



**STONEHAVEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**  
19:00– 21:00 Tuesday 13 May 2025  
Meeting held in the Sheriff Court Buildings, Stonehaven

<b>Present</b>		
<b>Community Council Members:</b> Alistair Lawrie (AL), Andrew McArdle (AMcA), Audrey Malcolm (AM), Brian Menzies (BM), Caroline Duguid (CD), Daniel Veltman (DV), David Lawman (DL), James (Jim) Morrison (JM), James (Jim) Stephen (JS), Rachel Frame (RF), Raymond Christie (RC), Steve McQueen (SMcQ)		
<b>Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members:</b> Wendy Agnew (Cllr A) <b>via Zoom</b> , Dawn Black (Cllr B), Sarah Dickenson (Cllr D) <b>via Zoom</b> , Alan Turner (Cllr T)		
<b>In Attendance -</b>		
Jane Cruickshank (Jane C) The Bellman, John Cruickshank (John C) Horizon Group, Joyce Esson (JE) The Bellman.  Steve ?, TD Gordon, Carlo Williams, GT? all <b>via Zoom</b>		
<b>1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Chairperson’s Welcome and Rollcall</b>	<b>Action</b>
	DL welcomed everyone to the meeting, including those joining via Zoom.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Apologies and Declarations of Interest</b>	
	Fiona Tavindale (FT), Ian Hunter (IH) and Norman MacKay (NMck)	
<b>4</b>	<b>Approval of Previous Minutes</b>	
	The Minutes of 8 April 2025 meeting were approved by RC and seconded by AL.  The Minutes of 6 May 2025 special meeting were approved by JM and seconded by AL.	

<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Report / Update from Special Internal Meeting on 6th May 2025</b></p> <p>DL reported SDCC members after a full discussion and reviewing all the relevant information agreed to the permanent expulsion of a member from Stonehaven and District Community Council.</p> <p>14 SDCC members attended the meeting with eleven members voting in favour of the expulsion and three members abstaining.</p> <p>The member was advised of the decision on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2025.</p>	
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</b></p> <p>a) Stonehaven Recreation Grounds (SRG)  SDCC had been asking why Aberdeenshire councillors are now only filling an observation / advisory role to the SRG trustees, rather than being full trustees of SRG. Aberdeenshire Council had advised the change came about due to “The Long Leases (Scotland) act 2012 converted the existing 999 year lease into full ownership (by SRG) in 2015.”</p> <p>DL has received background information from both Gordon Ritchie and John Agnew regarding the status of the trust etc. What is clear, although very respected professionals, the information they provide does differ, highlighting the complexities of the subject.</p> <p>DL will meet with AMcA and BM to explore next steps.</p> <p>b) Hannah Dyson and Community Awards  AL reported the award were a great success, especially the No. 44 Hotel as a venue. AL thanked both SMcQ and JL who had assisted with the awards. Thanks were also on passed to Alastair Macphie The Lord-Lieutenant for presenting the awards.</p> <p>SMcQ advised he went to pay the bill, and the team at No. 44 had said, they were delighted to support the event and community and would not be on passing the bill to SDCC.</p> <p>SDCC will write to No. 44 and thank them for their support and will also express out gratitude for their support via our Facebook Page.</p> <p>c) Coach Parking  AM reiterated her concerns regarding how long busses could get from the Market Square to one of the nominated parking spaces for coaches, along the suggested route, sighting limited space for long busses to manoeuvre around some of the junctions.</p> <p>Both Cllr B &amp; Cllr T will seek advise and report back.</p>	<p><b>DL,  AMcA, BM</b></p>

