

**MINUTES OF THE 303rd BUSINESS MEETING  
OF THE  
STONEHAVEN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

HELD IN THE COWIE LOUNGE OF THE INVERCARRON RESOURCE CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON  
TUESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2006

**PRESENT:**

Derek Stewart (Outgoing Chairperson), Peter Bellarby, Michael Innes, James Cleves, Ditta Neuman, Sarah Dickinson, Lyn Jardine, Ian Balgowan, Raymond Christie, David Fleming, David Wood, Ian Hunter, Leonard Lawrence, Linda Digney

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

**Minute Secretary:** Sharon Hall

**Also present:**

1 member of the public

3 members of the Press

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Action /Timing</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies</b> Apologies were received from Jane Davidson, Cllr. Jack Morrison, Isabel Parkes and Theresa Coffield.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Membership of the Community Council – statement by the Acting Secretary, Peter Bellarby</b> The result of the ordinary election held in March/April 2006 is that there were fewer nominations than places available. Hence all those nominated have been elected to serve on the CC for a period of 4 years. Those elected are: Ian Balgowan, James Cleves, Raymond Christie, Theresa Coffield, Linda Digney, David Fleming, Ian Hunter, Michael Innes, Lyn Jardine, Leonard Lawrence, Ditta Neuman, David Wood. Raymond Christie, Ian Hunter, Lyn Jardine and Ditta Neuman have been re-elected as they were members previously. The eight others are new to the CC and a warm welcome is extended to them. Peter Bellarby, Jane Davidson, Sarah Dickinson, Isabel Parkes were elected to the CC 2 years ago and continue as members for a further period of 2 years.  Regrettably, letters of resignation have been received from Allan Cairnduff and Mary Jackson. Sean Fraser, previously a member, failed to submit his nomination form in time but is likely to put forward his nomination at the next election. There are now 16 members of the CC. The maximum number of members is 20. It would therefore be possible to co-opt up to 4 additional members.  Derek Stewart outlined a slight irregularity in the nomination papers in that two members had proposed or seconded more than one candidate. It had been ruled by Stephen Marshall of Aberdeenshire Council that this discrepancy be overlooked. Peter Bellarby stated that the fault lay in the nomination form itself, which was defective and would need to be rectified.  Cllr Swapp proposed sincere thanks to all CC members who had stood down, and in particular to Derek Stewart, and he acknowledged their total commitment and public spiritedness.	<b>Peter Bellarby by next election</b>

3. **Elections of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer**  
Chairperson – David Fleming was nominated by Peter Bellarby and seconded by Ian Hunter. He was elected unopposed.  
Vice Chairperson – Sarah Dickinson was nominated by Lyn Jardine, and seconded by Ditta Neuman. She was elected unopposed.  
Secretary – Peter Bellarby was nominated by David Fleming and seconded by Lyn Jardine. He was elected unopposed.  
Treasurer – Lyn Jardine was nominated by Sarah Dickinson and seconded by Raymond Christie. She was elected unopposed.

4. **Election of the voting representative on Kincardine and Mearns Community Councils Forum**

There is one elected representative with voting rights, but other members can attend Forum meetings. Following discussion Ian Hunter proposed that the CC Chairperson should have the voting rights on the Forum. Seconded by Peter Bellarby. Agreed unanimously.

At this point Derek Stewart handed over to David Fleming as the new Chairperson.

David Fleming thanked all retiring members and congratulated all those newly elected. He suggested a theme for the coming year – “Continuity and Development” – as a reflection of the needs of the Council, but also of Stonehaven itself, which has a long and illustrious history which needed to be safeguarded, but also needed to develop and move forward so that it would remain a vibrant community.

5. **Minutes of meeting held on 14 March 2006 and Matters Arising not dealt with elsewhere**

Corrections to the Minutes were proposed as follows:

- Heading : The Business Meeting was the 302<sup>nd</sup>, not 202<sup>nd</sup>.
- Item 4/5: Raymond Christie stated the correct spelling should be Andy Wightman.
- Item 3: Peter Bellarby requested deletion of the word “had” and insertion at the end “and the offer was accepted”.

The accuracy of Minutes (following these amendments), was proposed by Ian Hunter, Seconded by Raymond Christie, and was agreed unanimously.

**Matters Arising**

Peter Bellarby outlined the reply that had been received from James McGuire, Acting Director of Social Work at Crossreach, in response to the letter sent regarding Keith Lodge. The main points of his letter were:

- The services provided in the bungalow were hopefully to be restructured.
- The respite service had not been well used over the last 2 years – only 30-50% of capacity.
- Overall costs were too high to keep Keith Lodge open.

