



STONEHAVEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
 19:00 – 21:00 Tuesday 9th April 2024
 Meeting held in the Sheriff Court Buildings, Stonehaven

Present		
Community Council Members: Alistair Lawrie, <i>Secretary</i> (AL) via Zoom , David Lawman, <i>Chairman</i> (DL), Denise Bannerman (DB), Ian Hunter (IH), James Stephen (JS), Julie Lindeman (JL) Minute taker, Michael Ogden (MO) <i>Treasurer</i> , Pauline Brindley (PB), Raymond Christie (RC), <i>Vice Chairman</i> , Steve McQueen (SMcQ), Caroline Duguid (CD), Pauline Brindley (PB) via Zoom,		
Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members: Alan Turner (Cllr T), Wendy Agnew (Cllr A) via Zoom , Sarah Dickinson (Cllr D)		
In Attendance -		
Andrew Newton (AN), Rachel Frame (RF), Paul Tosh (PT), Carlo, Brian Menzies (BM), Denny Andonova (DA), Cathy Wilson (CW), Tracey Smith (TS), Robin Barclay (RB), David Strang Steel (DSS), John Cruickshank (JC) – Horizon Group, Jane Cruickshank (JaC) – the Bellman,		
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 Dawn Black (Cllr B), Fiona Malcolm (FM), Norman MacKay (NMky), Fiona Tavendale (FT)	
4	Stonehaven Gateway – Tesco Supermarket/EV charging hub	
	Developer had been in contact to say they were unable to attend this meeting but will be in attendance for the May meeting.	
5	SSEN Kintore-Tealing	
	Outline of the proposed plan was given and how we got to this point in time – including a summary from the meeting that all SDCC Members were invited to – what was discussed and hope to agree a submission from the SDCC. Overhead Line – 2 proposed routes discussed, impact on the Local Place Plan – what the community has asked for and restrictions on development	

due to pipelines; Hurlie Project outlined with the possibility of being aware of what it could become in the future ie a hub – all community councillors have been issued with a copy of this document. DL opened the floor to community councillors in the room.

MO – there has been some additional information shared on alternative towers and issues found with them, national grid ESO Beyond 2030 shows 2 and a summary of what this shows – circuits, plans for landfall site for offshore tie-in coming in at Gourdon, Scot Wind (no information for this – but they are due to have their own sites) including Glen Dye Wind Farm. SSEN are just focusing on this bit but when this is completed the follow on stages will be inevitable and they must be challenged on the whole project in total not just this bit. Some assurance from the Council that they are properly challenging SSEN? Zero consultation relating to the Glen Dye windfarm despite it coming into the area. Different groups all need to be listened to with farmers having concerns different to those of folks living in the areas and rural versus town based. DL – we must reiterate that when our elected members are looking at the planning application that they are only asking for one, the rest will come later so the whole picture needs to be taken into account. Discussion about the hub and what would be connected; impact on those activities that happen in Fettersso Forest – horse riding, cycling, running plus impact of any potential development on town traffic – must be noted the council are withdrawing lollipop-controlled crossing at busy areas next to schools so any increase in traffic will directly impact our children crossing busier roads. MO – will the council ensure that SSEN will make good any damage that occurs during construction? DL opened floor to all Community Councillor who were present online – comments from DV and AL in support of what had been discussed to far and AL asked about any possibly community benefit fund? MO – yes he thinks there would be some.

DL opened up the floor to all for questions. Brian Menzies (BM), resident in the town said proposed letter looks good but a direct question to SSEN about the substation would that be asked? MO – we wanted to get everyone’s opinions before submitting and DL talked about the public consultation but any questions about the future were not been answered as they were only there to talk about this specific part and nothing else – this is a small piece in a large jigsaw and we need the bigger plan to be shared. BM talked about community development trusts.

Tracey Smith (TS) from Save our Mearns spoke in depth and with a very good amount of detail about the project and how Stonehaven part came about; information presented to Stonehaven was quite disgraceful and wasn’t even part of the statutory consultation, she said we must establish that we will be included in future ones with our ward councillors being contacted about pushing for a repeat of the statutory ones. Discussion about the general lack of local knowledge from the SSEN personnel present at the community meetings plus many comments made about incorrect links appearing and lack of full information being made available.

