



**STONEHAVEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

19:00– 21:00 Tuesday 11 February 2025

Meeting held in the Sheriff Court Buildings, Stonehaven

Present		
Community Council Members: Alistair Lawrie, (AL) via Zoom , Andy McArdle (AMcA), Audrey Malcolm (AM), Brian Menzies (BM), Caroline Duguid (CD), Daniel Veltman (DV) via Zoom , David Lawman, <i>Chairman</i> (DL), Fiona Tavindale (FT), Ian Hunter (IH), James Morrison (JM), James Stephen (JS), Julie Lindeman, <i>Secretary</i> , (JL), Norman McKay, <i>Treasurer</i> (NMck) via Zoom , Rachel Frame (RF), Raymond Christie (RC), Steve McQueen (SMcQ)		
Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members: Cllr Alan Turner (Cllr T), Cllr Dawn Black (Cllr B) via Zoom , Cllr Sarah Dickinson, (Cllr D), Cllr Wendy Agnew (Cllr A) via Zoom		
In Attendance -		
Fiona Malcolm, <i>Minutes Secretary</i> , Andrew Newton, Jane Cruickshank (Jane C) <i>The Bellman</i> , John Cruickshank (John C), Helga Macfarlane (HM) <i>Stonehaven Patient Participation Group</i> , via Zoom , Linda Anderson (LA), <i>Stonehaven Horizon Project</i> , T Gordon, via Zoom , Carlo Williams via Zoom , Moira Wilson via Zoom		
1& 2	Chairperson’s Welcome and Rollcall	Action
	DL welcomed everyone to the meeting, including those joining via Zoom. DL noted the sad passing of former Community Councillor Ian Balgowan and passed on his condolences to his family and friends.	
3	Apologies and Declarations of Interest	
	Apologies were received from Phil Mills-Bishop (PMB). RF declared an interest in Agenda Item 11b, as she is a Trustee of The Haven.	

<p>4</p>	<p>Stonehaven Horizon Project Update</p> <p>DL welcomed Linda Anderson (LA), Vice Chairman of Stonehaven Horizon Project, and invited her to address the meeting.</p> <p>LA explained that Aberdeenshire Council will provide fewer plants to the project than in previous years, to mitigate this Horizon are propagating, planting seeds and buying ‘plug’ as well as bedding plants. This will cost in the region of £200, therefore any contributions to the project will be welcome.</p> <p>DL noted the pressures on Aberdeenshire Council finances, and thanked Horizon for making the town look so attractive, he hoped people would be supportive.</p> <p>AM offered, on behalf of AI Taxis, to contribute £200 to Horizon. She suggested local businesses might be willing to sponsor planters in the town to raise further funding.</p> <p>Cllr T intimated that the Stonehaven Flood Action Group is in the process of winding up, and a share of any residual funds will be transferred to the Horizon Project.</p> <p>There are around 40 volunteers at Horizon, however, due to Health and Safety requirements potential volunteers should register interest before attending.</p> <p>Cllr D asked if Horizon was entering Beautiful Scotland this year (deadline 17 March), LA confirmed this.</p> <p>DL thanked LA for her update.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Approval of Previous Minutes (14 January 2025 and 21 January 2025)</p> <p>DL reminded Members that draft minutes are circulated prior to each business meeting, and any changes or amendments should be noted then.</p> <p>The Minutes of 14 January 2025 were approved by IH and seconded by JL.</p> <p>The Minutes of 21 January 2025 were approved by JM and seconded by SMcQ.</p>	

6	<p>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</p>	
	<p>a) The Management of Anti-social Behaviour</p> <p>A Briefing Paper from Aberdeenshire Housing Department was circulated via e-mail before the meeting. DL had not had the opportunity to discuss this document with those local people who had an interest, therefore this item is postponed to the next Business Meeting.</p> <p>b) Stonehaven Recreation Grounds</p> <p>DL advised that construction work of the aerodrome at the tennis courts had been delayed due to bad weather, however the contractors expect the work to be completed by the end of March 2025 deadline.</p> <p>c) Winter Road and Pavement Maintenance</p> <p>Cllr T is still investigating this issue.</p> <p>DL noted that Cllr A had sent an e-mail about the condition of Denis Roger Lane.</p> <p>RC asked if there was any progress with repairs to the potholes at the top of Evan Street? Cllr T said that any issues must be reported on Aberdeenshire Council's portal, and offered to pursue this.</p> <p>RC was concerned about the faulty streetlights on Martin Avenue, he had raised this with Aberdeenshire Council, and was advised there is a shortage of electricians available.</p> <p>JS suggested asking Aberdeenshire Council Roads Department how many lights are out across the town, and why these are not being repaired? Cllr B has a list and will share details.</p> <p>d) Library Usage Statistics</p> <p>SMcQ thanked Cllr D for providing information about library usage, data for April 2024 to March 2025 will be published at the end of May 2025. He noted footfall had reduced, but the library is open 20 hours less than before Covid. He suggested sharing the data with the public and adding new data when it is available.</p> <p>CD said people are still using the library, she asked what message should be shared with the public?</p>	<p>Cllr T</p> <p>Cllr B</p>

