



STONEHAVEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

19:00– 21:10 Tuesday 12 May 2026
Meeting held in the Sheriff Court Buildings, Stonehaven

Community Council Members: Brian Menzies (BM) <i>Chairman</i>, Fiona Tavendale (FT), Ian Hunter (IH), James Stephen (JS), Phil Mills Bishop (PMB), Rachel Frame, (RF) <i>Secretary</i>, Raymond Christie (RC), Shona Reid (SR), Trish Gripper (TG) Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members: Cllr Alan Turner (Cllr T), Cllr Sarah Dickinson (Cllr D), Cllr Wendy Agnew (Cllr A)		
In Attendance - PC David Charnley (PCC), Jane Cruickshank, (JaC), <i>The Bellman</i>, Joyce Esson, <i>The Bellman</i>, John Cruickshank (JoC), David Strang Steele (DSS), Steven McGarva (SMcG), Ben Train (BT), Jonathon Milne (JM), Steve McQueen (SMcQ), Derek Pirouet (DP) via Zoom, David Lawman (DL), Andrew Newton (AN)		
1 & 2	Chairperson's Welcome and Rollcall	Action
	BM welcomed everyone to the meeting	
3	Apologies and Declarations of Interest	
	Apologies were received from Daniel Veltman, Norman McKay, Andy McArdle, Ben Plouviez (BP), (Cllr Dawn Black noted in email after meeting). JS declared an interest relating to Item 8 SDCC Funds, he is a member of STP	
4	Co-option of Community Council Officers	
	BM introduced Trish Gripper (TG), who said she was willing to be co-opted on to SDCC, as she is interested in community council work BM proposed and IH seconded her co-option, this was supported unanimously.	
5	Police Report	
	PC David Charnley (PCC) introduced himself, noting that he had attended meetings previously and that scheduled attendance was now returning. He highlighted the introduction of the new format Police Report, which would give more detail on a quarterly basis,	

	rather than statistics for 'Stonehaven area' which covered several settlements. PMB raised issues with youth behaviour at the bus stop/Farmfoods at lunchtime and after school, and also at Carron to Mumbai restaurant, asking if police were aware. PCC replied that the issues regarding the former were known, but was unaware of the latter. PCC added that they were working on issues with Mackie Academy and parents would be contacted once the pupils were identified. JS noted issue of parking at harbour (which had been raised at the recent Stonehaven Town Centre Improvement Group by Cllr D). At that meeting, Aberdeenshire Council agreed to redo the yellow parking bays – however this remains at low priority and would need to be elevated. Cllr D agreed to look into the status of the work. A similar request was made at the STIG meetings for improved signage to deter large vehicles from entering the harbour area. JS requested police help in managing parking situation at the harbour and also for parking issues around the Market Square/coach parking area. PCC noted that tickets had been issued at the Market Square area, and agreed to meet with JS on location to discuss further. IH asked if monitoring parking at the Square was possible – PCC would discuss with his Inspector about adding to his foot patrol. Cllr A also noted that the one-way system needs repainting – this was raised at Ward 18 meeting. RF noted there has been no contact from Police Scotland with the SDCC/community regarding the Orange Order march. In the recent Licensing sub-committee, much was made over the rights to march under Article 11 of the ECHR, but residents also have rights under ECHR Article 8. RF appreciated that whilst PCC was unable to answer the following questions, there is a need for clarity for community members' legal rights on 27 June. PCC agreed to forward the questions (to be emailed by RF) to the Police Scotland Events Team: • What legal rights do residents and community groups have to in terms of PEACEFUL counter-protest? • Does a static protest require advance notification or permission? • Is there a designated liaison officer for community representatives? • Where can a lawful counter-protest safely assemble without risk of breaching police conditions? • Is there a limit to the number of counter protestors in any particular location? • Can counter-protestors move between locations? • Will police facilitate visibility and audibility of the counter-protest while maintaining separation?	Cllr D PCC JS PCC RF
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	Are there restrictions on banners, amplification, placards, noise or chanting? Cllr A recalled that in March 2024, members of the community resented being corralled into a defined space in the Market Square. JS enquired whether there had been any consultation by Police Scotland Events Team with the Stonehaven Office – PCC replied that there had been no contact with the Events Team. JS added that there was a lack of local knowledge on the sub-committee and Inspector Taylor of the town of Stonehaven, noting that the Inspector thought it would take ½ hour to process from Baird Park to Dunnottar Castle. PCC informed that his Inspector was currently writing a community impact assessment for the 27 June. BM thanked PCC for his time.	
6	Supermarket Presentation by Developers/Retailers & Survey Results BM introduced the various parties and invited them to talk for 5 minutes each. Derek Pirouet (DP) presented the plans for the Ury Estate retail development: - planning permission application has been submitted to Aberdeenshire Council - much of the current plan reflects the extant planning permission – location of retail unit, road layout, carpark location. - There are additional carparking spaces now that there are 2 operators on site: M&S and Aldi - The design of the Aldi building is generic - There is a slight increase in floor space (mostly backroom storage) - Flat roof and neutral palette to minimise visual impact from Ury House RF asked for clarification from the extant planning permission. DP highlighted the 2 stores rather than a single operator, and the different visual appearance. Steven McGarva (SMcG) presented the plans for Ashfield Land/Tesco at New Mains of Ury Estate: - Ashfield Land are returning with a new application - Same 5-acre site as previously submitted, featuring 18 EV chargers, 200 car parking spaces, and a full-size Tesco supermarket (25,000ft²)	

