



STONEHAVEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

19:00– 21:00 Tuesday 09 September 2025
Meeting held in the Sheriff Court Buildings, Stonehaven

Community Council Members:

Alistair Lawrie (AL), Brian Menzies (BM), David Lawman, *Chairman* (DL), Fiona Tavindale (FT), Ian Hunter (IH), James Morrison (JM), James Stephen (JS), Norman McKay (NMCK), Rachel Frame (RF), Raymond Christie (RC), Steve McQueen (SMcQ)

Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members:

Cllr Alan Turner (Cllr T), Cllr Sarah Dickinson (Cllr D) **via Zoom**, Cllr D Black (Cllr B) **via Zoom**

In Attendance -

Fiona Malcolm, *Minutes Secretary*, Jane Cruickshank (Jane C) *The Bellman*, John Cruickshank (John C) *Horizon Group*, Allan Sutherland (AS), Andrew Newton (AN), David Macdonald (DMcD), Julie Lindeman (JL), David Strang Steel (DSS)

TD Gordon, Wendy Agnew, Xiaomi 2112121, Stoney, Ben Plouviez, Carlo – **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 Andrew McArdle, Audrey Malcolm, Caroline Duguid, Daniel Veltman, Philip Mills-Bishop	
4	Approval of Previous Minutes	
	The (amended) minutes of the previous meeting (12 August 2025) were approved by SMcQ and seconded by AL.	
5	Election of replacement SDCC Chairperson	
	DL intimated he was stepping down from his role as SDCC Chairperson. AL and Cllr T both acknowledged and thanked DL for	

	his valuable contribution as Chairperson over the previous three years. DL asked for nominations for a new Chairperson. BM proposed RF, AL seconded this nomination, there being no other nominations, and RF agreed to accept the chairperson role. This was unanimously supported. DL, AL and RF will arrange to meet for a handover of responsibilities. DL offered to continue to chair this meeting, RF agreed. As RF was now the chairperson, this left the secretary's role vacant. DL was nominated by RF and seconded by JS, there being no other nominations, and DL agreed to accept the secretary's role. This was unanimously supported.	
6	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes	
	a) Update from Special Internal Meeting on 8th May 2025 Tim Stephen (TS), Area Manager has advised he would respond to the letter SDCC had sent him soonest. b) Education and Children's Services – Facilities Hire Arrangements Cllr D had spoken to Allan Rae who has offered to meet with SDCC, Cllr D, AL and IH will attend. IH's letter (outlining concerns about the new arrangements) has been sent to Aberdeenshire Council. IH asked for assurance from Aberdeenshire Council that Public Liability Insurance would not be required by small community groups wishing to hire facilities. Cllr D offered to speak to the team at Stonehaven Community Centre and will share with IH the response she has already received from Aberdeenshire Council officials. AL said in his recent experience nobody was available to provide advice, and the staff at the Community Centre could not help. c) Tourism Facilities • Toilet Provision BM, RF and CD had prepared a short survey which is available on-line (on SDCC website). They also interviewed members of the public at the Farmers' Market on 7 September. RF said there had been 48 responses so far, the survey will be available for a further period. Most people were surprised to learn that Local Authorities are not obliged to provide public toilets. The team will draft a feasibility study by the end of September and present this at the SDCC meeting in October.	Cllr D