The following was decided upon – No substation in Fettersso Forest and no overhead lines, a public inquiry to take place about the cost; Farmers must

	<p>be consulted, and a common stance taken. It is not up to us to find an alternative. TS said they will support us all the way with anything we may need – they have vast experience dealing with SSEN so far. JS thanks to TS for all of this invaluable input.</p> <p>IH – are we accepting that we got an acceptable consultation period? DL/MO – no and our elected members should push back on SSEN about this. Cllr T – very limited on what they can say at this point. SDCC needs to contact directly Planning Paul McCarry to ask about the planning process.</p> <p>DL we need to add to this that we need time to make a submission on the existing consultation, we need to beef up the section on consultation.</p> <p>DSS – speaking as a local farmer, no should be the submission on the existing consultation.</p> <p>DL – the community councils in the area are looking to have a joint meeting. MO – if the various cc in the area are going to put in a joint submission then it is important that they all agree on the wording – a common consensus but at the same time individual ones also need to be submitted.</p> <p>General discussion about wordings and the process of a submission and that the consultation period was woefully inadequate, all agreed a more detailed consultation needed. Three possible answers – No; No and add on information already prepared and we carry on the way already proposed.</p> <p>After a good discussion about it all DL – immediate response is we do not believe we have had sufficient information or time.</p> <p>One thing must be noted – MO has put in so much time, effort and work to this and has helped so many people understand better the implications of this – thanks to Mike for this. All present agreed.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>SDCC Constitution Review</p>	
	<p>Aberdeenshire Council are changing their election process so it's a shire wide policy to every 3 years – late Sept/Oct for meeting and nominations needed for August. Part of the process the council have indicated that there will be more flexibility over co-options. If we get people who are interested but we have no space, we need to look at the members who have clearly stepped back but are still on the council and still taking a place with no contribution to proceedings. RC gave a summary of a previous constitution that stated if you miss 3 meetings with no reason then we could contact them and see whats happening. It will not be in place for this time, but it will in place for the next election.</p> <p>All present agreed that this was the way forward.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</p>	
	<p>a) Storm Damage – boardwalk – Improving the Town Centre Group it raised that the council are looking at options for the path and will them to the community to discuss before any</p>	