	<p>There was a wider discussion about the increased pressure on existing facilities within the town to support the increasing numbers of tourist visiting the town, (including coach drop off points / coach parking / toilets etc.) and the limited ability of Aberdeenshire Council to act due to ongoing funding constraints. It was suggested we should be looking elsewhere for funding, Scottish Government and external Grants etc.</p> <p>It was agreed to form a group to have a closer look at the issues and potential solutions etc., that could be feedback via SDCC to the Town Centre Improvement Group.</p> <p>The group (AMcA, RF, CD, JS, BM and DL) would meet on the 20<sup>th</sup> May @ 7pm in the court Room to discuss options etc.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Farrochie Park – Proposed Improvements</b>	
	<p>AM shared some pictures highlighting some of the concerns / potential issues with some of the suggested improvements.</p> <p>Cllr D, asked if members had completed the survey, so their concerns were captured.</p> <p>Where the Survey was helpful, it was suggested a couple of SDCC Members AM &amp; JS meet up with the team at the park to highlight the concerns.</p> <p>Cllr D said she would endeavour to facilitate a site visit / meeting.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Police Scotland Report</b>	
	<p>DL advised the latest report had been circulated, plus he had popped into the Library for a catch up with both Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue lads during their drop in session at the library this afternoon.</p> <p>AM highlighted the difficulty local businesses were having receiving timely progress after reporting issues.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<b>Planning</b>	
	<p>No items of note since the last meeting</p>	

<b>10</b>	<b>SDCC Committees / Sub-Groups/Projects</b>	
	<p>a) SSEN Kintore -Tealing 400kV Connection and Hurlie No update</p> <p>b) Community Resilience Group DL confirmed progress was being made regarding obtaining a generator, a couple of options are being investigated, some more info required before confirming which option we go with. JS also speaking to a local supplier. Members agreed we could proceed (up to £6K – current allocated funds for the project.)</p> <p>Been advised that we should have funding for Portable Power Stations via Aberdeenshire Councils (SSE Funded) Communication Solutions Grant.</p> <p>c) Aberdeenshire Health &amp; Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) DL advised he, IH and RC had meet with Cllr A in preparation for a meeting with Aberdeenshire Councils Chief Executive to discuss the potential of shared access to the Invercarron Resource Centre.</p> <p>d) Stonehaven 24 Hour Public Access Defibrillator Network DL noted a few pads were changes out late April as they were expiring.</p> <p>e) SDCC Communications No update</p>	
<b>11</b>	<b>Outside Bodies / Committees</b>	
	<p>a) Transport Action Kincardine-shire (TRAK) No update</p> <p>b) Town Centre Improvement Group No update, next meeting 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025</p> <p>c) Kincardine and Mearns Community Council Forum No update, next meeting 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025</p> <p>d) Stonehaven Patient Participation Group No update, last nights meeting was postponed.</p> <p>e) Community Planning No update.</p>	

<b>12</b>	<b>Treasurer’s Report</b>	
	<p>NMcK sent his apologies.</p> <p>The annual accounts were not complete in time for the May AGM, but shall be presented at the June meeting for approval.</p>	
<b>14</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>	
	None.	
<b>15</b>	<b>AOCB</b>	
	<p>Beach Toilets</p> <p>With Aberdeenshire Council only having funding to open two of the towns three toilets within the town, there has been a suggestion due to large numbers of people now visiting the Beach area, that consideration be given to re-opening the Beach Toilets, but close the Margaret Street Toilers instead. (The Harbour Toilets would remain open). As well as supporting the large number of people (locals and visitors alike), the standard of facilities at the Beach are significantly better than the Margaret Street Toilets which are very tiered and need some serious TLC.</p> <p>All agreed ideally all three toilets should be open, we can’t advertise ourselves as a tourist area, and not provided the required facilities.</p> <p>There was mixed views about agreeing to the suggested swap, will we be moving a problem from one location to another. Did we know what towns folks views were on the matter. There was an understanding the view of towns folks may differ from visitors (i.e. more locals may use the Margaret Street Toilets and more visitors the Beach Toilets.)</p> <p>It was asked if the council had done a cost analysis if charging was implemented, if we charged to use the toilets, would the income allow all there to be open. Councillors advise the council was reviewing their public toilets strategy, knowing different areas have different requirements.</p> <p>It was agreed to add the topic of toilets to the sub group meeting to discuss facilities for visitors.</p>	
<b>18</b>	<b>Dates of Next Meetings</b>	
	<p>a) Agenda Discussion Meeting: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 @ 7pm</p> <p>b) Business Meeting: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025 @ 7pm</p>	