



**STONEHAVEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**
19:00– 21:30 Tuesday 8 October 2024
Meeting held in the Sheriff Court Buildings, Stonehaven

Present:		
Community Council Members: Alistair Lawrie (AL) <i>Vice Chair</i> , Brian Menzies (BM), Caroline Duguid (CD), Daniel Veltman (DV), David Lawman (DL) <i>Chair</i> , Fiona Tavendale (FT), Ian Hunter (IH), James (Jim) Morrison (JM), James (Jim) Stephen (JS), Julie Lindeman (JL) <i>Secretary</i> , Norman Mackay (NMcK) <i>Treasurer</i> , Philip (Phil) Mills-Bishop (PMB), Rachel Frame (RF), Raymond Christie (RC) and Steven McQueen (SMcQ)		
Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members: Alan Turner (Cllr T), Dawn Black (Cllr B) via Zoom , Sarah Dickinson (Cllr D) and Wendy Agnew (Cllr. A)		
In Attendance:		
Tim Stephen (K&M Area Manager), Jane Cruickshank, (The Bellman), Andrew McArdle, Paula Fogiel (St James' Church), John Cruickshank, Andrew via Zoom , and Carlo Williams via Zoom ,		
Karl Lebedis (Stonehaven Tennis Club / Stonehaven Recreation Grounds) joined for the later part of the meeting.		
Announcements:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JS on passed the sad news of Vera Coull's passing, Vera supported many projects within the town and was an active campaigner over the years, supporting the "20 Miles is Plenty" scheme for her street and campaigning vigorously to keep the Invercarron Resources Centre open. All passed on their condolences to Vera's family at this sad time. • DL congratulated our own Jim Stepen on his Inspiring Aberdeenshire Lifetime Achievement award. 		
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	
	Audrey Malcolm (AM)	

4	<p>Approval of Previous Minutes (13 August 24 & 23 September 24)</p>	
	<p><u>13 August 2024 – Business Meeting</u> These were approved by DV and seconded by IH.</p> <p><u>23 September 2024 – Inaugural Meeting</u> After amendments noted below: These were approved by DV and seconded by IH.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMB had reminder community councillors as per section 3.3 of our constitution, of the opportunity to involve young people (aged 14 & 15) as Junior Members of the Community Council. • PMB had advised members of the VUE Venue User Engagement meeting organised by LLA for the Leisure Centre after it's upgrade to be held at the Community Centre on the 1st October 2024. 	
5	<p>K&M Area Manager (Tim Stephen) Introduction / Visit</p>	
	<p>Tim introduced himself to Community Councillors and advised he was attending all new community councils at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>Tim provided updates / guidance on the following ongoing topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Stonehaven Boardwalk</u> Officers are proposing to tidy and slightly expand the existing path for this winter to ensure it has a width of 2 metres. We will also be installing some low level lighting in the area where the existing lights have been destroyed as a trial to see how this works for winter 24/25. The existing path will be extended to 'link' up with the parts of the wooden boardwalk that currently go nowhere to ensure it looks tidy with no 'paths to nowhere'. <p>Currently there are no plans to create defined 'edges' to the path, however this is something we can consider in future (budget permitting).</p> • <u>Traffic Management Study</u> Officers are looking at the study with a view to prioritising actions going forward – however any actions will be dependant on budgets being available. <p>Currently there is a formal engagement underway to look at improvements to the Beach Promenade and to Belmont Brae. It is hoped that officers will be able to secure funds to make permanent improvement to the Promenade.</p> <p>Diane Henderson (K & M Project Officer) has had some initial success in identifying practical places for Coaches to wait after dropping people off. Officers continue to look at options to improve the coach parking options.</p> 	

- Stonehaven Minibus

The Current Minibus (booked through LLA) is now reaching the end of its lifespan. LLA are conscious that there is a risk that the bus may reach a stage where it is beyond economically viable repair. Current usage levels are relatively low – though there are some regular users. Engagement is underway with existing users to ensure they have alternative options for travel should the bus not be available.

- Beach Toilets

These will close at the end of the October Holidays. We will have good signage up at the toilets to sign people to the Leisure Centre / Harbour Toilets / Town Centre Toilets. Leisure Centre toilets will be open to the public when the Leisure Centre is open. Weekend opening hours are currently 9 -5pm. Weekdays are 6.30am – 9.30pm. There is no intention to re-open the Beach Toilets – and ideally officers would want to ensure they are ‘obviously closed’ for next year to avoid confusion.

