



**STONEHAVEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**
19:00– 21:30 Tuesday 13 February 2024
Meeting held in the Sheriff Court Buildings, Stonehaven

Present		
Community Council Members: Alistair Lawrie, <i>Secretary</i> (AL) via Zoom , Daniel Veltman (DV) via Zoom , David Lawman, <i>Chairman</i> (DL,) Denise Bannerman (DB), Fiona Tavindale (FT), Ian Hunter (IH), James Stephen (JS), Julie Lindeman (JL) via Zoom , Michael Ogden (MO) <i>Treasurer</i> , Norman McKay (NMck), Pauline Brindley (PB) via Zoom , Raymond Christie (RC), <i>Vice Chairman</i> , Steve McQueen (SMcQ), Caroline Duguid (CD)		
Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members: Alan Turner (Cllr T), Wendy Agnew (Cllr A) via Zoom , Sarah Dickinson (Cllr D), Dawn Black (Cllr B) via Zoom		
In Attendance -		
Andrew Newton (AN), Claire Wilson via Zoom , David Charnley, Police Scotland (DC), Fiona Malcolm, <i>Minutes Secretary</i> , Jane Cruickshank, The Bellman (JC), Tim Stephen, Aberdeenshire Council Area Manager (TS), Richard Barnes (RB), Tess White, MSP (TW)		
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: n/a Andrew McArdle has decided to step down from SDCC, DL thanked him for his contribution during his tenure, and wished him all the best for the future.	
4	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes	
	a) Storm Babet DL asked for an update from Aberdeenshire Council following the recent storm damage to the beach area. A different approach is needed. He asked if, once the current damage is cleared up, the beach will be open to the public? TS expects the beach clear-up to be complete by Friday 16 February, thereafter the beach will probably re-open, he will keep SDCC	

updated. There will be a review of the boardwalk and what is needed for the future, this will be brought back to SDCC.

DL noted that fences and steps down to the shore between Cowie and the River Cowie have been damaged.

TS confirmed temporary repairs are being done here, also at the Harbour and The Crow's Nest. Damage will be reviewed following the clear-up, with urgent immediate repairs taking priority.

DB had noticed a loose seat at the Harbour.

Cllr B said the Harbour Team is on top of the damage.

DL appreciated the hard work of all the Aberdeenshire Council employees involved, and wished his thanks, on behalf of SDCC, to be recorded.

Cllr T agreed the employees had been particularly good on Saturday morning helping local residents, who were also very appreciative.

DL wondered why Turners Court did not have support in place for residents affected by the high tide. He had noticed a concerned relative posing on social media about his elderly father.

Heather the Sheltered Housing Manager at Hanover Housing has raised this with senior management who are investigating. There was no 'Red Alert' warning on this occasion. Systems are in place for Red Alert situations. She thanked the support received from Aberdeenshire Council.

Cllr T said some residents had asked for help, but could not reach wardens.

AL asked if it was time to set up an Aberdeenshire Council-led group, including expert advice on weather conditions, to plan strategically how to offset these situations in future?

DL said there is already a Community Resilience Group.

IH asked if there was a telephone help-line number for residents to call?

CD said there is already a Resilience Leaflet, there can't be a (separate?) process for every emergency, Hanover Housing should have a plan.

MO had spoken to Scottish Fire and Rescue on Saturday, their focus was on rescue. Nobody needed immediate shelter. How to recognise what support is needed is difficult. It would be helpful if Police Scotland had contact details of who can help in an emergency.

Cllr T said the Flood Group had previously looked at all of this. The weekend's events were unexpected.

Cllr D asked if the Emergency Services contact Aberdeenshire Council, who then alert the Community Resilience Group?

MO felt the process needs to be clarified.

JS noted the Emergency Services are responsible in these circumstances.

Heather the Sheltered Housing Manager at Hanover Housing agreed lessons need to be learned.

DL thanked Heather ??? for her input, and was reassured Hanover Housing is reviewing this.

Cllr T hoped Hanover Housing will replace the damaged wall, as once it was breached there was sea damage to properties.