	<p>AMcA noted all the other activities happening at the library, it is still a viable resource.</p> <p>DL wondered if the decrease in users is proportionate to the reduction in opening hours.</p> <p>Cllr D advised the Communities Committee meets later in the week. The Council’s strategy is based around Academy towns. There may be an increase to provision to coastal communities. There is an issue relating to buildings. Members of the public can listen in to the Communities Committee meeting online. She noted the availability of digital access to books and audio books, the library also provides a home delivery service for those unable to attend in person. There is no question about the library service itself, rather how it is delivered, and this remains an active discussion.</p> <p>John C added that the library offers a warm, welcoming space for people struggling to heat their homes.</p> <p>BM noted the users per opening hour has remained the same, and highlighted the increase in events.</p> <p>IH said there remain rumours about possible relocation of the library, and suggested the Council should ask the community what they would like in the library.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>SDCC Communications</p>	
	<p>AMcA had prepared a paper that was circulated before the meeting. Communication is important, and he was keen to offer people the opportunity to contribute ideas. He asked how SDCC should tell the public about what is going on? He is willing to take a lead on communication, he acknowledged The Bellman already does a great job informing the community. He is interested in learning from other Community Councils.</p> <p>Jane C reminded everyone The Bellman is a community resource. She can provide SDCC with access to The Bellman website to publish its own material.</p> <p>JL commented that not everyone has access to on-line platforms.</p> <p>IH suggested publishing a (hard copy) quarterly newsletter.</p> <p>CD noted that Cults has a newsletter and a forum for regular surveys seeking people’s views.</p>	

	<p>AMcA agreed to provide an update for the next meeting, RF offered to assist with any graphics.</p> <p>DL reflected there are different ways to run surveys. He emphasised that AMcA will need help from others. He agreed options for printing (a newsletter) should be explored.</p>	AMcA & RF
8	Access to Viewmount for Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee Meetings	
	<p>DL said that most Aberdeenshire Council meetings are open to the general public, those held at Viewmount should be easily accessed, but anybody wishing to attend. Not everyone wishes to attend for the full meeting, perhaps only for certain items. An e-mail from the Area Manager clarified arrangements for people attending meetings, and suggested there is always a member of staff available to admit attendees.</p> <p>JL had to phone and tap on the window to gain entry, she is required to attend these meetings for her work.</p> <p>Jane C had found staff unwilling to admit her to the building, this was unacceptable.</p> <p>DL noted these meetings are not streamed 'live'.</p> <p>Cllr D was unaware there was a problem, and offered to feedback what had been said (to the Area Manager).</p> <p>Cllr T suggested SDCC and The Bellman raise this directly with the Area Manager, JL agreed to do this.</p>	<p>Cllr D</p> <p>JL</p>
9	Cowie to St Mary's of the Storm Church (next to the Golf Course) Coastal Path Status	
	<p>BM explained the path was closed following storm damage and erosion to the cliffs resulting in rocks falling. He asked if, as part of the Core Path Network, the path can be repaired?</p> <p>Cllr D advised that the path had been closed permanently last summer due to safety reasons. She will ask for a written update from Aberdeenshire Council. The North East Trail Group is not looking at this path, but has identified an alternative route. There is no money for the path in the forthcoming budget. The Local Authority has legal powers to close the path.</p> <p>JS reported there was an update on the area at Cowie and The Craw's Nest at the last Stonehaven Town Centre Improvement Group</p>	Cllr D