	• What is different? The reason for refusal was the cumulative impact on the town, but Ashfield Land believed that there was limited convenience shopping in the town centre • Commissioned a more detailed household survey with NEMS, of 140 local residents – results indicated that the town centre is not reliant on main food shopping. • PoAN lodged in February 2026, with application late May 2026, and determination likely in autumn 2026. • Public consultation had 111 people attend over 2 events. PMB asked about SUDS and parking spaces. SMcG confirmed 200 carparking spaces, the agreed use of 2 adjacent SUDS ponds, and noted that the carpark will have attenuation measures in place. JS noted: that they will be adhering to drainage requirements from Aberdeenshire Council. RF delivered the results of the SDCC Supermarket Survey: https://web-cdn.org/s/1227/file/consultations-and-reports/Supermarket-Survey-Report.pdf The key findings were: • The results for this survey broadly echo our findings from the Local Place Plan Survey4 in autumn 2023. • Previously, 80.7% of respondents stated that, should the Ury Supermarket not progress, it was very important to develop a supermarket for Stonehaven at an alternative location. • The current survey reflected that more than 8 in 10 of respondents usually purchased their main food shop from outwith Stonehaven. • More than ¾ of people surveyed were in support of a full-sized supermarket in addition to the proposed medium-sized Aldi and M&S retail units on the Ury Estate. • 57% of respondents thought that their visits to shops and businesses in Stonehaven town centre would remain the same if all proposed retail units were approved and built. A further 29.9% believed that their visits would become more frequent. • 92.8% of the responses were from the AB39 district postcode – covering the town of Stonehaven and its immediate surroundings. • Given the limitations of a voluntary organisation working without a marketing budget, there was both a good response rate, and wide range of ages represented. JS noted that the leakage from Stonehaven needs to stop – 2 supermarket locations will be wanted by the community as they’ve waited a long time for a supermarket.	
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	IH remarked on the 50% of shoppers heading to Portlethen – it being likely that these were dedicated trips. PMB remarked that it was an excellent survey. He asked the developers if they thought their proposals were viable. SMcG replied comparing the population statistics for other Aberdeenshire towns and the multiple supermarket each town had – he considered it perfectly normal, and from a Tesco/Ashfield Land perspective they were comfortable with the other proposals. Cllr T noted that there is a Coop and a Farmfoods in the town centre, and that the size of the proposed developments is important, not the brands. JoC noted the huge work done on the survey. SR voiced that there was no choice in Stonehaven. IH suggested that people from Inverbervie and the like, will choose to shop in Stonehaven, rather than by-passing the town. JS noted that the proposals would offer affordability and choice. BM proposed that SDCC support the building of retail development in both locations. JS seconded and the vote was unanimous. BM to write letter of support.	BM
7	Approval of Minutes	
	The minutes were approved with the following amendments: BM proposed the motion, seconded by JS for the Battle of the Boyne item. Rf Proposed and IH seconded for the item regarding the bus stop on Barclay Street.	
8	SDCC Funds	
	JS left room during the discussions for this item, as he is a member of STP. BM reminded the members that he had agreed to act as Chair until the AGM after which he intends to step down. NMck has also indicated that he will step down at the AGM. BM highlighted that the funds raise by the community for the Christmas tree, defibrillators and resilience projects would be affected if there were no forthcoming office bearers, that the bank account would have to be closed with Aberdeenshire holding the monies until a new community council was established. Maintenance of the defibrillators is expensive and this is cause for concern due to the uncertainty of the viability of the SDCC. BM noted that he had discussed with K&M about a proposed transfer of the funds to Stonehaven Town Partnership, and they had no objections.	