- Cold Water Swimming

LLA have received feedback that there is interest in cold water swimming in Stonehaven Open Air Pool. It is anticipated that LLA will offer some opportunities for this on an ‘event’ basis rather than a programmed basis later this year – more information to follow.

Tim took questions:

- PMB asked a question in relation to the Cold Water Swimming item and about a topic that had been discussion at the LLA VUE meeting regarding hot tubs, Tim advised he did not have all the details, but thought it was unlikely to be an option for this year, but if he had it wrong, he would come back to us.
- IH asked about the tail gait lift on the community mini bus, he understood it was not currently functional, Tim advised due to the significant cost involved in repairs, it was not viable to be done on the aging bus.
- BM asked if the boardwalk work include reinstating the wooded section, Tim advised know, BM followed up asking if there were plans to put Rock Armer in to protect the path, Tim, advise they believed the temporary (now to be permanent) solution appeared to holding up well, thus they plan to monitor the situation going forward, and depending on outcomes, and differing views on the potential benefits of Rock Armour they will review / revisit as required. Tim also confirmed at this time they are no plans to put in any hard edging.

- Community Council Code of Conduct / Social Media

Tim said one of the aims was to plug the opportunity for new and old community councillors to take some training, (including the Community Council Hand Book and wider role of Community Councillors and wish to highlight the standards of behaviour and ways of managing conflict laid out in the “Community Council Handbook” – He also highlighted the need for Community Councillors to represent the views of the wider community and not to use their SDDC membership as a platform to air individual views.

DL highlight the fact as the SDDC membership is made up of different people, with different experiences, backgrounds and contacts, our collective view goes a good way towards being representative of the wider community, but to enhance this, we should listen to the views of our community.

Tim highlighted the need for all to listen and be respectful of differing views, and likewise the importance when speaking to allow others to speak as well. It is also acceptable to disagree with someone, but not in a disrespectful way.

When (if) they are issues, there is a complaints procedure in the Community Council Hand Book, which sound formal, but the initial steps allow for informal resolution, which should be encouraged.

Tim highlighted a more modern issues for Community Councils – Social Media. As we are all now public figures we should be aware what we share / post as a private individual can sometime be interpreted by some as a reflection of n Community Councillor, thus advise is to consider carefully what we post and share on Social Media.

Tim advise many of the topics will be included within the Community Council training – Dated noted below:

- Wednesday 30th October at 7pm – Role of a Community Councillor.
- Wednesday 6th November at 7pm – Introduction to Community Councils’ statutory role in the planning process.

Sign up via [this link](#) to attend.

SMcQ asked a question about the Code of Conduct, “With the Code of Conduct truly Meaningful if you violate it, you can resign and come back without any consequences.” Tim advise we can only deal with what is happening in the now going forward, and it is difficult to make comment on any individual circumstances that may or may not come up in the future, plus stated as complaints to a large extent are delt with confidential, other may not be aware of all the details and as such it would be difficult to respond to what might happen – Does that

	<p>make sense – To which SMCQ replied no, plus stated that he felt as if the council were burying their heads in the sand and not dealing with the situation. Tim suggested they have a fuller discussion offline.</p> <p>IH highlight there is an important difference between being a Community Councillor attending a meeting and that of a Community Councillor representing the Community Council at a meeting, where the later would require the express permission / direction of the Community Council to speak on behalf of the Community Council representing the views and policy of the Community Council.</p> <p>Tim confirmed, if you are not officially representing the Community Council, you can still attend a meeting and make those present aware you are a Community Councillor, thus you can listen and bring back the details / information from the meeting to the Community Council for discussion.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:</p>	
	<p>a) <u>SSEN Kintore -Tealing 400kV Connection and Hurlie (Fetteresso Forest) 400kV Substation – Update</u></p> <p>There was a joint consultation event for both the Glendye Windfarm Connection and the Kintore to Tealing 400kV Connection Projects in the town hall today (8th October)</p> <p>Further details are available on the SSEN Transmission website: www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/tkup www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/glendye</p> <p>There was much discussion on where we were, what we had done in the past and what was our thoughts on the way ahead.</p> <p>Where previous discussion asked about alternative options to the overhead lines (such as under grounding and offshore) it was clear SSEN were only consulting about the actual route of the of proposed 400kV overhead line.</p> <p>There were discussions, regarding the different planning process for different elements of the project. The substation would be follow the more traditional process by submitting an application to Aberdeenshire Council, where SDCC will have the opportunity to formally submit our thoughts and a Section 37 application for the Overhead Line.</p> <p>A Section 37 application is a two-part process involving an initial application to the local planning authority followed by an application to the appropriate Ministry, i.e. for us in Scotland - Scottish Government Energy Consent Unit.</p>	