	<p>decision is made. Quite a look of areas on the harbour are damaged – Cllrs present confirmed they are aware of this and are making plans. Steps on the beach are well worn and are needing remedial work or replaced. Cllrs confirmed they will keep SDCC informed.</p> <p>b) Stonehaven Medical Centre – Link with PPG RC – no update. Future meeting in April 30th at 1pm to meet with new staff at the medical centre.</p> <p>c) Royal Mail Building – IH – no update received.</p> <p>d) Redcloak Park – RC. Cllr B has been working with landscape services and trying to get the contractor back. RC – with the weather recently the condition has worsened.</p> <p>e) Hannah Dyson Award & Community Awards – AL. Thanks to SMcQ and JL and recipients have been selected, but until all informed no information on names will be released. AL to work on presentation evening for them.</p> <p>f) Public Toilets – Beach Area – JL. Beach toilets away to be opened. Mary Street were closed no reason why given.</p> <p>g) Aberdeenshire Council – spending cuts including: school janitorial Services Review/Lollipop persons/Viewmount Service Point/Library Opening Hours. Confirmation received that lets of buildings will not be affected by the janitorial cuts. Lollipop personnel – no updates on this. Viewmount Service point – closing early April but is moving to the library. Cllr B was following up on this and was informed that the intention and that eventually it will move to the leisure centre. Library opening hours – SMcQ there are still issues with this. Area Manager had reported that exceptional levels of staff sickness and maternity cover not materialising was the cause of the problems, however the library staff had said that because of the budget, cover was not put in place so the library has changed how it is staffed. Staffing has changed from 2 members to 1 member so this should hopefully have a beneficial impact. SMcQ urged anyone with any issues to please complete feedback form. Cllr D thanked SMcQ for his update and confirmed that staff at the leisure centre would be trained fully in the use of the service point. IH – can we please get LLA to a SDCC meeting so a proper discussion and a liaison plan be in place moving forward. Cllr D – could they possibly come to the Community Council Forum and update all the community councils? IH and DL to work this.</p> <p>h) Dunnottar Martyrs Memorial March – appeal was unsuccessful, the march did not take place and the event in the town hall went ahead. No incidents and an increased police presence on the day. DL will meet with the area manager about events and will bring back to the SDCC to report. BM – the event in the Town Hall and the procession on the same day, the RNLI have in place a mechanism for not</p>	
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	<p>taking a donation do the council have a policy in place for refusing bookings? Reiterates this was not a comment on this particular booking but a general question. JS everyone wants the community to be safe – general public, those involved, businesses so we must address how any future booking would be handled. DL will report back at the next SDCC meeting.</p> <p>i) Community Storage JS. Very difficult to get everyone together in the community but many groups are actively looking for storage for their kit, if any group could be encouraged to write to JS or the SDCC to say what exactly they are looking for it would help bring the issue to the council.</p>	
8	Approval of Previous Minutes (12th March, 2024)	
	RC approved, SMcQ seconded	
9	Police Report	
	Report was submitted to the SDCC the morning of the 9 th April and circulated to all.	
10	Planning Report	
	No major or significant applications made. Clashfarquar is needing the windows done. JS – a new leisure centre and supermarket are needed.	
11	SDCC Committees/Subgroups	
	<p>a) Local Development Plan/Local Place Plan – MO meeting planned for Thursday coming.</p> <p>b) Invercarron Resource Centre/Older Peoples Services – RC/IH. Cllr A trying to push to get one of the rooms in the IRC back into being in use for the resource centre groups, Dunnottar Lounge with the kitchen area. A summary was given and a petition is about to be launched. DV offered to take this as a paper format into the David Street Coop and both the Recreation Grounds and Carpet Design have agreed to take paper copies. The SDCC gave Cllr A their full support and thanks – IH.</p> <p>c) Community Resilience Plan – Update – MO. A rumbunctious winter period, work required but a meeting will be held to get all parties together.</p> <p>d) Acheres & Stonehaven Twinning Partnership – potential meeting with community groups. SMcQ – would there be any possibility of the towns signs to reflect the fact we are twinned with Acheres? AL to write to the council.</p> <p>e) Swim the Bay – JS/NM/SMcQ – needs a lot more work done on this before it can go ahead. A meeting to be held later on</p>	

	in the year with all interested parties getting together possible to bring in other groups.	
12	Outside Bodies/Committees (Brief Reports)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Transport Action Kincardineshire (TRAK) – IH currently trying to get a meeting with the responsible person re signage. b) Town Centre Improvement Group – AL/DL – next meeting 15th May. c) Kincardine & Mearns Community Council Forum – DL/RC/IH – looking to involve Live Life Aberdeenshire. d) Kincardine & Mearns Community Planning Group – IH – no further update at the moment. 	
13	Treasurers Report: - please see supporting documents	
	Treasurer requests any outstanding invoices to be get them submitted. Money received in from SSEN,	
14	Correspondence: AL	
	Nothing to report	
15	AOCB (NB Special Circumstance items only)	
	<p>IH – the community bus has got a faulty lift, its not in a good state. A meeting with Life Live Aberdeenshire should include this item. AL it isn't well publicised as a service people can access – LLA can be asked this when they are at a meeting.</p> <p>PB – reported she had just learned that the Stonehaven Medical Centre has stopped all forms of counselling services providing an hour or two of support. For a town of over 10K people this is not acceptable. DL we need to ask for further information about this. IH reported that on the web they do offer advice and signposting. DL suggests some research on this to find out exactly what is the situation. PB – this is worrying for our community as the support of the towns mental health is vital. PB to work on this.</p> <p>MO – Forest Park bus stop – this is not the safest of places and with it been used as a changeover it means buses are parked there for lengthy periods of time but it is difficult to see vehicles coming the other direction. Can the Bus Deport be contacted about this?</p>	
16	Date of Next Meeting	
	<p>Agenda Discussion Meeting: 7th May 2024 @ 7pm</p> <p>Business Meeting: 14th May 2024 @ 7pm</p>	