	JS noted that as Stonehaven Leisure Centre currently provides access to its toilets, this may be an additional strain on their resources. • Coach Parking JL said the parking space at the Town Square was working well for coaches coming into the town centre, the alternatives were not ideal. • Motorhomes AS presented his research and proposals for possible parking for motorhomes at the Mineralwell. The proposals have been sent to the Area Manager (TS) who will respond before the October holidays. DL noted the initial proposal was for parking only, not facilities. JC felt it was important to offer visitors to Stonehaven better hospitality. DL agreed there is a need for additional facilities (for motor homes), but highlighted the importance of engaging with regular users of Mineralwell Park, e.g. Stonehaven Youth Football Club, Park Run. RF asked how much land was required, JC confirmed it was the grass area adjacent to the single track road, she noted there had previously been a toilet block in this area. BM asked if the car park at the viaduct end of the Mineralwell was too far away to be a potential site, he wondered if the proposed site might be close to residents at the Old Mill, their consent would be required too. IH recalled a proposal in 1973 to make use of land at the Mineralwell for caravans, this was not supported at the time. He suggested holding a public meeting in the Town Hall. David Macdonald (DMcD) queried the legislation required as the land at the Mineralwell, along with Baird Park and Stonehaven Recreation Grounds (SRG), had been gifted to the people of Stonehaven for recreational purposes. He suggested the removal of 20 static caravans from the SRG site would free up space for motorhomes. JC agreed this would be the best solution, however SRG were not prepared to consider this option. Cllr T noted the Mineralwell had previously been considered for coach parking, however the area is prone to flooding. He agreed somewhere (for motorhomes) needs to be found. BM suggested undertaking an options appraisal.	
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	AS reiterated, that providing an area for parking, without access to facilities, might be possible at the Mineralwell. JC asked if this issue might be considered by the Stonehaven Town Centre Improvement Group (STCIG), and develop a map showing where motorhomes could park. DL suggested a sub-group of STCIG, which SDCC would support, JS agreed, this had already been discussed (at STCIG), and it definitely required its own group. BM proposed 2 actions – carry out an options appraisal and establish a dedicated sub-group. AS said Aberdeenshire Council needed to be involved, Cllr B recommended waiting for feedback from the Area Manager before deciding next steps. She added that the Traffic Management Report needs actions, Aberdeenshire Council wants to find solutions, perhaps trail things, and to keep a positive focus. DL summarised saying SDCC was supportive but cautious as the solution needs to be best for the whole town. He invited AS to come back to SDCC after the Area Manager has responded. d) Kincardine Community Hospital – Removal of X-Ray Facility DL had written to NHS Grampian and received a holding response. Cllr B had received a more detailed reply which was shared with SDCC members. RC had recently spent 8 weeks at KCH and wished to thank everyone who had visited him during his stay. He pointed out that the X-Ray facility is only one service provided there, Aberdeenshire Integration Joint Board is looking at the status of community hospitals across the area, he felt community hospitals could be used far more. AL was very concerned about the gradual dissolution of service provision. IH proposed SDCC should write (to the Integration Board) to ask what they are planning, so this can be discussed with the community now. DL suggested waiting for the full response to his letter first. e) Glenskinnan Renewable Energy Park Project BM attended a meeting hosted by Local Energy Scotland, they are keen to work with Community Councils, Banchory Development Trust is taking the lead on seeking legal advice about a draft Memorandum of Understanding. Galileo Empower is developing proposals for the	
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	Park, they wish to involve communities and ensure community benefits, SDCC will be included in any benefits resulting from the project.	
7	Police Report	
	This was circulated before the meeting, there were no comments.	
8	Planning	
	APP/2024/0962 – Erection of Retail Store, Electric Vehicle Charging Hub and Class 3 Café/Restaurant with Associated Car Parking, Servicing, Landscaping and Access. DL said the Developer may appeal (the decision to refuse planning permission) within 3 months, or reapply within 12 months. Jonathon Milne, Ury Estate was keen to provide an update at the next SDCC meeting. There had been no clear data available about how local people would respond to having either one or two supermarkets. He suggested working with Stonehaven Business Association and establishing a small sub-group to design and undertake a small survey after the next SDCC meeting. AL agreed. RF, DL, BM and JS volunteered. RF noted the recent Town Centre Health Check was full of errors and omissions, she had to push for this to be made available. The information presented to the Infrastructure Services Committee (ISC) was based on 'visits' to Aberdeenshire Council's website. DSS thanked DL for his contribution to the ISC, and suggested the Developer, SDCC and Aberdeenshire Council should all contribute to the content of the proposed survey. DL thought SDCC should 'own' this and ask the questions. Cllr T explained that Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee had referred the planning application to the ISC. There will be a new Local Development Plan in two years. Three people had spoken about the retail impact of the proposed development, one each on behalf of the Co-op, TESCO and Aberdeenshire Council. He expected there to be more planning applications. JC suggested making the response (to the proposed survey) an amendment to the existing Local Place Plan. DL confirmed that SDCC was disappointed at the decision to reject the planning application.	

