



**STONEHAVEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**
19:00– 21:00 Tuesday 09 January 2024
Meeting held in the Sheriff Court Buildings, Stonehaven

<p>Cheque Presentations</p> <p>Prior to the meeting, (DL) welcomed representatives from the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of Kincardine Community Hospital • Stonehaven Exercise After Stroke Group • Stonehaven 24 Hour Public Access Defibrillators Network Fun <p>Over 300 people had taken part in the Nippy Dip, and many more had watched the event.</p> <p>(DL) thanked everybody who had helped on the day, we could not have done it without you!</p> <p>SDCC took the opportunity to present cheques (£1,650.00) to each of the groups, this the surplus from Nippy Dip.</p>

<p>Present</p> <p>Community Council Members: David Lawman, <i>Chairman</i> (DL), Raymond Christie (RC), <i>Vice Chairman</i>, Ian Hunter (IH), Andrew McArdle (AM), Fiona Tavindale (FT), Caroline Duguid (DG), Julie Lindeman (JL), William Gibson (WG), James Stephen (JS), Steve McQueen (SMcQ), Alistair Lawrie, <i>Secretary</i> (AL) via Zoom, Denise Bannerman (DB) via Zoom & Daniel Veltman (DV) via Zoom</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members: Sarah Dickinson (Cllr D), Alan Turner (Cllr T), Dawn Black (Cllr B) via Zoom & Wendy Agnew (Cllr A) via Zoom</p>

<p>In Attendance -</p> <p>Jane Cruickshank (JC), The Bellman, Rachael Shanks (RS) Swim the Bay Project, Andrew Newton Tolbooth Museum, John Cruickshank (JCr), Carlo Williams via Zoom, plus for a short period Allan Sutherland (and his wife) Cowie Residents</p>

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	
	<p>Apologies received from Michael Ogden (MO) <i>Treasurer</i>, Norman Mackay (NMCK) & Pauline Brindley (PB)</p> <p>Regarding item 9, RC, advised he was a member of Stonehaven Men's Shed.</p>	
4	Police Report	
	<p>The Police Scotland monthly report for December, had not yet been received.</p>	
5	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes	
	<p>a) Storm Babet Cllr T, confirmed it would be into next month before timings on repairs and remedial work would become clear.</p> <p>b) Archeres & Stonehaven Twinning Partnership Meeting planned for 30th January 2024 @ 7pm, AM indicated he would also be keen to get involved with the project.</p> <p>c) CCTV – Update DL confirmed there will be a meeting in the Sheriff Court Building on 10 January 2024.</p> <p>d) Stonehaven Medical Centre – Link with Patient Participation Group (PPG) RC advised there were no new updates.</p> <p>e) Nippy Dip – 1 January 2024 DL thanked everybody again.</p> <p>f) Swim the Bay It had not been possible to arrange a meeting to take this forward, but all present involved, agreed to meet on the 30th January 2024 @ 6pm in the court building.</p> <p>g) Community Storage JS will arrange a meeting in February to take this forward.</p> <p>h) Town Centre Parking / Pavement Parking / Over Sized Vehicles Parking – How is this going to be policed – Where are Aberdeenshire with Deregulation. Cllr D advised that the education phase of discouraging pavement parking had started, which would be followed by an enforcement at a later stage. She also advised it would be some time before there were any updates on deregulation.</p>	

