



**STONEHAVEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**
19:00– 21:30 Tuesday 12 March 2024
Meeting held in the Sheriff Court Buildings, Stonehaven

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| Present | | |
| Community Council Members: Alistair Lawrie, <i>Secretary</i> (AL) via Zoom , David Lawman, <i>Chairman</i> (DL,) Denise Bannerman (DB), Fiona Tavindale (FT), Ian Hunter (IH), James Stephen (JS), Julie Lindeman (JL) minute taker, Michael Ogden (MO) <i>Treasurer</i> , Norman MacKay (NMck), 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) | | |
| In Attendance - | | |
| Rachel Frame, Marion Montgomery, Graeme Penny, Casper Lampkin, Ewan Clark, James Ferrier, Lorna Hay, Andrienne Craig, Paul Tosh, Paul Bentley, Simon Cruickshank, Neil Young, Brian Menzies, Robin Barclay, Martin Anderson, David Ogilvie | | |
| Online: Alis, Carlo, Joe, Ellie, Tom, Natasha Grant, David MacDonald, S McLennan, Ian Smt. | | |
| 1 & 2 | Chairperson’s Welcome and Rollcall | Action |
| | DL welcomed everyone to the meeting, including those who were attending via Zoom. Inform all the meeting will be recorded. | |
| 3 | Apologies and Declarations of Interest | |
| | Daniel Veltman – apologies No declarations of interest were stated. | |
| 4 | Aberdeenshire Coastal Path Project/Community Engagement | |
| | James Ferrier gave a presentation on the project supported by Ewan Clark a retired GP from Portlethen. JL from STP to make contact. The Project team asked for anyone who is interested in getting involved to come forward and speak to JS who would liases with the project team. JS stated that it is good the SDCC are getting behind this project as it would be great for the town, locals, and visitors. The PowerPoint presentation was circulated prior to the meeting. | JL |

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| | <p>IH – Noted that part of the cycle path south of Stonehaven is in very poor condition – The project team stated that they are trying to get it open for walkers first.</p> <p>DL asked for any questions from community councillors present and online – thanks to the team for taking time to come along and present to the meeting.</p> | |
| <p>5</p> | <p>Dunnottar Martyrs Memorial March:</p> | |
| | <p>DL gave a summary of the situation so far with the Area Committee decision and subsequent appeal being heard this coming Friday. It must be noted that the appeal is about how the council committee heard and made the decision – did they follow the right protocols and rules. It is in the hands of the court and nothing that is discussed at this SDCC will have any impact on the decision made. Note the number of people in the room and online shows the concern felt by the community. DL reiterated that the march was governed by different regulations and guidelines to that of events.</p> <p>SDCC had asked to speak at the Area Committee on behalf of the community as they had been contacted by many people concerned about the proposed march. JS spoke on behalf of the SDCC. JS – spoke in relation to the experience he has of organising and running events. The Town Hall being booked clearly shows this is an event being planned. Community Groups must look at what is happening with regards to future planned events. When organising events, we always have a duty of care to those taking part in the event, those attending the event and the community and that just has not happened here. The War Memorial Rededication event – muster before, parade, event after – all the same as this proposed march but why has there been such a different way of managing it by the council? Very clear that the community has very strong views about this, the sheer number of those contacting the SDCC and the social media posts. Our local police inspector was present and was happy to take questions.</p> <p>DB – community is anxious that the Town Hall is going to be used for this. DL advised the council are obliged to take bookings.</p> <p>SMcQ – stated that the online petition has gathered over 10K signatures with those from AB39 1,374 – clearly demonstrating it was something the local community feels strongly about.</p> <p>IH – Asked has the drinks licence been approved? Cllr B – advised that it will be granted and noted that the e statutory period for objection has passed. SMcQ stated with the licence being granting, both the Licence Board and the Police therefore have the power to enter the building if they wished.</p> <p>RC – Thanked the members of the community that spoke at the Area Committee meeting and to the 4 local elected members who listened to the community.</p> | |

DL opened up questions to online – AL reiterated what RC said and that the good people of Stonehaven should be thanked.

