



**STONEHAVEN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

7.00 - 9.30pm, 13th November 2018
Invercarron Resource Centre, Stonehaven

1.	Welcome
1.1	Attendance
1.1.1	SDCC Councillors:
	Raymond Christie (RC), Patrick Coffield (PC), Mike Duncan (MD), Alix Gunn (AG), Ian Hunter (IH), Paul Lindop (PL), Alistair Lawrie (AL), Donald A. Lawrie Morrison (DLM), Jim Morrison (JM), Jim Stephen (JS), Fiona Tavendale (FT), and Bill Watson (BW).
1.1.2	Aberdeenshire Councillors:
	Councillor Dickinson (Cllr D) and Councillor Agnew (Cllr A).
1.1.3	Others in Attendance:
	The general public, Julie Lindeman of Stonehaven Town Partnership, Ian Phillips of Stonehaven Business Association, the Police and Julia M. Lawrie Morrison (JML), Minute Taker.
1.1.4	Apologies:
	Councillor Robertson (Cllr R), Danny Veltman (DV), Councillor Wallace (Cllr W), Lindsey Wood (LW).
1.1.5	Absent without Notice:
	None.
1.2	Declarations of Interest
	None.
2.	Chairperson's Statement
2.1	Remembrance Sunday, RC
	RC placed a wreath on behalf of SDCC at Black Hill Memorial on Remembrance Sunday, and gave thanks to DV who assisted.
2.2	Resignations of SDCC Members, RC
	RC informed members of two SDCC member resignations: Ian Robotham and Phil Mills-Bishop, adding that IR had agreed to continue to update local noticeboards with SDCC information. RC gave thanks to IR and PMB for their efforts over the years.
2.3	Acting Chair at October's Business Meeting, RC
	RC gave thanks to DLM for acting Chairperson at October's Business Meeting.
3.	Last Minute
3.1	Changes
	5.1 add 'proposed by PL; seconded by PC.' 6.1 add 'proposed by PL; seconded by AG.' 7.5 add 'propose by DLM; seconded by IH.'

	<p>7.6 change to ‘...advice available from KDP.’</p> <p>Ian Robotham asked why his resignation tendered verbally at the October SDCC Business Meeting was not minuted, plus his offer to continue to look after the noticeboards.</p> <p>DLM, acting chairperson at the October SDCC Business meeting, confirmed he requested that Ian’s resignation was not minuted pending clarification due to the circumstances in which it was delivered.</p> <p>Ian confirmed that he had received an apology from JS regarding the heated discussion that had occurred between them at October’s meeting.</p> <p>RC thanked Ian for offering to continue to update the notice boards on behalf of the SDCC while offering to step in should Ian require assistance or someone to take this over.</p>	
ACTION	Corrections to the last minute.	PL
3.2	Approval	
MOTION	Approval of Last Minute. Proposed by P; seconded by BW.	
VOTE	Unanimous agreement; carried forward.	
3.3	Matters Arising	
3.3.1	Mill Inn Planning Application, PL	
	Planning application withdrawn by developer.	
3.3.2	Stonehaven Medical Practice Online Booking System, RC	
	The new same day appointments online booking system was discussed, again, highlighting difficulties experienced and envisaged with a process reliant on computer and internet use. Dr McLaughlin of Stonehaven Surgery was unable to attend the meeting as planned and suggested that the SDCC support the setting up of a public meeting to be held before Christmas.	
ACTION	RC to communicate with the surgery regarding the setting up of a public meeting to discuss the new system.	RC
4.	Police Report	
	<p>Two local police officers were in attendance and presented to the meeting a summary of the latest report, circulated beforehand. Police Officer Steve Dick, new to the area, introduced himself, noting that there have not been any huge issues in the past couple of months, with some antisocial driving aspects at the beach and leisure centre car park, while raising concern about large retail store crime in the area. Police will patrol the area during the festive season, keeping an eye on shoplifting, road matters and drug issues.</p> <p>Concern was raised by a member of the public regarding the rise in school age gangs causing distress to local residents. Police are patrolling near the academy during lunchtimes and appealed for information regarding any known incidents to be reported to them.</p> <p>It was highlighted that speeding and road issues can be reported to them via an email address: deesidecpt@scotlandXXX?</p>	
5.	Issues Not on the Agenda raised by the Public	
5.1	Comment Made by Councillor Wallace at the October SDCC Business Meeting, Douglas Samways	
	DS raised objection to a comment Cllr W made at the October SDCC Business meeting and asked if the SDCC would request an apology from Cllr W. SDCC discussed the matter and felt that it was a	

