

**MINUTES OF THE 202nd BUSINESS MEETING
OF THE
STONEHAVEN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

HELD IN THE COWIE LOUNGE OF THE INVERCARRON RESOURCE CENTRE
AT 7.55PM ON TUESDAY 14TH MARCH, 2006

PRESENT:

Community Councillors: Derek Stewart, Douglas Dykes, Duncan Cursiter, Mary Jackson, Sarah Dickinson, Ditta Neumann, Raymond Christie, Peter Bellarby, Ian Hunter, Sean Fraser, Allan Cairnduff, Jane Davidson

Kincardine and Mearns Councillors: George Swapp (Mearns North), Mike Sullivan (Stonehaven North and Fetteresso), Wendy Agnew (Stonehaven South)

Minute Secretary: Sharon Hall

Also present:

Sgt Grant Wallace, Grampian Police

4 members of the public

3 members of the Press

Item	Description	Action/Date
1.	Apologies Apologies were received from Isabel Parkes, Lyn Jardine and Councillor Jack Morrison	
2.	Resignations Margaret Ross, Duncan Cursiter and Pamela Dobbie had all tendered their resignation. Douglas Dykes had already intimated his decision to resign at a previous meeting and Derek Stewart had resigned at the AGM. Sarah Dickinson expressed gratitude on behalf of all Members of the Community Council to the retiring members, and in particular to Derek Stewart for his longstanding commitment to the Community Council.	
3.	Appointment of Temporary Secretary Peter Bellarby had offered to act as Temporary Secretary until the April meeting when new Office Bearers would be elected.	
4.	Minutes of Meeting held on 14 February 2006 and Matters Arising Corrections to the minutes were requested as follows: Item 8: Sarah Dickinson suggested an alternative wording to Item 8. “.....she felt that the Chairman had expressed the Community Council views in a way that did not reflect the balance of opinion within the Community Council. In Reply the Chairman read out the section of his oral statement to the Area Committee on the point raised which asserted he refuted this. In light of this Sarah was proposing a protocol for Community Councillors when representing the Community Council in a public forum. This to be added to the Standing Orders.” Item 8: Peter Bellarby stated that the words “about Standing Orders” should be inserted after the phrase “a proposal of his own to table”.	

Item 6: Peter Bellarby requested the second sentence should read "...it was agreed that Derek Stewart would draft and circulate a list of responses to the questions in the discussion paper. Community Council members could comment on this draft before it was finalised"

Item 7: Peter Bellarby stated that the first sentence should be amended to "...had given a good presentation to members at a meeting held on 7th February."

Item 10(b): Raymond Christie pointed out that the name Andy Whitelaw should be corrected to Andy Whiteman.

Item 5: Raymond Christie stated that the last sentence on Page 5 should be changed to: "Raymond Christie proposed the motion for the reinstatement of weekly collections, but there was no Seconder"

Raymond Christie proposed all the above corrections to the Minutes and Sarah Dickinson seconded this.

There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes

5. Crime Prevention

Sgt Grant Wallace reported on the Acceptable Behaviour Contract ("ABC"). This can be used to deal with incidents that are not necessarily serious but are seen as unacceptable. A written example, based on an actual ABC, was distributed for information. The contract consists of an outline of the behaviour, a commitment between the individual and the various agencies involved, breach details and a declaration. An ABC lasts about 6 months and, although it is just a contract rather than a legal document, if a breach occurs it allows for agencies to apply for an ASBO. It is a flexible working document that hopefully will result in a change of behaviour.

Duncan Cursiter stated that the criteria used to set out unacceptable behaviour seem to be ill defined. Sgt Wallace agreed that a term such as "excessive noise" could be subjective but there would be full discussion of the terms before the declaration was signed.

Mary Jackson asked if ABCs were successful. Sgt Wallace stated they were generally seen as successful and they would work well in an area like Stonehaven where there is not a big problem with unacceptable behaviour.

Douglas Dykes referred to the Crime Bulletin and the continued problem with damage to parked cars, which now seems to be occurring in different streets. Sgt Wallace said that Evan St, Slug Road and Cameron St were the areas targeted at weekends, as these were the routes home from the town centre. Police resources had to be centred on the nightclubs at weekends. CCTV could be one solution to the problem and it would also reduce the number of police officers needed on the streets. Sgt Wallace agreed to a suggestion that there was more car vandalism in Stonehaven than in other Aberdeenshire towns. He emphasised that witnesses were needed in order to bring charges. He also explained that vandals could be traced from fingerprints found on damaged wing mirrors.