DL opened up to comments from the room. Simon Cruickshank (SC) owner of two businesses in the town read from a letter, signed by many of the towns publicans, who had a meeting that morning, which highlighted their concerns, not about the event in the town hall, but about the potential large number of visitors expected to arrive in the town, with some possible looking to cause trouble. They were worried for their employee's welfare and their premises, thus many had concluded it would be wise to remain closed on the day. SC asked a question regarding proposed policing arrangements for the day, including numbers and locations. Inspector DiMeola responded that it was operational decision, and she couldn't go into details, but stated the police would provide a proportionate level of policing, which would remain in place until everyone has dispersed. The Inspector advised that they were working closely with police from other areas across Scotland who have more experience policing such events, she also stated that the Police are very aware of the community feeling and the policing plan would remain in place regardless on the outcome of the appeal.

Comments from the floor – BM (Stonehaven Resident) stated that an organisation has refused a potential donation, so they have a policy that allows them to do this, he asked is there a similar policy in place for Aberdeenshire Council to refuse bookings? Cllr B – Stated not to her knowledge. Cllr A who had just joined the meeting stated there was no reason why the council should refuse the booking for the Town Hall.

PB (Stonehaven Resident) informed the meeting that there was in fact a counter petition of around 2,800 signatures in opposition to the council decision.

NY (Stonehaven Resident) asked is there going to be any extra police presence on Friday evening? The Inspector replied, that they already have extra cover planned for the Friday as it is, but if more are needed there will be extra available to attend.

GP (Stonehaven Resident) asked is there any advice for residents who are concerned? The Inspector responded by saying, if anyone has any concerns or intelligence of a crime to please call the police.

TG (Stonehaven Resident) asked what are the times the roads are closed? It was advised, if the march goes ahead then the roads will only be closed for a short time from the Market Square, along Allardice Street and up to Dunnottar Church. Access to the town will be in place from all other areas.

Cllr D joined the meeting online at this point.

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| | <p>There was discussion about the partial closing of the Market Square, due to it be designated a “Safe Area for Peaceful Protest”, including: logistics / manpower etc. The council would ensure barriers were available as required, and the police would manage the area on the day as part of their policing operation.</p> <p>MA (Stonehaven Resident) asked a question about Public Liability Insurance – it was understood this was in place.</p> <p>A general discussion was held regarding the general setup of the day – road closures, area for peaceful protest, march itself, bystanders etc. – JS raised issue, who has the duty of care for all of this, like would be expected from an event organiser.</p> <p>NMcK noted that the license application states there would be a maximum of 120 people present in the Town Hall, but there are around 200 expected to take part in the march and asked where the others would go after the march. Cllr T advised that this was raised at the Area Committee and assurances were given that there would be people leaving directly after the march.</p> <p>Cllr B – Reiterated that they are differences, both licencing and the obligation on organisers, for those organising a procession and those organising events. She also stated, she expected there would be a washup meeting regardless the outcome of the outcome of the appeal.</p> <p>GP (Stonehaven Resident) Asked where will the buses be parked? It was understood, buses would be dropping of passengers at the Town Hall, then parking along at Baird Park.</p> <p>A question was asked, why are local community groups (volunteers), when organising events expected to: arrange / apply for road closure; erect barriers; arrange First Aid cover and provide stewarding etc, and for processions the council arrange everything.</p> <p>BM (Stonehaven Resident) asked, if the decision is upheld not to allow the march, and with people still expected arrive regardless, will the police be making provisions for this? The Inspector answered Yes.</p> | |
| 6 | Plastic Free Stonehaven | |
| | <p>Marion Montgomery gave a presentation about Plastic Free Stonehaven and the promotion of this. Very good response from businesses, community, and youth groups. Monthly beach clean is consistently attracting 40 people taking part. Just under 300kilos this year already removed. Reward card to encourage families with young children to take part. Lots of events coming up to have promote this.</p> | |