	<p>It was agreed we would circulate the information the previous Community Council had worked on to the New community Council and we would form a Sub-Group to take this forward. The sub group would include BM, PMB, CD & DL – A date for the meeting of the sub group has still to be arranged.</p> <p>b) <u>Aberdeenshire Council Updates.</u> This section has been reset, but will be used for topics SDCC wish updates from Aberdeenshire Council going forward.</p>	
7	Speed Limits on the Towns Approach Roads	
	<p>PMB raised a concern he had received a from a local resident about the existing speed restrictions on the road running out of the Town on the South up to the A92. The existing restrictions are 30Mph up to the crossing for pedestrians coming/going into the Braehead development, thereafter 40Mph up to the "roundhouse" and thereafter the National speed limit applies which could mean anything up to 60Mph. The proposal, with Community Council support, is to request Aberdeenshire Roads to consider reducing these existing limits both up out of the Town to the A92 junction to: 20,30,40Mph and down from A92 junction into the Town to 40,30,20Mph.</p> <p>RF noted that the “Crossing Patrol” signs were still present, was unsure if that gave a false impression to motorist that there was a safe crossing place ahead, or if it still being in place slowed drivers down. Cllr T advise the signs were to be removed, likewise Cllr D advised others similar sign in the town were also being removed.</p> <p>There was a wide ranging discussion including the provision of a crossing, which Cllr T advised this was under consideration, but is a timely process, including desk top surveys, on site survey work was needed to be done to confirm the need for a crossing.</p> <p>Cllr T also advise Aberdeenshire Council were looking at 20mph speed limits at various settlements across the shire. This is hoped to happen next year, but will require traffic orders etc.</p> <p>After much discussion including the option of another crossing and information about work being done on potential 20mph limits, SDCC agreed to leave this with the councillors to progress and ask them to keep up to date with progress.</p>	
8	Police Report	
	<p>The latest report was circulated this afternoon, no significant issues were noted.</p> <p>PMB Raised the issue of under age vaping, and was concerned, they had access to vapes and the resulting health issues.</p>	

	<p>It was noted Trading Standards were in Stonehaven recently where they conducted a Test Purchase Operation. They noted they were pleased to find that all 8 shops visited declined to sell our 17 year old Volunteer cigarettes or disposable vapes when she could not produce ID (by design). Which was a positive outcome.</p> <p>PMB was concerned some adults were purchasing vapes for young people.</p> <p>Cllr D advised that a ban on single use vapes was due to come into place in Scotland on the 1st April 2025, which she hoped would remove the cheap and many flavoured vapes from the market where were attractive to children.</p> <p>There was a discussion about vapes, noting they were a better option, for those who were stopping smoking, but still not good, with many long term health unknowns, thus nobody would suggest anybody should take up vaping.</p>	
9	Planning	
	They were no recent significant planning applications.	
10	Potential Co-option of Members	
	<p>It was noted we have four places available on the Community Council, where we have an option to co-opt members to fill these slots. There has been one person (Andrew McArdle – who was a previous member) who has contacted SDCC asking if they could re-join the Community Council.</p> <p>DL asked members if any SDCC member was aware of any others people who may be interested in joining the Community Council to on pass their details by the 20th October, and he would commence the formal process of advising Aberdeenshire Council, SDCC members before a formal vote at the November meeting.</p>	
11	Discussion / conformation of SDCC members representatives on SDCC Committees / Sub-Groups and Outside Bodies / Committees	
	<p>Members volunteered to join committees, good to get some of our new members involved, and have continuity from previous years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Community Resilience Plan</u> David Lawman, Daniel Veltman, Jim Stephen, Norman Mackay and Paula Fogiel (St James' Church) • <u>Local Development Plan / Local Place Plan</u> SDCC: David Lawman, Rachel Frame Others: Jane Cruickshank, Pippa Robertson and Mike Ogden 	