6. Motion by Peter Bellarby relating to Standing Order 9.4

(a) That the wording of Standing Order 9.4 be changed to give effect to the principle that motions ordinarily require a simple majority to be considered as being carried, but that a motion being made "that the question under discussion be now put" requires two-thirds of the members present to vote in favour,

(b) That a working party be set up comprising the Chairperson, the Vice-chairperson, the Treasurer and the Secretary to consider the detailed wording of Standing Order 9.4 and the amendment of standing orders in general to take account of present circumstances and the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors published by Aberdeenshire Council.

A written copy of the Motion had been previously sent to Members and was read out by Peter

Bellarby.

After discussion Douglas Dykes proposed that in Part (b) the wording after “the Code of Conduct for Community Councillors” should be changed to “when published by

Douglas Dykes also questioned why it was necessary to include both Part (a), which was outlining the matter to be considered and Part (b), which called for a discussion of the matter by a working group.

There was discussion about the differences resulting from a simple majority and a two-thirds majority.

Douglas Dykes proposed that a working party should be set up to discuss the principal of the Motion, as it was clearly a complicated issue and there were differing opinions held.

All Members were in favour of Part (b) of the Motion, with the amendment to the wording included.

7. Scottish Executive Discussion Paper on Role of Community Councils - Response

Derek Stewart advised that the draft response had been circulated. Six Members had commented on this and these had been incorporated into the final paper that had been returned. The results would be made available in due course.

8. Consultation Paper on Preventing Household Waste

Derek Stewart advised that he had found this paper, which had been prepared by the Scottish Executive, very difficult to understand.

The paper is available to view on the website – www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations.

All Members

Responses are required by 28th April.

Ian Hunter felt that this is a very important issue that needs to be discussed in an open meeting so that the public can see and contribute to the Community Council’s response. He requested that it should be given priority as an item on the agenda at the next meeting.

Sean Fraser advised that the public could also respond directly to the Consultation Paper themselves.

9. Keith Lodge Closure

Derek Stewart said that the closure would create a very stressful situation for the people living there. However, the decision had been made because of the huge shortfall in running costs. He understood that the bungalow at Keith Lodge might remain open. The Community Council should write to express their disappointment at the closure.

Wendy Agnew had spoken to the Social Work Dept who would be having a meeting with Crossreach. The main worry is in respect to the loss of the respite care provided at Keith Lodge. She said that one of the problems has been that workers at Keith Lodge need to have a church connection, but they cannot get enough staff to meet this criterion and therefore have to employ agency workers, which costs a lot more. She also believed that the bungalow is also under threat. It appears that the Church of Scotland had approached all the Councils involved to try to increase the level of financial support for residents.

Cllr. Swapp had written to Crossreach and their reply had confirmed that the closure decision had been made on the basis of the problems of finance and staffing. He said the people involved were very vulnerable and alternative arrangements for their care needed to be considered very carefully. If acceptable alternatives cannot be found Crossreach must be persuaded to change their mind. Cllr. Swapp clarified the situation with regard to the background to Keith Lodge – it had been sold to the Church in 1964 at a discounted price, but had not been gifted to them.

Secretary

All Members agreed that a letter should be sent to the Director of Crossreach and to Aberdeenshire Council Social Work Dept.

21/3/06

10. Temporary Mini Recycling Centre – Suggested Location

Derek Stewart advised that Aberdeenshire Council had rejected the idea of the Kirkton Road site as an alternative location due to health and safety reasons. He asked if Members had come up with any other possible ideas.

Wendy Agnew suggested the Commodore car park as a possible site but realized that this location would still result in traffic congestion. Sarah Dickinson pointed out that this site was at the entrance to the town and that there were also road safety issues.

A member of the public said that the Leisure Centre car park had health and safety problems too.

Sarah Dickinson proposed that a letter be sent to Aberdeenshire Council requesting that, in the absence of an alternative acceptable location being available and until the Redcloak facility is functioning, they should reinstate the weekly collections. Raymond Christie seconded this proposal.

Secretary
16/3/06

At this point the discussion continued.

A member of the public suggested that the Redcloak site itself could be used as an alternative location; a road could be put in and the site used until the recycling facility was built. Derek Stewart said it would only be available for a short time until building started. The Rugby club would also be affected.

Duncan Cursiter said that someone from Aberdeenshire Council Waste Management team should be in attendance at the Leisure Centre car park to see the situation there for themselves.

Wendy Agnew said that a large skip was needed so the bin men could take away cardboard, rather than it go for disposal to landfill.