	<p>b) Acheres & Stonehaven Twinning Partnership DL reported there was some progress communicating with groups, feedback so far was positive.</p> <p>c) CCTV – Update DL said there were great desire from community groups to progress this the project, thus was put on hold for now.</p> <p>d) Stonehaven Medical Centre – Link with PPG RC advised the next meeting is on 19 February at 18:00.</p> <p>e) Swim the Bay DL and SMcQ met with Rachel Shanks earlier to explore what is involved. All agreed, we needed buy in from our insurance company. Rachel will produce a summary of the proposed event, which David would on pass to our insurance company for feedback. They will report back to a future SDCC meeting. The next Swim the Bay meeting is at 18:00 on 12 March.</p> <p>f) Community Storage JS confirmed two more groups wish to be involved, the next meeting is scheduled for the end of February.</p> <p>g) Royal Mail Building AL wrote to Royal Mail, the reply was not very helpful, he will pursue further and hopes to speak to the local manager.</p> <p>h) SSEN Kintore-Fiddes-Tealing East Coast OHL & 400kV Substations – DL was aware there had been lots of discussion amongst other Community Councils (CCs). The substation is now to be located in Fetteresso Forest, just outside SDCC area. MO attended a meeting, most of the proposed overhead lines will be outside SDCC area. The design is part of the National Grid. A disparate group of CCs are approaching the authorities. He wondered if there should be a more formalised joint approach? He doesn't know the views of the Stonehaven Community and residents. There is a risk of power failure if the lines come down. The East Coast Power Line Project has underground cables. Cllr B intimated that Durriss and Drumoak CC have an event at Drumoak School on 15 February, the SSEN Project Team, MPs, MSPs and local Councillors will all be in attendance. The event comprises a drop-in from 16:30 – 19:30, Q&A session from 19:00 – 20:00, and an open discussion from 20:00 – 21:00. JS suggested more information should be available for local people who may not be aware of the project. DL asked if anyone could attend the meeting, to determine the perspective of SDCC, which can be posted on Facebook page. JS and DB agreed to go.</p>	<p>JS, DB</p> <p>AL</p>
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	<p>l) White Bridge</p> <p>DL had seen there is a planning application for necessary remedial work on the bridge. Cllr D confirmed this was for nosings, a central handrail, and a replacement light.</p>	
5	Approval of Previous Minutes (9 January 2024)	
	The minutes were approved by RC and seconded by AL.	
6	Police Report	
	<p>DC noted that Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents had halved in Stonehaven, road crime was low, he invited questions, and offered to include additional data to future reports, e.g. housebreaking and shoplifting. This was welcomed.</p> <p>Cllr D asked if there were reasons for the reduction in ASB?</p> <p>DC will explore the data to give more details about actual criminal activity, as the figures relate to the number of calls made to Police Scotland rather than the number of offences.</p> <p>DV asked, on behalf of a local community group, if there could be more police patrols at Dunnottar Woods.</p> <p>DL asked DV to record more details in writing and pass on to Police Scotland.</p> <p>SMcQ asked if DC can include information about the policing of parking in the town centre in future reports, DC agreed to add this under the 'Road Traffic' section.</p> <p>DL thanked DC for his contribution to the meeting.</p>	
7	New Insurance Arrangements	
	DL explained that Aberdeenshire Council is changing the process Community Councils is arranged, rather than Aberdeenshire Council arranging cover for all Community Councils, individual Community Councils would arrange their own insurance direct with Zurich or an alternative supplier. DL has now received a quote of £300.69 from Zurich, not too much more than the previous year. This quote includes cover for the defibrillators (£203.49), that part of the bill would be covered by the Defibrillator fund, and the rest by the SDCC funds. Aberdeenshire Council have indicated, they will reimburse SDCC the funds for the general cover.	
8	Community Council Elections 2024 – Aberdeenshire Wide – Single Election Date – Implementation Plans	
	<p>DL advised that from August/September 2024 Aberdeenshire Council will move to a three-year cycle of elections, however this will impact on SDCC's AGM, end-of-year accounts and election of new officers.</p> <p>AL asked why the elections are being moved?</p> <p>DL said this is to reduce the risk of a clash with Scottish Parliament and local council elections in May.</p> <p>CD asked if the Constitution can be changed to extend the tenure of the current officers?</p> <p>TS explained the change is intended to encourage more people to become involved in local democracy, and across the wider</p>	

	<p>infrastructure, make co-options (of new Community Councillors) easier. He offered to make officers aware, and said they can provide more information.</p> <p>MO asked if an exception might be made for the Treasurer's position?</p> <p>CD suggested extending everyone until August/September, then have both (current and newly elected) in election years only.</p> <p>JS asked about the removal of the clause from the (standard Community Council) Constitution document that allows the removal of a member if they repeatedly fail to attend meetings.</p>	TS
9	Aberdeenshire Council – School Janitorial Review	
	<p>DL said this review would result in a potential reduction of 79 hours, equivalent to two full-time members of staff, from the Mackie Academy 'cluster'.</p> <p>IH asked if this would affect the Community Centre?</p> <p>TS clarified it would not – it relates to Mackie Academy and primary school 'feeders'.</p> <p>Cllr D proposed offered to come back on this once she had more information.</p> <p>DL was concerned that schools would lose janitorial support.</p> <p>AL asked if this would affect the opening of premises at weekends and evenings?</p>	Cllr D
10	Stonehaven Library	
	<p>SMcQ highlighted recent Facebook posts about reduced opening hours at the Library, and asked what is happening?</p> <p>Cllr D advised she had already approached the Head of Service about this.</p> <p>TS explained that, due to exceptional levels of sickness and maternity leave, the cover arranged had not materialised. The Library Service is looking into this and will try to improve.</p> <p>Cllr B noted opening hours (until 18:00) had been reinstated on Tuesday evenings. There is a plan to extend opening until 18:00 on another weekday, once the current staff illness situation has been resolved.</p> <p>SMcQ highlighted other libraries in Aberdeenshire are open for 30 hours each week, and would welcome if Stonehaven Library could be open for longer.</p>	
11	Planning Report	
	<p>DL reminded the meeting that support for a proposed plinth at the War Memorial had been agreed previously.</p> <p>The Developer responsible for the proposed supermarket at AWPR will attend the SDCC meeting in March or April to provide an update.</p>	
12	SDDC Committees/Subgroups	
	a) Local Development Plan/Local Place Plan	

