



STONEHAVEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

19:00– 21:00 Tuesday 8 April 2025

Meeting held in the Sheriff Court Buildings, Stonehaven

Present

Community Council Members:

Alistair Lawrie, (AL), Andy McArdle (AMcA), Audrey Malcolm (AM), Caroline Duguid (CD) **via Zoom**, Daniel Veltman (DV) **via Zoom**, David Lawman, *Chairman* (DL), Fiona Tavindale (FT), Ian Hunter (IH), James Morrison (JM), James Stephen (JS), Norman McKay, *Treasurer* (NMcK), 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 Wendy Agnew (Cllr A) **via Zoom**

In Attendance -

Fiona Malcolm, *Minutes Secretary*, Jane Cruickshank (Jane C) *The Bellman*, John Cruickshank (John C) *Horizon Group*, Andrew Newton
Angela ?, T D Gordon, Michael ?, Lewis ?, Steve Peacock **all via Zoom**

1 & 2	Chairperson's Welcome and Rollcall	Action
	DL welcomed everyone to the meeting, including those joining via Zoom.	
3	Apologies and Declarations of Interest	
	Apologies were received from Brian Menzies, Julie Lindeman, Phil Mills Bishop, Cllr Sarah Dickinson	
4	Approval of Previous Minutes	
	The Minutes of 11 March 2025 were approved by AM and seconded by NMcK.	
5	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes	
	a) Stonehaven Recreation Grounds (SRG) DL has received background information from John Agnew. DL will meet with AMcA and BM to explore next steps.	DL, AMcA, BM

	<p>b) Safety Concern at B979/A90 (south) Traffic Light Controlled Junction DL has written to Transport Scotland (received holding reply) and Aberdeen Roads Limited (no response to date.)</p> <p>c) Beach Toilets Signage Update There are new signs in the toilet windows, however these are still not easy to see. DL asked if a way could be found to reopen the Beach Toilets?</p> <p>JS said there was no money, however the Council wants Stonehaven to be a tourist hub.</p> <p>DL reflected that other local authorities find external grants for tourism projects, could someone from the Council pursue this?</p> <p>SMcQ said better signage had been discussed at the Stonehaven Town Improvement Group (STIG) a year ago.</p> <p>DL wondered if there is a way for SDCC to work with the Council on this, and to be more ambitious.</p> <p>AM asked if charging the public to use toilet facilities was an option. DL noted that elsewhere access to public toilets uses debit card payments.</p> <p>Cllr T confirmed the current policy is not to require the public to pay to access toilets. He suggested raising this at the next STIG meeting. Previous consultations (on paying for access to toilets) had not engaged with the community.</p> <p>DL asked where the consultation report could be found?</p> <p>Cllr T thought either the Area Manager or Economic Development would have a copy.</p> <p>AM asked about the Comfort Payment Scheme.</p> <p>AMcA asked was there a budget for this (scheme) and if so, could it be transferred?</p> <p>Cllr B clarified details of the Comfort Partnership Payment. This is an annual amount given to businesses who make their toilet facilities available to the general public. The amount paid does not cover the costs of providing a public toilet, take-up has been poor.</p>	
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	<p>d) Roads and Lighting Update</p> <p>DL asked if a rolling plan was available? Cllr T offered to check after the Easter recess.</p>	Cllr T
6	<p>The Aberdeenshire Council (Kincardine and Mearns) (Speed Limits Revocation) Order 2025 and The Aberdeenshire Council (Kincardine and Mearns) (Speed Limits) Order 2025</p>	
	<p>DL shared a visual map of the proposed 20mph speed limit zones in Stonehaven.</p> <p>AMcA thought this made sense from a safety perspective due to the reduced likelihood of serious injury to pedestrians if traffic is restricted to 20mph.</p> <p>Cllr T confirmed the policy (and proposals) apply only to reducing from 30mph to 20mph, there is no scope to alter 40mph speed limits.</p> <p>Cllr B clarified that, through the public consultation process, people can suggest reducing from 30mph to 20mph, or increasing 20mph to 30mph. After consulting statutory consultees (like SDCC), the general public is invited to contribute. Any unresolved objections are passed to area Elected Members.</p> <p>AMcA asked if it was possible to object to 40mph speed limits?</p> <p>Cllr B confirmed this was not within the scope of this exercise.</p> <p>AM asked if the current 20mph outside Mackie Academy could be extended beyond the first roundabout on Slug Road. RF agreed, her son was knocked off his bike there.</p> <p>DL asked if members were supportive of this suggestion, it was agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Cllr T said he had suggested this already and is awaiting a response.</p> <p>JS and AMcA agreed to work together on a proposal to Aberdeenshire Council and Transport Scotland to reduce the current 40mph speed limit at the approach towards the AWPR.</p> <p>DL asked if they could include the 40mph at Braehead, RF agreed as there is a bus stop on the other side of the road there.</p> <p>Cllr T was unhappy about the section of road beyond Fetteresso Cemetery, and suggested this should be 20mph, DL agreed.</p>	JS, AMcA