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| | <p>MO proposed the SDCC fully support this initiative and pledges support to getting this message out and about with a public commitment and give it every support, JL seconded this. SMCQ will be the SDCC representative for Plastic Free Stonehaven. Everyone agreed this is the right thing to do and thanked Marion for taking time to come and present to the Community Council.</p> | |
| <p>7</p> | <p>Matters Arising</p> | |
| | <p>a) Storm Damage. At the Town Centre Improvement Group – Boardwalk Area the Council will consult with the community about the way forward down at the beach area. It is an ongoing issue down there.</p> <p>b) Stonehaven Medical Centre – Link with PPG. IH reported that there has been a considerable increase of the number of patients using the medical centre. The PPG would be keen to increase the number of its members to include younger people. All to actively promote this.</p> <p>c) Royal Mail Building – IH. AL reported that no update or contact has been received from the Post Office. Followup email has been sent.</p> <p>d) SSEN Kintore-Fiddes-Tealing East Coast OHL & 400K Substation organised by Crathes, Drumoak & Durriss Community Council. Everyone should have had a map. People who have looked at the overhead line the people directly affected, and the situation basically is the decision the primary decision are made by ESO and they have commissioned SSEN and they have no say if it becomes subsea or land capability. Everyone should go online and make comment about this – the size of the pylons is upto 15 storeys high. Noise is a concern; planting is an issue and how effective planning would help. Another area of concern medical concerns about being located near high powered cables. Please send feedback to SSEN individually, however the turnout at the event was good – massive concern in the community about this. The SDCC must capture this concern and represent this, and we have until the end of April to do this. This needs a full proper meeting to discuss this and would approach to community to get their views. DL added comments – Save Our Mearns need to be mentioned, a few things picked up – traffic through the town during construction, two routes for the cables E2 and E2 taking into account the location of the existing pipeline. A meeting to be arranged for all SDCC members interested in attending to discuss. Noise was mentioned. What happens in the future if we want to create new facilities – pipeline and this it could really affect what the community does. If any other future developments,</p> | |

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| | <p>they would also need something to tie in to – we could possibly end up with more than even this substation. Opened the floor for questions– no questions/comments so a separate meeting to be done. Date booked for Tuesday 19th @ 7pm.</p> <p>e) Redcloak Park – RC. Cllr B has chased this up again as has Neil West with SBN but to date there has been no response. Cllr B will continue with this.</p> <p>f) Hannah Dyson Award & Community Awards AL – all the nominations received have been circulated around the sub-committee. Aiming to have this sorted for the next meeting. DL requests that a date be sorted to arrange the presentation as before with refreshments etc.</p> <p>g) Public Toilets – Beach Area - JL gave an update of the latest meeting with Council – reported a very positive meeting. Toilets opening at Easter and will be kept open until after the leisure centre reopens to allow the staff to get used to the new building.</p> <p>h) Aberdeenshire Council – School Janitorial Services Review. DL reported that information of where the 79 hours are allocated around the cluster has not been located, specifically Stonehaven Schools. AL thanked Cllr D for her response but has concerns with the wording and would like clarification on how this will affect lets. Cllr D – assured that there would be no affect but will clarify.</p> <p>i) Lollipop Persons employment being discontinued. DL – this has caused a lot of concern, must be noted that if the substation does get go ahead the volume of traffic will greatly increase, this will have a massive impact on children crossing. RB – will the Council be putting a zebra crossing down to replace the Lollipop man? The area outside the Court House is a real issue at the busy times and children crossing without help really is a concern. What is the Council going to do to prepare for this? Will they be putting crossings in place? That is an absolute disaster waiting to happen with the removal of school crossing patrollers – parking is a problem. RC – savings been made but there was approx £3million from the Scottish government, what is this being spent on? Cllr T – this money is ring fenced with caveats and can only be used for specific things, not education and cannot be spent on non-statutory things including school crossing patrols. Cllr T – it</p> | <p>All invited.</p> <p>Cllr B</p> <p>AL</p> |
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| | <p>was not an easy vote to make but we have no option. JS – we have a duty of care, even though its non-statutory this should have been looked at. Where is Aberdeenshire Councils duty of care? This is a basic support, especially at the area RB spoke about – was there any consultation on this? RC the Councillors said it was the "parents job to get the kids to school". NMcK – this should not be considered an education issue, yes it is school crossing but it is a public health and safety issue. Cllr B – for the record the funding is not ring fenced but it has been passed from the Scottish government to the local authorities for general funding, the Administration voted for the cut but the opposition did not vote for it. SMcQ – this is a decision that other councils have made – have the council looked at the other areas to see if any issues have arisen? IH – it will result in more folks taking kids to school to ensure they get there ok, so more traffic on the road and the impact to the environment. AL – astonished that the council have taken this decision, we hope that we will not be here discussing any incident involving a child.</p> <p>j) Council Cuts – the council put in a service point at Viewmount but they are taking it out. The service will move to another location in Stonehaven. Cllr B said the library, but comments made about the reduced hours the library was operating with due to staffing. Decision was data driven by the number of people using it. It will not go completely.</p> | |
| 8 | Approval of Previous Minutes (13th Feb, 2024) | |
| | IH to approve, seconded by AL. | |
| 9 | Police Report | |
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| 10 | Planning Report | |
| | RNLI – all supporting. | |
| 11 | SDDC Committees/Subgroups | |
| | <p>a) Local Development Plan/Local Place Plan. MO reported that the draft textual and mapping reports are now ready for review and will be put back to the people for a final report by the end of June, 2024. DL acknowledged the colossal amount of work done by the group and expressed thanks to all. Next meeting 11th April.</p> | |