	<p>i) Royal Mail Building AL advised after a lot of searching around on the internet, he had found a suitable way to make contact with the Royal Mail, regarding the poor state of the building, but had not yet received a response.</p> <p>j) SSEN Kintore-Fiddes-Tealing East Coast OHL & 400kV Substations – Update DL reminded members that the new proposed location for the substation in our area was now Fetteresso Forest, rather than Fiddes, which is a lot closer to us.</p> <p>IH had provided Crathes, Drumoak and Durris Community Council with the names and contact details of the SDCC members who had expressed an interested in working with other community councils in the area to co-ordinate any response to SSEN.</p>	
6	Approval of Previous Minutes 14 November 2023	
	The Minutes were approved by IH and seconded by SMcQ	
7	Public Toilets – Beach Area	
	<p>JL advised she had been approached by a local business owner about lack of public toilet provision in the Beach Area, where the business was getting extreme pressure to let members of the public uses their facilities. When their staff declined requests, they were on occasion met with abusive comments, which even over spilled to social media.</p> <p>JS noted the area was always busy, with both locals and visitors and it would only get busier.</p> <p>Cllr D advised the beach toilets are scheduled to reopen around the Easter holidays and would remain open until the upgrade works were completed at the Leisure Centre.</p> <p>All agreed this was not acceptable and a solution needed to be found ASAP. We are promoting Stonehaven as a tourist location but are not providing basic facilities.</p> <p>As cost is sighted as being the main reason that the Beach Toilets are not open, JCr suggested as he had seen in other areas, that entry to the toilets be by contactless payment system, this would give an income to help cover costs, reduce the need to collect cash, and if required provide data on who is using the facility. This option may not be possible as some understood Aberdeenshire Council had a policy of not charging to use their public toilets.</p> <p>Looking for work arounds, DL noted the Town Hall was open a lot more, providing cover for the Leisure Centre during upgrade works, asked if consideration could be given to possible closing the Margaret Street Toilets, and use the Town Hall to provide facilities in the centre</p>	

	<p>of town, and use the savings made to open the Beach Toilets. Cllr, D that this had been considered previously, but this could cause issues if the Town Hall was booked out for a function etc. DL said no different than the pressure being put on businesses in the Beach Area to let the public use their facilities. Others felt it was important to keep Margaret Street Toilets open.</p> <p>The Cllrs present agreed to raise the issue at their next Ward 18 meeting, which is scheduled for next week.</p> <p>SDCC members requested due to the urgency of the matter, that we do not wait until the next SDCC meeting for an update and as such they would make themselves available to meet sooner.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>Redclock Park</p>	
	<p>RC advised he had been approached by locals regarding the poor condition Redclock Park was left after the SGN had replaced some pipes in park, mainly around the perimeter, where paths were now a mud bath. All agreed SGN should have left the park in a similar condition to as it was prior to them commencing work.</p> <p>Cllr B. agreed to discuss the matter with landscape services and report back to SDCC.</p>	
<p>9</p>	<p>Stonehaven Beach Front Improvements and Belmont Brae One Way Schemes - Statutory Consultation</p>	
	<p>DL advised, this consultation is a precursor to an Aberdeenshire Council public engagement exercise – as such this exercise is specific to obtaining the views of organisations (such as SDCC) and any feedback will then inform the wider public engagement.</p> <p>a) Belmont Brae One Way Scheme All were supportive of the proposal, but added the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With traffic taking alternative routes to head downtown, consideration should be given to the increased traffic flow at other junctions such as Slug Road / Evan Street and Ann Street / Rodney Street which currently have many cars parked close to the junctions. Possible use of / additional double yellow lines were suggested. - With the Stop Sign being removed from the current Bath Street / Ann Street Junction, concern was raised with the potential of cars not slowing down sufficiently (especially in icy conditions) leading to higher potential of overshooting the junction and mounting the pavement / hitting the wall. This occasional currently happens with the current road layout, currently mitigated with plastic barriers. (Suggestions included warning signage / road marking and anti-skid surfacing.) 	