9	SDCC Committees / Sub-Groups/Projects	
	a) SSEN Kintore -Tealing 400kV Connection and Hurlie (Fetteresso Forest) 400kV Substation/Existing Fetteresso 132kV Substation Upgrade/Other Energy-related Projects/Community Benefit Request to participate in the proposed 'North East Convention of Community Councils Meeting' with MPs/MSPs (Similar to Highland where 60 Community Councils are working together). Date 1 October 2025, Time 11.30 am, venue Stonehaven Town Hall DL asked if SDCC should attend this event? RF, IH and BM agreed to attend. b) Community Resilience Group DL offered to attend a meeting about resilience on 10/10/25. c) Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) No update. d) Stonehaven 24 Hour Public Access Defibrillator Network DL will arrange a group meeting. e) SDCC Communications – no update, defer to next meeting	RF, DL, BM, JS DL DL
10	Outside Bodies / Committees	
	a) Transport Action Kincardine-shire (TRAK) No update b) Town Centre Improvement Group BM advised that Aberdeenshire Council is adopting the 'FixMyStreet' app, Cllr T confirmed Aberdeenshire is the first Local Authority in Scotland to use this tool. (The app enables citizens to report a problem using postcode or street name and area, this is then sent on to the Local Authority.) c) Kincardine and Mearns Community Council Forum Next meeting 03/12/2025 (online) d) Stonehaven Patient Participation Group RF reported the next meeting will be held on 29/9/25 e) Community Planning The latest meeting had been cancelled.	

11	Treasurer's Report	
	This was circulated in advance of the meeting. NMCK highlighted the payment from Aberdeenshire Council of this year's grant. DL thanked NMCK.	
12	Correspondence	
	a) Westhill and Elrick Community Council – Aberdeenshire Council Funding Share Discussion DL noted that Aberdeenshire Council receives less funding than other Local Authorities. Cllr D said it is CoSLA that determines the funding formula, Cllr B explained the Leaders of each Council make the case to CoSLA on behalf of their Local Authority. b) North East Convention of Community Councils and East Scotland Convention of Community Councils	
13	AOCB	
	a) Community Empowerment Act 2015 BM referred to The Community Empowerment Act 2015 which requires Local Authorities to be more proactive and work in collaboration with communities. He asked for more information relating to Participation Requests. Cllr D said Aberdeenshire Council is outcomes-focused (?) She thought there had been relatively few Participation Requests but will investigate. DL has a copy of a report about Participation Requests. b) Christmas Tree This will be erected at the Square on 29 November. c) Nippy Dip 1/1/26 DL said this is a great fund-raising opportunity run by SDCC. He proposed supporting SDCC's own projects again, this was agreed unanimously, and Community Councillors were keen to volunteer for the event. d) Volunteers JS was concerned about the pressure on community groups and burden on volunteers (resulting from the numerous consultations underway). He asked for feedback from Aberdeenshire Council on	Cllr D

	progress taking forward proposed actions identified in the Traffic Management Report and Town Centre Health Check. Cllr T said Aberdeenshire Council has no funding to take these actions forward. Cllr D said officials are actively pursuing additional funding opportunities. Feedback on recent (unsuccessful) funding applications for the Beach Front and Belmont Brae had been shared with STCIG, which includes SDCC representatives. DL thanked RF for accepting the role of SDCC Chairperson and asked everyone to support her.	
24	Dates of Next Meetings	
	a) Agenda Discussion Meeting: Tuesday 7 October 2025 @ 7pm b) Business Meeting: Tuesday 14 October 2025 @ 7pm	