7	Landscape Services Update Request/Spring Clean: (Abandoned sand bags around the town; Weeding plan & grass cutting plans etc)	
	<p>DL was concerned that the town looks untidy, in particular the number of abandoned sandbags, he asked if there are plans for weeding and grass cutting. In particular, the area around Farmfoods, where buses stop, is particularly untidy.</p> <p>SMcQ recalled there had been a previous survey about moving the location for buses to stop, but this had never been followed up.</p> <p>AM offered to provide ‘manpower’ to remove disused sandbags if someone else provides transport.</p> <p>JS commented weeds are breaking through pavements, the bottom line is there is no money, a hit squad is required.</p> <p>John C said that many voluntary groups working together would be needed. The Horizon Group recorded several thousand ‘man hours’ (volunteers) to prepare the town for Britain in Bloom.</p> <p>RF checked Aberdeenshire Council’s website which states the Council will collect unused/disused sandbags if they are causing a problem.</p> <p>DL asked if SDCC could coordinate a community effort for a clear-up, and canvassing community support.</p> <p>John C said May is a good month to consider a spring clean, and offered to walk the route with DL to assess where the sandbags are, also to identify the zones groups of volunteers could focus on. He suggested dedicating a day, preferably at a weekend for the clear-up.</p> <p>AM suggested Community Service participants might be utilised.</p> <p>John C confirmed some work had already been done through Community Payback, but they would need to be asked.</p> <p>DL asked the Councillors for their views, would they be supportive of a tidy up of sand bags?</p> <p>Cllr T agreed to follow up with the Roads Department and Landscape Services.</p> <p>SMcQ suggested confirming the Council departments’ position first (before organising volunteers to do a pick-up of sand bags).</p>	<p>Cllr T</p>

	<p>RF noted that sand bags are being phased out (for householders requiring flood prevention).</p> <p>Cllr T said the Council still issues sand bags, and promotes other flood prevention devices. Sand bags are issued to individual householders.</p> <p>AM commented they should be reported as litter (according to Aberdeenshire Council website).</p> <p>DL and JS will work together to compile a list (of sand bags).</p> <p>DS asked if there is any plan for Landscape Services to address the overgrown bushes and shrubs in the town?</p> <p>Cllr T said there is no general plan, but they do what they can, he will ask.</p>	<p>DL, JS</p> <p>Cllr T</p>
8	Police Scotland Report	
	DL had not received a report this month. He was disappointed that neither Police Scotland nor Scottish Fire and Rescue representatives were at Stonehaven Library when they were supposed to be available to the public.	
9	Planning	
	<p>a)Fibre Optic Connections</p> <p>IH shared photographs of unsightly fibre optic cabling from various locations.</p> <p>JM commented these could easily be vandalised too.</p> <p>DL noted that planning permission is not needed for telegraph poles, was this the same for fibre optic cables?</p> <p>IH suggested asking the Planning Department to clarify the policy.</p> <p>Cllr T said it was an Openreach issue, rather than Aberdeenshire Council. He suggested SDCC raise at the next STCIG meeting.</p> <p>b) Stonehaven Conservation Area Review by Planning Aid Scotland (PAS)</p> <p>IH attended the Planning Aid Scotland public consultation event and wondered how much this had cost? Could the money be used to fix broken street lights instead? He felt the consultation was a waste of money.</p>	