	misunderstanding of Cllr W's tone and did not warrant a request for apology, but it was noted that he had not attended SDCC meetings very often.	
ACTION	RC to discuss with Cllr W, including the matter of his attendance at SDCC meetings.	RC
6.	Planning, PL	
6.1	Map of Proposed Development Sites, PL	
	<p>PL showed members a map with packets of land identified within Stonehaven for proposed development that had been discussed at a meeting he and MD attended. The feeling at that meeting was that the proposed packets of land were not getting serious consideration from the local planning authority.</p> <p>The sites identified will be presented within Aberdeenshire Council's Draft Main Issues Report in January 2019. PL highlighted that if the town wanted to grow and develop that it would need to consider where such development should go, suggesting that a public debate on the matter might be useful. It is hoped that such an event will be held in the next few months.</p> <p>MD added that the town needs to have a voice in terms of any proposed change, ensuring amenities are invested in along with housing development.</p> <p>Concern was raised by a member of the public, Ian Philips of Ali Bali and other local businesses in the town, regarding the potential for business on the outskirts to detract custom from central shops. Mitch xx, in the audience, commended SDCC's pro-active support towards positive development in the town.</p> <p>PL highlighted Forfar as an example of vibrant town centre post investment.</p>	
7.	Business Matters	
7.1	Stonehaven Business Association, Ian Phillips owner of three local businesses	
	<p>IP gave a short presentation to members about the work of Stonehaven Business Association. He highlighted various activities and facts about the organisation, that they are looking into what is going on around the locality in other groups and organisations, they are keen to set up a new web presence for the town, they recently revamped local maps, and restructured their organisation to remove office bearing ranks in order that tasks are distributed amongst a core team of members.</p> <p>IP acknowledged that SBA would like to communicate better and more widely with other organisations and highlighted their presence on Facebook and their website, inviting SDCC members and the general public to contact them. As an organisation they have around 60-70 members and are seeking to grow. As a town SBA are keen to see visitors increase their duration of stay from one to two nights. It has been noted that typically most come to walk along the promenade, to visit the chip shop and the castle. Local businesses are seeking to increase footfall into the centre of the town. SBA hopes to highlight what else Stonehaven has to offer on a new website funded by them for around a year and a half, starting in the first or second quarter of next year.</p> <p>A social event earlier in the month was held by SBA which was a success in linking local businesses and organisations with more attending than anticipated. It is hoped that these will be held more frequently.</p> <p>JL added that two extra sponsors in support of the Christmas Tree lights came about as a result of the recent SBA networking social.</p> <p>RC thanked IP for his informative presentation.</p>	

7.2	Hannah Dyson and Community Awards, RC & AL	
	<p>RC informed the members of the intention of presenting list of award nominees to members at the December business meeting for selection, with presentation to the winners being held in January.</p> <p>AL added that, traditionally, awards had been presented in front of the community council. There is the option of holding the award ceremony at the Invercarron Resource Centre or another venue. In the past it was held at No. 44. It was proposed that local dignity could be invited to the ceremony to hand over the awards.</p> <p>IH felt that the award ceremonies worked well in the past.</p> <p>JL noted that No. 44 still provide community group access to their upstairs facility at no charge. Cllr D highlighted that this venue is not accessible.</p>	
ACTION	AL and RC to propose award nominees to SDCC members at December business meeting.	AL & RC
ACTION	AL to consider suitable venues and the potential for food and drink.	AL
7.3	Christmas Tree Lights Fundraising, Julie Lindeman of Stonehaven Lions	
	<p>JL confirmed that fundraising had gone very well with the support of the community, EDS Craig Neil wind farm a total of £4004.36 had been reached and Christmas lights bought including proper storage boxes which will be kept in the courthouse. The town and local businesses really got behind this effort.</p> <p>RC gave thanks to JL for her fundraising effort here.</p> <p>PL confirmed that lights and storage equipment would fall under SDCC insurance which would hopefully increase their longevity.</p> <p>JS confirmed that Christmas tree had been selected and will be erected on 29th November.</p>	
ACTION	Request for stewarding help at the Christmas light switch on, Saturday 1 st December. Notification to JL.	ALL
7.4	Communications Group Report, BW/IH/PC	
	<p>BW informed the members of the work undertaken by PC in determining options for an SDCC website.</p> <p>PC provided members with a report of his findings and summarised the options with a PowerPoint presentation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resurrect the old SDCC website, although its layout was not useful. IH added that it was not a great site, did not refresh well and was old fashioned. 2. Create a new website ourselves. 3. Recruit a third part to create a new website. <p>PC noted that other community councils use 'community-council.org.uk' run by Spanglefish catering for third party sector organisations. It was felt that this would be a good option and involved the costs of the domain name at around £10-15 per year, hosting at around £36 per year and other expenses such as security and email accounts, all of which should cost in the region of £100 per year to maintain on and ongoing basis. It was highlighted that there might not need to be development costs as it was fairly intuitive and could be done by them at no cost. Examples were shown such as the website for Knockbain Community Council.</p>	
ACTION	Communications Group to create a proto-type SDCC website for the December meeting.	