- 24 hour Public Access Defibrillators
David Lawman, Jim Stephen, Daniel Veltman & Norman Mackay
- Christmas Tree
Jim Stephen and many helpers
- Nippy Dip
David Lawman, Jim Stephen, Steve McQueen, Norman Mackay & Julie Lindeman
- Wind Farm Decision Making Panels
Primary: Steve McQueen, Back up: David Lawman
- Swim the Bay
As required
- Achères & Stonehaven Twinning Partnership
As required – Chair and Secretary to be nominated contacts.
- Hannah Dyson Award / Community Award
Alistair Lawrie, Steve McQueen and Julie Lindeman
- SSEN Kintore -Tealing 400kV Connection and Hurlie (Fetteresso Forest) 400kV Substation
Brian Menzies, Phil Mills-Bishop, Caroline Duguid & David Lawman
- Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership
Alistair Lawrie, Raymond Christie and Ian Hunter
- Town Centre Improvement Group
SDCC: David Lawman & Brian Menzies
SDCC Plastic Free Stonehaven Rep: Steve McQueen
STP: Jim Stephen & Julie Lindeman
- Kincardine and Mearns Community Council Forum
David Lawman, Raymond Christie & Ian Hunter
Note: Any Community Council member can attend
- Stonehaven Patient Participation Group
Raymond Christie, Ian Hunter & Rachel Frame
- Kincardine and Mearns Community Planning Group
Ian Hunter
- Transport Action Kincardine-shire (TRAK)
Ian Hunter
- Our Own Website and Facebook Page
David Lawman, Jim Stephen & Steve McQueen

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Active Travel in Stonehaven (When more info available)</u> Brian Menzies and Ian Hunter <p>Meeting dates to be arrange as required.</p>	
12	<p>SDCC Committees / Sub-Groups (Only Report if Applicable)</p>	
	<p>a) <u>Local Place Plan – Next Meeting 09/10/2024</u> Next Stage is to finalise request for feedback / approval about the draft from the community.</p> <p>PMB on passed the following feedback prior to the meeting.</p> <p>I have read the Draft LDP and I would be grateful if you as Chair of that Group (acknowledging work done by others) will take a/c of my observations to help improve it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The LDP is essentially a document that demonstrates an unfutable need(s) within a community based on empirical evidence and data. I do not see that data e.g., population demographics drilled down to specifics. For example if additional schools (whatever level) are required, the evidence is shown by the number of children on existing school rolls and projected for x number of years into the future that supports a need. either to expand the existing facilities or develop new ones. - Much of the draft uses the language of "aspiration" and "wish" to see. My experience is that much of this will be omitted by Planning Officers when they come to put the Regional Local Plan to Elected Members to approve. - On the specific "wish/aspiration" of developing more leisure/sport facilities; Stonehaven already has an artificial pitch facility within Mineral Well and a recent £2M revamp of the Leisure Centre. Moreover, at the recent VUE meeting Aberdeenshire Council sport/leisure managers outlined plans to incorporate a number of joint projects to further develop sport and leisure facilities/opportunities and make Stonehaven a "Hub". One example is to keep the Open Air Pool open all the year round for "cold water "wild swimming" and additionally provide Hot tubs" Although this does not omit the possibility of utilising Mackie Academy playing fields for other communal sports that are not catered for currently if empirical data of that need can be evidenced. - While the consultations already done must be applauded there needs to be more given that the number of responses to date represent only just 8% of the total population within the area of the SDCC and even this I expect is predominately from Town residents and not so much from the rural aspects within the SDCC boundaries. 	

	<p>BM highlighted the SEPA flood data, although the latest available, needs updated to reflect the completion of the flood prevention scheme works. Cllr T advised he had spoke to SEPA about this, but was advised it could take them up to two years to update the data.</p> <p>IH suggested as this was close to the end of the current process, the team should be seeking approval from the community for the document, rather than commence a further round of consultation.</p> <p>b) <u>Community Resilience Plan</u> It was noted that generator tie-in points had been installed at both St. James' Church and Fetteresso Church Halls. The cost was covered by funding from an SSEN grant.</p> <p>c) <u>Older People's Services</u> It was agreed we should widen the remit of this group to include the activities of the Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership, and as such the group title should also be Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership.</p> <p>d) <u>Achères & Stonehaven Twinning Partnership</u> The format of the group shall remain unchanged, with the chair and secretary being the contact points for the team in Achères.</p> <p>Contacts have been on passed to Achères for local Chess Club and Rugby Club.</p> <p>e) <u>Swim the Bay</u> At present we are waiting on feedback from the Wild Swimmers if the option of organising a swim that starts and ends in "Botany Bay" is a viable option to take forward.</p>	
<p>13</p>	<p>Outside Bodies / Committees (Only Report if Applicable)</p>	
	<p>a) <u>Transport Action Kincardine-shire (TRAK)</u> IH advised the speaker who was due to attend their next meeting was no longer available, due to a job change. Cllr D, was in touch with their replacement.</p> <p>IH shared information about a new bus service between Aberdeen and Edinburgh starting on the 22nd October operated by Ember.</p> <p>b) <u>Town Centre Improvement Group – Next Meeting 26/11/2024</u> Topics included updates on the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works at the Craws Nest • Plans for the Boardwalk • Traffic Management Report status • Coach Parking • Litter Campaign • Town Hall Shed 	

c) Kincardine and Mearns Community Council Forum – Next Meeting (Online Only) 04/12/2024