	<p>MO said draft textual and mapping reports are now ready for review, and will be put back to people for a final report by the end of June 2024.</p> <p>DL acknowledged the colossal amount of work done by the group, and noted his thanks to everyone involved.</p> <p>b) Invercarron Resource Centre/Older People’s Services – Participation Request</p> <p>DL said this issue has not gone away.</p> <p>IH asked Cllr A where the (previously) requested report was?</p> <p>Cllr A said there was a drop in numbers of vaccinations administered at the Centre, and offered to get up to date figures.</p> <p>RC registered his disappointment that AMcA is leaving SDCC, as he was an active member of the group. He asked if anyone else is willing to join?</p> <p>DL reiterated that support for older people must be maintained.</p> <p>JS asked about current daycare provision for older people?</p> <p>Cllr D noted the Rendezvous Café drop-in is available at Edenhome every month, and suggested it would be worth approaching them about additional support for older members of the community.</p> <p>DL felt many of the other venues in the town are not suitable for many older people (due to access restrictions).</p> <p>JS reminded the meeting Invercarron was designed specifically for older people, it is critical previous users are listened to and supported.</p> <p>DL asked what are the next steps?</p> <p>IH wondered how much the building is needed for vaccinations?</p> <p>Cllr A felt the building is too big (for its current use as a vaccination centre), it is good that SDCC are keeping this on the agenda, she will not give up either.</p> <p>DL asked IH and RC to keep dialogue going.</p> <p>TW suggested SDCC writes to Ms Milligan at Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership, to ask if there is anywhere else to do vaccinations.</p> <p>DB said evidence of the number of vaccinations delivered would be helpful.</p> <p>Cllr A confirmed she is asking for this data.</p> <p>Cllr T reflected previous information was not up to date, he suggested a full year’s worth is required, not just data covering the winter months.</p> <p>Cllr A said they (AHSCP) are resistant to using Forest View Centre (as an alternative to the Invercarron).</p> <p>DL summarised, saying this remains a serious community concern – either the centre is being used a lot, or not. He noted the Invercarron Resource Centre was the last significant public / community new-build project in Stonehaven and it was no longer available for community use.</p> <p>c) Community Resilience Plan –</p> <p>MO intimated another meeting is required.</p>	<p>Cllr A</p>
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	DL appreciated MO's work on and commitment to this. d) SDCC Communications N/a.	
13	Outside Bodies/Committees	
	<p>a) Transport Action Kincardineshire (TRAK) IH explained that, at the last TRAK meeting, Scotrail's Business Development Manager provided a comprehensive update. He said only 12 passengers were using the (late evening?) Montrose – Inverurie service. Trains are old and unreliable, and some services cannot meet timetable requirements due to speed restrictions at Carmont. The toilets and waiting room at Montrose Station close at 21:00. There is remote surveillance in place at Laurencekirk station, he thought this was also in place at Montrose Station. Passenger fares are set by Government (UK or Scottish?), not the train operators. Standardisation of rolling stock is planned for the future. IH encouraged people to use help points in stations – these are not just for emergencies , so should be used if anyone requires assistance. DL asked IH to provide bullet points to be posted on SDCC Facebook page.</p> <p>b) KDP – Wind Farm Grant Application Reviews n/a.</p> <p>c) Town Centre Improvement Group JS reported Items covered included the restoration of the Craw's Nest, town signage, CCTV, an update on the Christmas lights and paths to Dunnottar Castle, all very positive.</p> <p>d) Kincardine and Mearns Community Council Forum The next meeting is on 6 March 2024, DL is on holiday so will not be able to attend.</p> <p>e) Kincardine and Mearns Community Planning Group IH asked how this can be more representative of the community.</p>	
14	Treasurer's Report	
	This was circulated to all members prior to the meeting. The bill for use of the Court Building is due, the amount is the same as last year, payment of this was agreed unanimously.	
15	Correspondence	
	None.	
16	AOCB	
	IH reported the Community Minibus has a broken lift so cannot accommodate wheelchair users, Cllr D offered to look into this.	Cllr D

	JS noted a recent incident at the north side of Market Square, the kerbside is not lowered opposite Gregg'. Cllr D offered to look into this and asked JS to send her photographs.	JS, Cllr D
17	Dates of Next Meetings	
	Agenda Discussion and Planning Meeting – Tuesday 5 March, 19:00. Next SDDC Business Meeting – Tuesday 12 March, 19:00	