7.5	Nippy Dip, JS	
	<p>JS confirmed that road closures for this event in the New Year were sorted, confirmation from RNLI is still to be secured in terms of what they will do, although it is thought they will help with coffees and teas. The Sandpiper Trust have confirmed they will assist at the event.</p> <p>PL highlighted that based on last year's feedback a new event booking form should be created.</p>	
ACTION	Request for helpers between 11am to 1pm at the Nippy Dip. Notification to JS.	ALL
ACTION	Create a new participant booking form.	JS
7.6	Youth Community Councillor, AL	
	<p>AL updated members on the progress of this initiative, noting that links with Mackie Academy's Modern Studies department were being followed up.</p>	
7.7	Stonehaven Railway Station Lighting and Fly-Tipping, Cllr D	
	<p>Cllr D confirmed that the lighting situation at Stonehaven Railway Station will be attended to and a meeting held to establish who out of the Council, Network Rail and Scotrail is responsible for these matters. Members agreed it was necessary to establish who is responsible for what.</p> <p>JS felt that too much time had passed with little action and it was time for comment to be made regarding this to the local press. RC agreed that it was necessary to force the body responsible to take responsibility.</p> <p>Cllr D noted that maintenance issues at the bridge and barrier, including the issue of fly-tipping, needs addressed.</p>	
ACTION	Cllr D to feedback on the matter of who is responsible for area concerning the fly-tipping, including the warped barrier that remains unfixed.	Cllr D
7.8	Roads, MD	
	<p>MD and RC met with Ewan Smith of Aberdeenshire Council's Roads department on 26th October. Issues discussed included worn out road markings at Stonehaven harbour, work on the slipway, drainage at the Glebe, lorries parking at Farochie Road, the railway bridge along the Slug Road, parking along the Slug Road on match days, the potential for double yellow lines at the junction at Even Street and the Slug Road and the topic of potholes in the town. MD informed the meeting that he had received a lesson on what is regarded by the Council as an official pothole. MD reminded members about the Council's Snow Warden volunteer scheme informing them that more information can be found on their website.</p>	
7.9	Environment Sub-Group, AG	
	<p>AG, PC and IH, along with representatives of other local community councils, attended a meeting of local environmental interest groups held by the Kincardine Development Partnership at Stonehaven Community Centre. The meeting aimed to lay the foundation for setting up a local umbrella environmental interest group, linking each organisation. Council representatives for Waste and Sustainable Development were also in attendance and discussed relevant Council activity and priority to substantially increase recycling and reduce landfill by 2021. No actions came out of the meeting and the group will meet again on 24th January next year. AG circulated notes from the meeting to SDCC members and highlighted the work of the Climate Café in Aberdeen, running ongoing events.</p> <p>DV raised the work of Amy Barclay of Surfers' Against Sewage and informed SDCC that she would like to present the same to the members of SDCC at a future business meeting.</p>	
ACTION	DV to email AG Amy Barclay's contact details.	DV
7.10	Aberdeenshire Council's Draft Strategic Plan Consultation, PC	
	<p>PC attended a meeting on 31 October at which the Council's Draft Strategic Plan was discussed. It was noted that the period for the people to comment on this plan remained open until the end of November</p>	