The following topics were included:

- Aberdeenshire Single Election
- SSEN Overhead Line/Substations (Kintore-Tealing 400kV Connection), David Edgar - Chair of Crathes/Drumoak & Durris
- Police Scotland Update
- Aberdeenshire Decides – Engage Aberdeenshire
- Community Council Issues/Updates
 - Mearns Community Council – Relationship with Aberdeenshire Council, Andrew Macdonald, Chair of Mearns

d) Stonehaven Patient Participation Group

RC provided an update and share two questions the group wish to put to NHS Grampian Annual Ministerial Review, on the 21st October 2024 in Elgin.

- Question for the Chief Executive & Chair of the NHS Grampian Board and Senior Members of NHS Grampian:

"In line with the Scottish Government's pledge to empower local areas to address pressing public health concerns [1, 2] would NHS Grampian urgently reconsider the reinstatement of a minor injuries service for Kincardine and the Mearns, on the grounds that its withdrawal is not only putting our population at risk, particularly the most vulnerable [5], but also unfairly disadvantages our community compared to others of similar size [3], fails to recognise forecast demographic trends [4] and goes against key Scottish Government policies on health inequality and climate change/travel? [2,5]"

- Question for Marie Todd MSP, Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport:

"The introduction to Public Health Scotland's Strategic Plan 2022-2025, published on 7 September 2022 [1] and currently showing on the organisation's website [2], states one of its key aims as 'empowering local areas to address pressing public health concerns.'

With that in mind, will the Minister support the request from Stonehaven Patient Participation Group to NHS Grampian, for the reinstatement of a minor injuries service for Kincardine and the Mearns, on the grounds that its withdrawal is not only putting our population at risk, particularly the most vulnerable [5], but also unfairly disadvantages our community compared to others of similar size [3], fails to recognise forecast demographic changes [4] and goes against key Scottish Government policies on health inequality and climate change/travel? [2,5]"

SDCC members were fully supported Stonehaven Patient Participation Group in obtaining a positive response to the questions.

	<p>PMB said that there was an opportunity to utilise the 2015 Community Empowerment Act s3 and initiate a Participatory Request which gives a Community Body such as SDCC the "right" to demonstrate a need in the community that needs to be addressed by the appropriate body i.e., NHS Grampian. The appropriate body has to respond and if rejected there is now an appeal available to the Community Body i.e., SDCC to the appropriate Scottish Minister for review.</p>	
14	Treasurer's Report	
	<p>August and September summaries were circulated to SDCC members, they are also available on the SDCC website.</p> <p>It was noted there would be some spend (Approx £1,250) from the Christmas Tree Fund to cover new decorations and safety harness for use while working at height. There are sufficient funds available to cover this cost. Thus all were happy to proceed.</p>	
15	Correspondence	
	<p>Chris Morris (via e-mail) submitted his resignation form SDCC.</p>	
16	AOCB	
	<p><u>Stonehaven Recreation Grounds</u> Following an EGM of the Stonehaven Recreation Grounds, which was attended by members / users and a few members of the community. DL had raised some concerns he had observed at the meeting with our two local councillors (Cllr D & Cllr T) who attend the trustees meetings as observers.</p> <p>Both Cllr D & Cllr T had advised DL, as they were aware of the fuller picture, they did not share the concerns but had understood why they were raised.</p> <p>Karl Lebedis (Stonehaven Tennis Club / Stonehaven Recreation Grounds) came along and said he would be happy to meet up with SDCC offline to discuss the matter(s) SDCC accepted his offer.”</p> <p><u>White Bridge</u> JS asked the Cllr's present if there was a "Warranty" on the work completed on the White Bridge, as there was issues with rust. Cllr T said he would look into it.</p>	
17	Dates of Next Meetings	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda Discussion Meeting: Tuesday 5th November 2024 @ 7pm • Business Meeting: Tuesday 12th November 2024 @ 7pm 	