	<p>DL reflected there was money for surveys but not for doing anything with the survey outcomes.</p> <p>Cllr B offered to check where the budget had come from.</p> <p>RF noted PAS had used poor quality maps, the staff had no local knowledge and were giving inaccurate information.</p> <p>IH thought it would be cheaper to ask the local community.</p> <p>Cllr A was unhappy that the Scottish Government wished to exert control.</p> <p>DL asked who had commissioned PAS and at what cost?</p> <p>Cllr A and Cllr B agreed to find out more.</p>	<p>Cllr B</p> <p>Cllr A, Cllr B</p>
10	Hannah Dyson/Community Awards	
	<p>AL thanked JL and SMCQ for their help in selecting the successful recipients of the awards. He had emailed details to all members. Dylan Cousins and Grace Campbell will both receive Hannah Dyson Awards. Community Awards will be given to David Fleming, Paul Tosh and (posthumously) Ian Balgowan. There will be a ceremony at 7pm on Monday 28 April at No 44, the Lord Lieutenant will present the awards. IH or DL will do the introductions, all members are welcome to attend.</p> <p>DL thanked AL, JL and SMCQ, and said it was great to recognise people who have contributed positively, £500 was raised at the Nippy Dip specifically for these awards.</p>	
11	SDCC Committees / Sub-Groups/Projects	
	<p>a) SSEN Kintore -Tealing 400kV Connection and Hurlie No update</p> <p>b) Community Resilience Group DL received an e-mail from Aberdeenshire Council offering some financial assistance for “Community Resilience” communications. The generator needs to be bought soon, JS has met with the electrician and a plant hire company.</p> <p>c) Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) DL has not received a response to his letter, which was copied to the Scottish Government. Cllr B advised that Pam Milligan is moving on from AHSCP.</p> <p>d) Stonehaven 24 Hour Public Access Defibrillator Network</p>	DL, JS

	<p>DL asked id SDCC would support donating the specialist defibrillator we purchased for the uses of the local SAS Wildcat Team, to SAS, Scottish Ambulance Service, this way they would they would insure it, provided maintenance and supply any consumables required. Their would be agreement for he defibrillator to remain in Stonehaven. All agreed to donate the defibrillator to the SAS, for use by the local Wildcat team.</p> <p>e) SDCC Communications AMcA is leading on this. He wants to make SDCC's profile more visible in the community. He circulated a draft paper before the meeting setting out plans and was keen to seek feedback from members. This will also be published in The Bellman, encouraging people to share their views. He intends to look at making the SDCC website more user-friendly and will provide an update at the next business meeting. DL offered to work with AMcA on this.</p> <p>CD suggested providing contact details (of Community Councillors).</p> <p>AMcA agreed this should be available on the website, and include a summary of the roles of Community Councillors.</p> <p>RF thought the draft paper would translate well into radio.</p> <p>AMcA said there is already a strong local community, but things need to be done differently. He acknowledged that money is an issue. He has researched what other Community Councils are doing, and has found some who run community lotteries. An example in Ayrshire (Darvel) has raised up to £30k per annum through their lottery. The proceeds are used to support community projects. He is happy to carry out further research.</p> <p>DL highlighted the need for other members to offer their support.</p> <p>JS recalled that previously SDCC had looked at employing a street orderly, so having funding to do this would be welcomed.</p> <p>DL thanked AMcA for this positive suggestion, which he fully supports, and urged others to get behind it.</p> <p>JS commented it would be a massive drain (on STP) to take on the running of the Beach Toilets or employing a street orderly.</p>	<p>AMcA, DL</p> <p>AMcA</p>
12	Outside Bodies / Committees	
	<p>a) Transport Action Kincardine-shire (TRAK)</p> <p>No update</p>	

	<p>b) Town Centre Improvement Group DL to raise sand bags and fibre optic cabling at the next meeting.</p> <p>c) Kincardine and Mearns Community Council Forum DL was concerned this only now only meets every 6 months.</p> <p>d) Stonehaven Patient Participation Group RF reminded the meeting of the next awareness/information event at 6pm on 28 April at the Stonehaven Medical Practice, the topic is Prostate Cancer. Future events will focus on the role of Nurse Practitioners and HRT.</p> <p>e) Community Planning No update.</p>	
13	Treasurer's Report	
	<p>Circulated to all members prior to the meeting. The annual accounts will be prepared in time for the AGM in May.</p> <p>AMcA asked if there was any available resource in the Admin budget for developing the website.</p> <p>DL suggested waiting to see what work might be required, a lot of the budget is already ring-fenced, the company that 'hosts' the website specialises in working with Community Councils, the current website enables uploading of documents to be very straightforward.</p>	
14	Correspondence	
	None.	
15	AOCB	
	<p>AM noted the speed awareness sign at the Garden Centre had gone, also coach parking proposals at the Community Centre were not feasible.</p> <p>DL agreed to raise at the STCIG.</p>	DL
18	Dates of Next Meetings	
	<p>a) Agenda Discussion Meeting: Tuesday 6 May 2025 @ 7pm</p> <p>b) AGM: Tuesday 13 May @7pm</p> <p>c) Business Meeting: Tuesday 13 May 2025 @ 7pm following AGM</p>	