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| | <p>b) Invercarron Resource Centre/Older Peoples Services. No update on this.</p> <p>c) Community Resilience Plan – Update. Cllr B – consultation document is out on framework stragedy.</p> <p>d) Achere & Stonehaven Twinning Partnership – meeting was held but no update to report</p> <p>e) Swim the Bay – no update and RS was not able to attend the proposed meeting. JL to look at alternative dates and circulate.</p> | |
| 12 | Outside Bodies/Committees | |
| | <p>a) Transport Action Kincardineshire (TRAK) IH gave an update – waiting room update and letting people know you can use the waiting room in Stonehaven by calling the helpline.</p> <p>b) Town Centre Improvement Group – flooding, roadworks, Minneral park light update – brief talk about toilets.</p> <p>c) Kincardine & Mearns Community Council Forum – IH/RC update given about elections for community councils and AGM, Financial report needs to be approved in May but the councillors can wait until September. IH – police were there and that’s where they seem to be going to do their reports and this central point.</p> <p>d) Kincardine & Mearns Community Planning Group – no update. Cllr B – update given. Presentation giving an update on the new Rural Poverty Fund – delegated out to council officer and rather than apply for it they are going to do consultation and target the fund out. DL – good to see the fund being spread about. JL – good to see this funding but will they work with groups like the STP who are working in the community with so many groups looking for funding, rather than just with groups who are more vocal? Funding needs to be targeted where it is genuinely really needed and a lot of times these groups are not aware of funding available, hence why groups like the STP are trying to work with as many as possible. Cllr B will go back to the council officers.</p> | <p>Cllr B JL</p> |
| 13 | Treasurer’s Report | |
| | <p>This was circulated to all members prior to the meeting. The bill for use of the Court Building to be paid – JL to arrange for the invoice to be sent.</p> | <p>JL</p> |

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| 14 | Correspondence | |
| | None. | |
| 15 | AOCB | |
| | Cllr B – please all note you can request information about any requests for events, marches etc. Cllr B to write to AL | Cllr B |
| 16 | Dates of Next Meetings | |
| | Agenda Discussion and Planning Meeting – Tuesday 2 nd April Full SDCC Meeting – Tuesday 9 th April Next SDDC Business Meeting – Tuesday 12 March, 19:00 | |