There was discussion as to whether it was appropriate for the CC to keep campaigning, or if it would be able to influence the decision-making. Ian Hunter stated that the CC could not make comments or decisions without knowing the background facts. Ditta Neumann said that those using the respite service would need to be consulted for their comments. Peter Bellarby said that it was proposed that in future the respite service would be provided in Inverurie. Sarah Dickinson suggested that the concern about provision of facilities should be put to Social Services as a general enquiry. The issue of cost was discussed and the particular difficulty caused by the Church requirement that permanent staff should have a church connection. David Fleming proposed that it would be appropriate for the CC to discuss with Social Services about the way forward and the future provision of services rather than the negative approach of complaint,

since it was clear that Keith Lodge is just one supplier of services and is now too expensive to continue. It was agreed that a meeting be sought with John Ledger of the Social Work Dept.

**Lyn  
Jardine**

There were no other Matters Arising.

## **6. Crime Prevention – Report by Police**

An apology had been received from Insp. Jim Gordon that no police representative was able to attend this meeting. A report had been circulated. (A further written report was circulated 2 days after the meeting).

## **7. Election of Chairs and members of Community Council committees**

Peter Bellarby clarified that the quorum is 3 members for each committee and each has a nominated chairperson.

### **(a) Planning Application Committee**

The CC receives a list of all planning applications, the details of which are available on-line. The CC needs to keep on top of the list and pick out the applications which present problems.

David Fleming volunteered as Chair. James Cleves and Ditta Neumann volunteered as committee members. All volunteers were accepted.

### **(b) The Future of Stonehaven Committee**

Chair: Sarah Dickinson was nominated by David Fleming and seconded by James Cleves. Agreed unanimously. Lyn Jardine, Ditta Neumann, James Cleves and Ian Balgowan volunteered as members. Sarah Dickinson also nominated Jane Davidson to continue as a member. All volunteers and nominees were accepted..

Sarah Dickinson questioned the idea that all committee meetings should be open to all CC members, whether only nominated members could vote and that all meetings would have to be advertised. Ian Hunter said the CC had tried in the past not to have any meetings in private houses and to only meet in public places where possible. Sarah Dickinson pointed out that the issue of childcare made it easier to have some meetings at home. David Fleming suggested that there should be no hard set of rules on this matter. Peter Bellarby suggested that the working party looking at Standing Orders could discuss the business of committees, and this was agreed unanimously. Ian Hunter proposed that meantime the 6 members of The Future of Stonehaven Committee would generally meet publicly but not all the time. This was agreed unanimously.

**Peter  
Bellarby**

### **(c) Transport Committee**

Peter Bellarby volunteered to remain as Chair. Leonard Lawrence, Ian Hunter and Raymond Christie volunteered as members. All volunteers were accepted..

Peter Bellarby said that the business of this committee had been conducted in the past by email and telephone. Ian Hunter and Leonard Lawrence were unhappy with this arrangement and felt proper meetings should be held. At least 3 CC members do not have access to email.

David Fleming proposed that some transactions could continue by email but that the committee should meet at least 3 or 4 times a year. This was agreed unanimously.

### **(d) Youth Award Scheme Committee**

This committee has only been running for 2 years and is only active for a short time. Letters are sent out in September asking for nominations for the award. Raymond Christie volunteered as Chair. Linda Digney, James Cleves, David Fleming and

Leonard Lawrence volunteered as members. All volunteers were accepted.

(e) Communications Committee

The function of this committee is to provide a link between the CC and the community and between community groups. Lyn Jardine was proposed as Chair. Ian Hunter and Leonard Lawrence volunteered as members. All volunteers were accepted.

f) Strategy Committee

David Fleming proposed that there should be a new Strategy Committee. The function of this committee would be to work out how better to achieve the aims of the CC, which are to gather the views of the community as a whole and to report these views to other bodies. David Fleming volunteered to be Chair. Ian Hunter, Lyn Jardine and David Wood volunteered as members. All volunteers were accepted.

David Fleming advised that this committee would have some open and some closed meetings and he would give a written remit at the next meeting. It was suggested that other Committee Chairs might want to revise their own remits and it was agreed that all Chairs should report their committee arrangements, including immediate proposed meeting dates, at the next meeting. This was agreed.

**All Chairs**

Arrangements for The Future of Stonehaven Committee (FSC).