A member of the public said that the Leisure Centre temporary site is not being managed properly at all and the council is “not making the best of a bad job”. This should be emphasised in the letter sent to the Council.

Douglas Dykes stated that the main theme of the letter should be about the request for the return to weekly collections.

A member of the public questioned why Raymond Christie’s same proposal at the last Community Council meeting had not been backed by Members at the time.

Sarah Dickinson pointed out that Aberdeenshire Council’s response to the suggested location of the Kirkton Road was not then known, and that circumstances were now different.

Douglas Dykes said that the Community Council had been asked to suggest an alternative site, which had been done, and they should now respond to Aberdeenshire Council’s rejection of this suggestion.

11. Community Council statement re recent letters in the Press

A letter had been drafted - this had been circulated to all Members and was read out by Douglas Dykes.

Sean Fraser said there was a problem in the timescale in releasing the letter to the Press because it included information on dates of meetings and nominations.

Duncan Cursiter pointed out that an advert had already appeared in the Mearns Leader giving details about nominations for Election to the Community Council.

After discussion, the majority of Members agreed to the content of the letter, with amendments to the last paragraph, taking out reference to dates and meetings.

Raymond Christie and Ian Hunter abstained from this decision.

Secretary
15/3/06

12. Reports and Projects Update

Planning – Derek Stewart

The letters of objection suggested in the Planning Report were agreed.

Derek Stewart
21/3/06

The Future of Stonehaven – Sarah Dickinson

A report had been circulated. Sarah Dickinson has been asked to represent the Community Council on the Recreation Grounds Steering Group. Ian Hunter has also been asked to be a member of this group. Jane Davidson also expressed an interest in being involved if possible.

Horizon Project – Allan Cairnduff

A report had been circulated. The project's web site is now up and running at www.horizonstonehaven.co.uk

The Burns Garden is being totally revamped and will take 4-5 weeks to complete.

Dunnottar Woodland Park Association – Douglas Dykes

A report had been circulated.

Cllr. Swapp advised that the restoration of the Garden Wall is becoming an increasing priority.

Transport Issues – Peter Bellarby

A report had been issued. Changes to the bus timetable from 3rd April were to be welcomed.

11. Correspondence IN requiring action

a. 8/2 Revised layout of parking bays in the Square.

A member of the public asked for confirmation that the plans were for changes to the parking bays only and not to the street furniture. Douglas Dykes confirmed this and suggested that Option 1 of the draft plan was better than Option 2. This was agreed. There was further discussion regarding the proposed traffic lights at the Evan St corner. A member of the public questioned the Community Council's agreement to this. Derek Stewart replied that the Community Council's view had been made on the basis of road safety.

b. 21/2 Western Peripheral Route Environmental Impact Assessment.

No Comments.

c. 22/2 Invitation to Making the Most of the Coast 2 Seminar 31/03/06

Allan Cairnduff to attend.

d. 07/03 HGV Operator Licence Application

No Comments

12. AOCB

Lyn Jardine had advised by e-mail that the on line questionnaire discussed at the last meeting would be circulated to Members.

Peter Bellarby wished it be recorded that the Community Council is disappointed with the outcome of the Scottish Water Planning Appeal at Cowie (Addendum A. (e)

There was then discussion with regard to the costs being charged to Aberdeenshire Council and to the possible deterrent effect on the Community Council fighting such issues in the future. Wendy Agnew clarified the situation in that the Community Council would never be in the situation of having to pay costs.

Sarah Dickinson asked for clarification with regard to the Roads Dept letter – Addendum A. (d) Douglas Dykes confirmed each of the issues involved.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Addendum

- A. Correspondence /Brochures IN for information only and available on file:
 - a. 1/ 2 – Invercarron Resource Centre Committee Minutes
 - a. Leaflet on public safety for Event Organisers
 - b. ASCC – Various information sheets and February Newsletter
 - c. Copy of letter to Planning Services from J & C Dykes re County Hotel Conversion
 - d. 8/ 2 – Mark Skilling update on CC re Roads issues
 - e. 14/ 2 – Scottish Executive Planning Appeal for SW at Cowie
 - f. 16/2 – Area Managers update on matters for CC Forum on 23/2
 - g. 23/2 – Planning Services receipt of our letter re Land at Braehead
 - h. 06/3 - NHS 24 Public Information Event in Aberdeen on 27/3
 - i. 08/3 - Planning Services receipt re our letter on plan for County Hotel

- B. Correspondence “signed” OUT: As agreed at meeting on 14th February, Plus:
 - a. 21/2 – Area Manager re Dog Fouling in Stonehaven