	and that it might be something that could be discussed at the Community Council Forum with the potential for the Council Officers to present. The SDCC has an opportunity to make comment on the draft plan. It was highlighted that an ethical charter proposed by Unison and adopted by nine local authorities has not been drafted within this plan by Aberdeenshire Council. Further information can be accessed on Aberdeenshire Council's website.
7.11	Invercarron Resource Centre, RC
	<p>RC raised concern with a recent request made to service users of the Invercarron Resource Centre at its AGM last week, namely that they start to provide an insurance certificate for their organisation at the time of booking. Many service users are small groups and this has been off-putting. Up until now, this insurance cover has been provided by Aberdeenshire Council.</p> <p>Cllr A confirmed that the provision of this was cut from the Council's Social Work budget, noting that small groups can add each other onto another's insurance liability as a way to deal with this. RC noted that this solution might be provided by the Coastal Health and Social Care Partnership.</p> <p>PL added that dates for SDCC meetings at the Invercarron Resource Centre during 2019 need to be booked.</p> <p>AL highlighted that this shows disconnected local authority thinking, with a need to save money and make use of volunteers yet at the same time taking away some of the support they provide volunteers.</p>
ACTION	PL to give RC a pdf of the SDCC insurance certificate. PL
8.	Correspondence, AL
	None.
9.	Future Dates/Events
	Community Council Forum meeting – anyone can attend: 20 th November at 7pm, Viewmount, Stonehaven.
10.	AOCB
10.1	New Mains of Ury/Raedykes, Unsafe Pedestrian Access Along the B979, AL
	<p>AL informed members that various local residents living at Raedykes and New Mains of Ury had communicated with him regarding the lack of safe pedestrian access into the town centre, with a stretch of the B979 being almost unpassable on foot, directly in front of the New Mains of Ury farm buildings, just before the AWPR old office site.</p> <p>AL noted that no pavement or lighting exists at all at that point in the road forcing residents, young and old, those with reduced mobility and pushing prams, to walk on the road itself facing fast driving oncoming traffic. Given the time of year, with reduced day light hours, including the complete lack of signage to warn oncoming traffic, in addition to the lack of paving options, it is felt that this stretch of road posed a serious risk to life to pedestrian users and should be looked into by the SDCC to determine what action is planned to reduce this risk.</p> <p>AL highlighted, from local resident correspondence, that AWPR apparently state that they have no legal obligation to provide any improvements, paving, lighting or signage, to this particular stretch of road and they believe the matter is the responsibility of the land owner at New Mains of Ury, Mr Strang Steel, Aberdeenshire Council and Kirkwood Homes of the Raedykes development, adding that, apparently, the delay in safe access construction at this location had been caused by a stalemate in discussion between these parties, with the landowner refusing to provide land for the creation of a pavement. AL asked the elected members present at the meeting for an update on the position of this matter.</p>

	<p>Cllr D noted that an agreement had been reached and work to erect a small pavement along the stretch of road concerned, in front of the New Mains of Ury farm buildings, would be commenced in Spring next year. Cllr D added that the landowner previously would not release the desired width of land for a pavement and that a lot of communication had taken place regarding this matter between the landowner and Aberdeenshire Council.</p> <p>Cllr A added that the problem has been with the landowner and that the site is very dangerous especially if having to walk along it with a pram.</p> <p>JS said that the Council must take note of lessons learned with respect of safe pedestrian access in upcoming developments, adding that they knew the planning application for the Raedykes development was to build a large number of houses and the provision of a suitable footpath into the town should have been considered as a priority to construct before people moved in.</p> <p>Cllr A agreed that planning permission should not have been granted without this secured. Cllr D added that there was a condition regarding this within the planning permission but the problem had been getting the landowner's agreement.</p>	
10.2	Dunnottar Woodland Park AGM, DV	
	DV informed members about topics discussed at the latest Dunnottar Woodland Park AGM, which included a talk on mountain biking and the fairy trail.	
10.3	Universal Credit, IH	
	IH raised the issue of changes to the benefit system, with people reporting difficulty with the new universal credit system in particular with the requirement to use the internet. A recent survey undertaken by the Citizen's Advice Bureau highlighted the issues. It would be helpful for the SDCC to become more aware of this matter.	
ACTION	RC to invite CAB to the January SDCC Business Meeting.	RC
10.4	Community Empowerment Act and Participatory Budgeting, BW	
	<p>BW highlighted that many issues pertinent to the local community can be dealt with using new powers vested within the recently enacted Community Empowerment legislation. Discussion ensued regarding the potential of participatory budgets between the community council, local community and Aberdeenshire Council. It was felt that SDCC helping to organise the participatory budget within the community would be an asset and that the Community Empowerment Act affords the SDCC leverage to help tackle many of the issues raised at SDCC Business Meetings.</p> <p>AL referred to two local authority areas that have already rolled out participatory budgeting, inclusive of Dundee and the Western Isles noting that there is a move towards an expectation that local authorities provide this opportunity.</p> <p>Cllr D highlighted that Aberdeenshire Council is not set up to bring the local community in on the spending of its 1% but it is being considered at present and is aware of its potential and the increasing requirement to do so by Government.</p> <p>IH added that a group of community councils acting together increases the potential of community empowerment.</p> <p>BW suggested inviting Aberdeenshire Council's Area Manager Willie Munro to attend an SDCC Business Meeting to discuss this further. IH noted that it's clear that Aberdeenshire Council do not have a logical way to take this forward yet. RC added that the Area Manager is currently off ill.</p>	

10.5	Defibrillators and the Community Council Forum, MD	
	MD attended the Meikle Wind Farm panel and it was brought to his attention that another community council are spending less on their defibrillators. It was suggested that this matter was brought up at the next Community Council Form meeting.	
ACTION	Cost of defibrillators in other community council areas to be brought up at the next CCF meeting.	?
11.	SDCC Meetings	
	Agenda Meeting Tuesday 4 th December, Invercarron Centre at 7.00pm.	
	Business Meeting Tuesday 11 th November, Invercarron Centre at 7.00pm.	

DRAFT