Sarah Dickinson briefly outlined the aims of the group for the benefit of new CC members. She had been asked to represent the CC on the Recreation Grounds Steering Group (RGSG), who were considering a similar consultation process but more specific to the facilities that different groups need. It had been recognized that it would be better for only one consultation to be undertaken with local groups and it was felt that the FSC could take on board the questions that the RGSG wanted to ask. She therefore proposed that the questionnaire be modified to include these questions and that some members of the RGSG be co-opted onto the FSC. Those co-opted would have no voting rights and their names were:

Dr Andrew Jack (Chair), Carol Shea (Co-ordinator), Glenn Western, Russ Gilbert and Leslie Brown (Members)

Leonard Lawrence questioned any involvement with the RGSG given that the Recreation Grounds are funded by a Trust. Sarah Dickinson said that the RGSG and FSC were only discussion groups that simply set out to consider the way forward and not to influence decision-making. Lyn Jardine felt that there would be benefit in the larger community being involved in discussion on the future of the Recreation Grounds. Ian Hunter said that there was a need for the people of Stonehaven to have a common view about the future of sports and other facilities. He was also a member of the RGSG but felt that co-opting members of the RGSG was not a balanced approach and other groups would need to be approached. Sarah Dickinson reiterated that the aim was to gather the ideas and the needs of groups and not to be part of the Recreation Grounds decision making process. In response to Ian Hunter, Sarah Dickinson agreed that she would write to other groups to offer them the opportunity to be co-opted on to the FSG.

David Fleming then proposed that the FSC be allowed to:

- Modify the questionnaire.
- Co-opt the 5 named RGSG members for the period of the consultation only (no more than 9 months).  
and that the FSC Chair should approach other groups to ensure that the purpose of these actions was understood.

This was agreed unanimously.

**Sarah  
Dickinson  
a.s.a.p.**

**8. Scottish Executive Consultation Paper on Preventing Household Waste**

David Fleming had written a draft response to the paper which was made available to

all members. He gave an overview of his analysis of the paper which he felt was simply a hotchpotch of questions without any focus. He asked that any responses be made to him within one week, after which he would send a formal reply to the Scottish Executive by the due date.

**All members  
18<sup>th</sup> April**

It was noted that a skip for disposal of cardboard waste was now in place at the Leisure Centre, and this was welcomed.

Peter Bellarby is to circulate the contact data of all members; both electronic and printed lists will be produced. Forms have been issued and these should be returned as soon as possible.

**Peter Bellarby**

**9. Waste Management Issues**

(a) Response from Aberdeenshire Council

There has been no response to the letter sent to them. It was noted that the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee (at which Waste Management will be discussed) will be held on 20/04/06. The Chairman said he would contact County Councillors who attend that meeting to brief them.

(b) Community Council Survey

Lyn Jardine reported that there had been a limited response with only 16 replies. The web-link to the questionnaire was through the CC website. The responses indicated that the main dissatisfaction lay with the frequency of waste collections and disappointment with the way the changeover had been handled. The increase in recycling and reduction in waste was seen as a positive step. The Chairman asked members, and members of the press present, to publicise the web survey.

**All present**

David Fleming is also to contact Bill Howatson, Chair of Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee, to discuss this issue further.

**David Fleming**

**10. Planning Gain – Raymond Christie**

Raymond Christie stated that there was concern about how planning gain was administered and it was felt that the CC should have some input as to where the money is allocated. He saw the main problem as one of a lack of transparency.

Cllr Swapp advised that Local Councillors would need to stand back from this issue as they cannot be seen to be influenced on planning matters. He pointed out that planning gain is mostly related to specific developments.

Lyn Jardine said that there may be limited merit in investigating the issue as there is likely to be a nationwide review of planning gain soon to take place.

It was agreed that contact be made with Stuart Robertson, Aberdeenshire Council Planning Gain Coordinator.

**Raymond Christie**

**11. Membership of Aberdeenshire Towns Partnership and any successor to it.**

David Fleming proposed that this item should be carried forward to become part of the Strategy Committee's remit. Raymond Christie, who raised the issue, agreed to this.

**Strategy Committee**

**12. Problems with HGVs in Stonehaven**

Michael Innes felt there was a problem with HGVs particularly from the point of view of visitors to the town. There was discussion as to whether HGVs travelling from Westhill were using the Stonehaven route to avoid the weighbridge at Portlethen. It was agreed that the Transport Committee should investigate the situation further.

**Transport Committee**

**13. Current Problems in the Town Hall**

Peter Bellarby outlined three ongoing problems and proposed that representations be made to Aberdeenshire Council about them:

- Missing castors on the piano making it unplayable.

- Lower hall kitchen remains closed.
- Problems with access and availability of the key.

**Peter  
Bellarby**

This was agreed.

Cllr. Swapp advised that the lease had finally been signed with the Church of Scotland Trustees, giving Aberdeenshire Council a 60 year tenure. This meant that planning for redevelopment of the town hall could go ahead.

