL</p>

	e) Kincardine and Mearns Community Planning Group – IH noted that volunteers are bringing people to their appointments (for vaccinations?)	
17	Treasurer's Report	
	The latest financial report was circulated to all members prior to the meeting.	
18	Correspondence	
	<p>DL had received a letter from Tim Stephen (TS), Area Manager intimating the closure of the public toilets at the Beach Esplanade.</p> <p>JL said this was a bad decision, and asked Councillors to challenge it.</p> <p>JS suggested the Council and community groups need to work together to resolve this.</p> <p>DL had been approached by a local business owner who is concerned about the lack of parking and the number of road closures due to repair and maintenance work all being done at the same time. There seems to be no co-ordination of planning, he encouraged utility companies and the Council to plan properly.</p> <p>SMcQ noted the work on Barclay Street to replace gulleys was well underway.</p> <p>DL had a response from LLA, who were unable to send a representative to the SDCC meeting but invited members to their public meeting at the Community Centre, JS had attended. DL will invite LLA to the next SDCC meeting.</p> <p>AL had received an e-mail from a Town Twinning Group in France and asked how he should respond?</p> <p>JS suggested contacting groups who had previously been involved in Town Twinning first.</p> <p>It was agreed that AL respond and ask for more details about what they required from SDCC and share at the next meeting.</p> <p>DL noted that members would need to be prepared to get involved should a Town Twinning process go ahead.</p> <p>AN suggested twinning is usually with the Local Authority, and advised caution, although it is a good idea in principle.</p>	<p>DL</p> <p>AL</p>
19	AOCB	
	a) There is an event on 4 November at Woodhill House, registrations deadline is 30 October.	

	<p>b) DL asked for a volunteer to represent SDCC on Remembrance Sunday as he will be on holiday.</p> <p>c) JS was concerned about the number of community group storage containers sited all over Stonehaven. He wished to ask Aberdeenshire Council about secure storage for these containers and proposed adding this to the next meeting agenda. DL asked Councillors for their support. Cllr T asked if the groups had the capacity to move their containers, JL said money could be found for this. SMcQ suggested finding out how many containers there are, and their size. JS agreed to take this forward, and also find out if there are further requests for storage.</p>	JS
20	Dates of Next Meetings	
	<p>Agenda Discussion and Planning Meeting – Tuesday 7 November 2023, 19:00</p> <p>Next SDDC Business Meeting – Tuesday 14 November 2023, 19:00</p>	