	<p>b) Beach Front Improvements</p> <p>IH raised a concern about Motorhomes still being able to park on road leading to Cowie (coast side of the road) blocking sea views etc., and in his view, being self-sufficient, bring little benefit to the town. JS responded, by saying Motorhome users spend a lot of money in the town and as such, we should be welcoming them.</p> <p>After discussion, all were supportive of the improvements.</p> <p>Later in the meeting, Alan Sutherland, a resident of Cowie arrived and gave some feedback / suggestions about the proposals: Rather than the suggested additional parking adjacent to the outdoor pool, consideration should be given to extending the Leisure Centre Car Park.</p> <p>JS, said the suggested additional parking adjacent to the outdoor pool will stop parking on both sides of the road into Cowie and as such would help traffic flow in the area. Cllr T advised some consideration had previously been given to extending the Leisure Centre Car Park, but this would require paths leading to the outdoor pool to be re-routed.</p> <p>DL reminded all, this part of the process was a precursor to a full Aberdeenshire Council public engagement exercise.</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>Planning Report</p>	
	<p>DL advised that Stonehaven Men’s Shed had asked if SDCC would be happy to support their application to build a small Bike Shed adjacent to their building (Green Building on the front) and would SDCC be happy to submit the planning application on their behalf.</p> <p>SDCC members agreed to both requests.</p>	
<p>11</p>	<p>SDDC Committees/Subgroups</p>	
	<p>a) Local Development Plan/Local Place Plan</p> <p>DL advised the group had an initial look at the data, which included responses from 966 people who completed the online survey and those who attended the two public consultations, one in the Town Hall and the other at the Mackie Academy. The group will next meet on the 31st January to start looking how they will present the results.</p> <p>b) Invercarron Resource Centre/Older People’s Services - Participation Request</p> <p>IH advised there was no updates since the last meeting.</p> <p>c) Community Resilience Plan</p> <p>DL advised there was no updates since the last meeting.</p>	

	<p>d) SDCC Communications SMcQ advised the group was really just him, with DL updating Facebook as required. SMcQ reminded those present to feed any stories etc. to the Bellman who would help share the information with the wider community.</p>	
12	Outside Bodies/Committees	
	<p>a) Transport Action Kincardineshire (TRAK) IH reported that Scott Prentice, Head of Business Development Scotrail would attend the next meeting on the 25th January 2024, and ask, if possible, for any questions to be submitted to him prior to the meeting.</p> <p>b) KDP – Wind Farm Grant Application Reviews No further updates.</p> <p>c) Town Centre Improvement Group The next meeting is on 16 January 2024.</p> <p>d) Kincardine and Mearns Community Council Forum The next meeting is on 5th February 2024.</p> <p>e) Kincardine and Mearns Community Planning Group The next meeting is on 24th January 2024.</p>	IH
13	Treasurer’s Report	
	MO’s report was circulated to all members prior to the meeting.	
14	Correspondence	
	The Wee Gaitherin, have asked if SDCC will provide a letter of support to help with their grant applications to help with their work in supporting the advancement of the arts, culture and heritage, through facilitating opportunities for young people and adults to engage with literature, poetry and creative writing we promote inclusion in both writing and performing in expressive arts and also hold their Poetry Festival in Stonehaven. SDCC members were happy to support this request.	
15	AOCB	
	<p>a) DL noted there had been further comments on social media about another person slipping and falling on the White Bridge.</p> <p>Both Cllr D and Cllr T have are working with Aberdeenshire Council officers to ensure improvements to both lighting and railings are made ASAP. With the bridge being a listed building, planning consent is required for some works, which can slow down the process.</p>	

	<p>b) AL advised letters for the Hannah Dyson and Community Awards had been prepared and circulated around the sub-group for review and would be sent out in the near future.</p> <p>c) IH highlighted the issues of Stewart Milne going into Administration, noting they had a development in town, and the potential problems for those who have purchased / are in the process of purchasing houses in the development, and his concerns for those losing their jobs. All agreed we need to be aware of potential issues, but as this only happened this week, it was too soon to know the outcomes, as the administrator will need some time to find solutions.</p>	
15	Dates of Next Meetings	
	<p>Next Agenda Discussion and Planning Meeting – Tuesday 6th February 2024 @ 7pm</p> <p>Next SDDC Business Meeting – Tuesday 13th January 2024 @ 7pm</p>	