	RF noted that any transferred funds would be ring-fenced as they had been raised by the community. JaC noted that the defibrillator was accessed today and it is really important that they are robustly safeguarded. Cllr D and Cllr T commented that they were happy with the provision of service under STP, provided the funds were ring-fenced. Cllr D wanted to check that STP were aware of the proposals. PMB asked why would the transfer be done ahead of the AGM. BM stated that if we don't have a Treasurer, the accounts are blocked. IH was in favour of the transfer – that it is good to formalise links with other organisations. FT enquired whether it could be done on a temporary basis, as those activities are part of what we do as a community council. BM replied that those undertaking the tasks are no longer members of the SDCC. RF noted that we need to ensure we have capacity for core matters, the things we are obliged to do as a community council, adding that this had been accepted by K&M Area Office. SR was happy with the ring-fenced distribution to STP – we can't lose the money as a community. Member of the public, Andrew Newton (AN) added that we could add a clause to guarantee continuing service should the STP cease to exist and funds still remain. IH considered it common sense – leaves minimal work for a potential incoming treasurer managing smaller amounts of money/transactions. Cllr D asked: does it matter which organisation holds the money as long as they are trustworthy? PMB again asked why balances need to be transferred ahead of the AGM, and asked why the SDCC would no longer be running community events such as the Nippy Dip. FT expressed that there was a negative feeling about the survival of the SDCC.	
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	IH remarked that both SDCC and STP are community-focused organisations. Cllr T agreed with RF and IH – that the bandwidth of the SDCC is important and thinks that the STP is a good way forward. Cllr A thought this would be a prudent decision. BM proposed that funds (with the exception of the admin fund) be transferred to STP. Those funds be ring-fenced for the specific purpose for which they were fund-raised, and that a clause is included to pass on to an appropriate organisation, should the STP cease to operate. IH seconded, and the following vote was 6 in favour and 2 against. David Lawman (DL) asked SDCC to write a letter to STP with proposals	BM/RF
9	Notification of Procession: Commemoration of the Battle of the Boyne	
	BM stated that a letter had been sent by SDCC to elected members highlighting the disappointment in the outcome and lack of local democracy, with no elected members from south Aberdeenshire involved, and the overreliance by committee members of the content of the Police Report. Cllr D explained the decision made by Aberdeenshire Council (full council meeting) to move all such notifications to the Licensing committee – a trained committee to address notifications and consider legal tests, that these were statutory quasi-judicial decisions, not geographic. She added that local elected members were consulted in reports. Cllr T added that each notification is specific, and that there was a very short window for comments, but he had visited with businesses and the concerns coming from the public highlight their anxiety. Police Scotland say they can manage the situation, and counterprotest. Cllr A remarked that she was elected to serve the people. She noted that BM did an excellent job, and the decision needs reversing, as it was made by elected members from north Aberdeenshire. RC agreed with Cllr A regarding the lack of a local decision. RF noted that PC Charnley stated his Inspector was now writing a Community Impact Assessment. Cllr D noted the Police Scotland will continue to monitor the developing situation, and SDCC should ask about the impact assessment.	

	JS stated he was proud of SDCC, SMCQ and Ward 18 members. He noted the lack of consultation of the local team by the Events Team, and was clear that Inspector Taylor was unfamiliar with the route – thinking it would take 30 minutes to travel from Baird Park to Dunnottar Castle. He reiterated the call for decisions to be made locally and to speak with PC Charnley regarding the Community Impact Assessment. IH asked for clarity on the ‘no music’ condition. Members responded that it was only if a service was taking place. IH wondered why that would be the case in other areas. Cllr T noted that all 4 elected members had objected. Cllr A disagreed with the Integrated Impact Assessment for equalities noting that a ‘medium’ impact had been allocated. She questioned ‘how many are attending, if the parade will take 5 minutes to pass any one point?’ Cllr D considered that it would place a considerable burden of policing to manage the march. BM ended the discussion with a request for elected members that steps should be taken for the membership of committees to reflect geographic distribution.	JS
10	Hannah Dyson Awards	
	In Alistair’s absence, JS noted that this was in hand	
11	Planning	
	RF noted Aspen Presentation relating to PoAN on Thursday 28 May 12-7pm and Tuesday 14 July 12-7pm, both at Station Hotel	
12	Outside Bodies/Committees	
	RF attended Stonehaven Town Centre Improvement Group – the decision was made by Aberdeenshire Council not to proceed with Baird Park as a coach stop. The Council are currently mapping alternatives – e.g., Cowie layby, prior to putting to public consultation	
13	Treasurer’s Report	
	Already covered in discussion.	

14	Correspondence	
	• John Cruickshank – The Big Help Out. JoC noted that there would be more information distributed within the next day • Torc Torrance – Newtonhill, Muchalls & Cammachmore CC – potential active travel collaboration request linked to Aspen Windfarm and connecting Stonehaven-Newtonhill-Portlethen • Resident concerns re Nadarra proposals – referred to Planning Aid Scotland • Resident. – re harbour congestion & parking – raised at STIG & Cllr Sarah Dickinson • Media enquiries re Orange March – Original 106, Northsound – a written statement was issued • Residents contacting re OO March – unhappy with decision • Aberdeenshire Council LDP ‘Call for Sites’ map update • Friends of Kincardine Hospital -Open Day Thurs 28 May: 2-4pm 2 to attend. RC and SR expressed interest in attending on behalf of the SDCC. RF to update organisers • Friends of Forest Drive Park – AGM Wed 27 May 7pm at Old Court House	RC, SR, RF
15	AOCB	
	JS highlighted his concerns of risks of trouble from Aberdeen at the Orange Order march. He noted that there were two trucks of council employees with barriers in March 2024 when the proposed march did not go ahead.	
16	Date of next meetings: Agenda: Tuesday 2 June 2026 AGM & Business Meeting: Tuesday 9 June 2026	