	<p>meeting. There is alternative ‘top’ route, which will provide access to wheelchair users.</p> <p>BM asked who makes decisions about paths, was a Health and Safety risk assessment done, and what were the costs?</p> <p>Cllr D will follow up on these queries.</p> <p>JL agreed to contact Diane Henderson in Area Office for an update.</p>	Cllr D
10	Police Scotland (PS) Report	
	<p>DL had received and circulated the latest report earlier in the day, he noted the increase in reported ASBOs (17 during January), and wondered what PS is doing about this? AM will follow this up.</p> <p>AMcA advised that Inspector Rhona Di Meola was leaving to take up a new position, and wished to record SDCC and the wider communities thanks to her for her support. James Nicholson will be assuming the role of Kincardine and Mearns Inspector.</p> <p>Cllr B advised of a regular PS Surgery in the library every Tuesday afternoon between 2pm and 3pm. She had asked PS to send further information to SDCC to raise awareness and promote to the community. She commented that PS statistics are high-level and can be misleading in relation to ASBOs. More details will be provided at the Aberdeenshire Council Area Meeting, information is also available as it is published in the public domain.</p>	AM
11	Planning	
	<p>a) Stonehaven Conservation Area Review by Planning Aid Scotland (PAS)</p> <p>DL advised that Aberdeenshire Council is reviewing the current Conservation Area and has engaged PAS to undertake a survey. PAS were speaking to local people at the recent Farmers’ Market. The current Conservation Area covers the older part of Stonehaven and the harbour. He wondered about the purpose of the review, as did BM.</p> <p>Cllr D said there are specific planning obligations relating to conservation areas.</p> <p>RF clarified there is a public consultation underway, and a public meeting is scheduled on 20 March at the Town Hall. There are two</p>	

	<p>proposals – to retain the current Conservation Area, or to split this into two areas.</p> <p>JS considered the review to be positive. The current area goes all the way up Arduthie Road. He asked if someone could explain the difference between listed buildings and conservation areas. He highlighted the high cost incurred by property owners required to replace/repair like-for-like using traditional materials.</p> <p>DL wondered if the consultation included a review of the rules as well as the area?</p> <p>BM asked about the purpose of the review, was the current system a barrier? He suggested inviting a representative from PAS or the Council Planning Department to address a future SDCC meeting.</p> <p>Cllr A agreed to follow up.</p> <p>DL asked if information could be made available before 20 March.</p> <p>JL wanted to know who had instigated the consultation and why, and asked what it was going to achieve.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b) APP/2024/2041/43 – Listed Building Consent & Full Planning Permission – Installation of Artwork – 3 Market Buildings, Allardice Street, Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire AB39 2BY</p> <p>DL wondered how this application fit with the Conservation Area review?</p> <p>JL thought it was a good idea, and that the artwork should reflect the history and heritage of the town and shouldn't be used as publicity for any specific organisation.</p> <p>RF confirmed there will be a community consultation event with the artist to design the artwork.</p>	<p>Cllr A</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>SDCC Committees / Sub-Groups/Projects</p>	
	<p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) SSEN Kintore -Tealing 400kV Connection and Hurlie</p> <p>DL had sent a response to the Council Case Officer. He thanked the sub-committee (BM and CD) for their work on this issue. He had asked why SSEN has not included Stonehaven as a consultation meeting location, this was due to low attendance and/or feedback at previous events in the town. SSEN has offered to speak to anyone who is unable to attend any of their planned events. SSEN has not replied to the invitation to attend an SDCC meeting.</p>	

	<p>AMcA submitted an objection within the published deadline, but it was rejected due to the high volume of submissions.</p> <p>BM asked if SDCC should invite to SSEN to a 'closed' meeting? To not engage is not good practice.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was agreed that individual responses to SSEN would be appropriate, rather than an approach from SDCC.</p> <p>AMcA wondered how best SDCC can support people affected, and suggested making it clear in communications that anyone can contact SSEN.</p> <p>JL will draft and circulate an e-mail on behalf of SDCC expressing disappointment there is no planned consultation meeting in Stonehaven, and reminding SSEN that there has been no response to the previous invitation.</p> <p>RF had noticed there are cones included on SDCC's coat-of-arms.</p> <p>b) Community Resilience Group</p> <p>DL explained SDCC can either hire or buy generators to be used in the event of power cuts. (Members of the public are expected to be self-sufficient for the first 72 hours after a power outage, the local authority steps in thereafter, providing a safe space at Mackie Academy.) There are two connection points, one at Fetteresso Church Hall, the other at St James's Church Hall. Each point requires a different generator. If SDCC purchased generators, these could be loaned to local community groups.</p> <p>JS explained that the smaller generator is mobile, the larger one less so, therefore buying both would be preferable.</p> <p>JM suggested a solar powered generator as another option.</p> <p>Cllr A asked if the bunker underneath Viewmount, which has space and a generator, might be of use?</p> <p>DL reminded members that SSEN had given SDCC a grant to instal connection points at three locations, however only two had been completed. There is £4500 underspend available, he advised that SSEN had confirmed this could be used towards the cost of a generator. Members anonymously supported the option of purchasing a smaller generator (10 to 12 kV).</p> <p>c) Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership</p>	<p>JL</p> <p>DL</p>
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	<p>RC had prepared a draft letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care. Members agreed unanimously to send the letter.</p> <p>d) Stonehaven 24 Hour Public Access Defibrillator Network DL proposed the purchase of a defibrillator for use by the three SAS Wildcat volunteers, who provide ‘first response’ should an ambulance not be available. As this is a more advanced defibrillator, it cost more than the other ones we have, the cost would be £2,938.32. It was also agreed to purchase a Training Defibrillator (compatible with our other defibs) and Manikin to help the defibrillator group provide training. There is sufficient funds in the defibrillator funds to cover this expense, these proposals were supported unanimously.</p>	RC/JL
13	Outside Bodies / Committees	
	<p>a) Transport Action Kincardine-shire (TRAK) No update.</p> <p>b) Town Centre Improvement Group BM reported that the group had reviewed its Terms of Reference, focusing on the Town Centre, the Beach Front and Harbour areas.</p> <p>Aberdeenshire Council are applying for a grant to take forward the improvements on the promenade as discussed during the traffic Management review, including both making the wider pavements put in place outside the businesses premises during COVID more permanent and installing additional parking spaces behind the outdoor pool. BM proposed that SDCC should write a letter in support of these improvements, this was agreed unanimously.</p> <p>c) Stonehaven Patient Participation Group RF explained that diversity of people involved in the group is a priority. A series of events is planned, including Prostate Cancer and the role of Advanced Nurse Practitioners. RC had suggested the Men’s Shed as a possible venue for the prostate cancer event, however this will take place at Stonehaven Medical Centre in April or May.</p> <p>d) Kincardine and Mearns Community Council Forum IH reported that Community Planning Partnership governance is being reviewed. He had raised the issue of lack of response from LLA to SDCC’s invitation to attend and address a meeting – JL confirmed she had e-mailed three times.</p>	BM/L
14	Treasurer’s Report	
	The Treasurer’s Report was circulated via e-mail prior to the meeting. Any queries about finance should be raised with DL or NMCK.	

	<p>DL proposed allocating the funds (£5,054) raised from the Nippy Dip event to four local causes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1k to the Long Term Defibrillator Fund • £1k to the Defibrillator Fund • £1k to the Christmas Tree Fund • £1k to the Resilience Fund <p>£500 will be kept for the Community Awards. These proposals were unanimously supported.</p> <p>He also proposed the transfer of the outstanding SSEN grant to the Resilience Fund. (This will replace the former Training Fund). These proposals were agreed unanimously.</p> <p>DL had received a notification of our insurance cost (circ. £340) for next year. DL is checking to see if this quote also covers the Nippy Dip, as we had to pay a supplement last year.</p>	
15	Correspondence	
	None received.	
16	AOCB	
	<p>a) AL has sent a letter inviting nominations for this year’s Hannah Dyson Award to Mackie Academy and The Bellman. He will send a copy to DL to post on social media.</p> <p>b) DL said the current SDCC logo is too small. IH may have a copy of a larger version, if not DL will get a costing for a proper digital copy.</p> <p>c) JS asked when there will be an update to the school projections, the most recent data is from 2022. Cllr D said this is reviewed annually in March, she will find the most recent figures and share these. JS wanted to know how we can attract more people to the town, he was concerned there is a possibility one of the (primary) schools may close if roles dropped as predicted. DL suggested this was an item for discussion at a future meeting. He also intimated that Jonathon Milne, Ury Estate, wishes to speak to a future SDCC meeting.</p>	<p>AL/DL</p> <p>DL</p>
18	Dates of Next Meetings	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda Discussion Meeting: Tuesday 4 March 2025 @ 7pm • Business Meeting: Tuesday 11 March 2025 @ 7pm 	