Ian Hunter said that, in his capacity as a member of the Radio Group, he had been contacted by a firm of consultants to attend a meeting about the future of the town hall. The only other representatives of the community present had been from the Folk Club and the Art Group.

David Fleming questioned whether this consultation was part of Aberdeenshire Council's redevelopment plans. He will contact Willie Munro to discuss this further.

**David  
Fleming**

Linda Digney advised that Stonehaven Arts and Leisure Trust (Chairman – Alan Bisset) has also been discussing the state of the Town Hall and were looking to take this further in partnership with other groups.

#### **14. Representing the community of Stonehaven**

David Fleming stated that the CC must be seen to represent the community as a whole – a topic that had already been discussed earlier in the meeting. Peter Bellarby raised the idea of setting up informal meetings to “Meet your Community Councillors” which had been agreed to at a previous meeting. David Fleming suggested this should be done as soon as we were ready to do it properly. Lyn Jardine suggested that this idea should be considered by the Strategy Committee, which was agreed.

**Strategy  
Committee**

#### **15. The future of the Agenda Meetings**

Ian Hunter advised that these meetings, which are held one week ahead of the Business Meetings, were suggested by a past CC member who felt that agendas were being set by small cliques. Ian Hunter had instigated the meetings when he was Chairperson and he saw them as very useful in giving the opportunity for information to be discussed “off the record”. He felt it made the process very open although care must be taken that no decisions are taken in advance of the Business Meeting. Sarah Dickinson questioned the transparency of the agenda meetings given that they are not open to the general public. She felt they add an additional burden to members and that it still ends up as a “select group”. Raymond Christie said that the idea of agenda meetings was also to condense the agenda at the Business Meeting. David Fleming said that papers should be submitted beforehand so that everyone was aware of the information to be discussed.

David Fleming proposed 2 rules with regard to setting agenda items:

- All members, including office bearers, should contact the Secretary 7 days before the meeting.
- Any member can put any item on the agenda.

Ian Hunter queried if there would be exceptions to the first rule. AOB items were regularly added at the last minute. David Fleming stated that it would be at the Chair's discretion to include an item if 7 days notice had not been given. Ian Hunter proposed, and Raymond Christie seconded that:

agenda meetings should continue.

The following members voted in favour of this motion:

Raymond Christie, David Wood, Ian Hunter, Linda Digney, Ian Balgowan.

The following members voted against the motion:

David Fleming, Peter Bellarby, James Cleves, Michael Innes, Lyn Jardine, Sarah Dickinson, Ditta Neumann,

Abstentions: Leonard Lawrence

The motion was therefore defeated.

At this point the committee voted to suspend Standing Orders in order to allow the meeting to continue beyond 9.45pm.

David Fleming proposed a new motion that:

- All members, including office bearers, should contact the Secretary 7 days before the meeting.
- The Agenda should be published as soon as possible after that deadline.
- Any member can put any item on the agenda.

The following members voted in favour:

Peter Bellarby, Michael Innes, James Cleves, Ditta Neumann, Sarah Dickinson, Lyn Jardine, Leonard Lawrence, David Fleming, David Wood, Ian Hunter, Linda Digney.

Abstentions: Raymond Christie, Ian Balgowan.

The motion was therefore carried.

**16. Community Council finances**

Peter Bellarby advised that no amended financial report had been produced by the outgoing Treasurer. This matter will be taken up by the new Treasurer.

**Lyn  
Jardine**

**17. Reports and Projects Update**

(a) Planning Applications – Peter Bellarby, Sarah Dickinson

APP/2006/1131 - re Change of opening hours for Lazio's Pizza. After discussion it was agreed that further details were required, and also the police should be consulted.

**David  
Fleming  
a.s.a.p.**

APP/2006/0839 - re listed building consent for the installation of central heating with 2 flues at the Unionist Club, Market Square. It was agreed to object on the grounds that the flue exits were on the walls of the building and visibly obtrusive, with the suggestion that they would be better sited on the roof.

**Peter  
Bellarby  
a.s.a.p**

(b) The Future of Stonehaven – Sarah Dickinson

Sarah Dickinson said that there is to be a library display to bring public attention to the Future of Stonehaven Committee consultation during the month of May. This is intended to generate interest and discussion as well as raise awareness. Some of the more controversial ideas arising from meetings already held may be used to achieve these twin aims.

(c) Transport Committee – Peter Bellarby

Following the mergers between Megabus and Scottish City there had been deterioration in services. It was agreed that representation be made to the Competition Commission.

**Peter  
Bellarby**

(d) Horizon Project – statement by Peter Bellarby

Closer links were planned between this group and the CC. Horizon chairman is Allan Cairnduff. There being no volunteers for CC representative, the matter was deferred to next meeting.

**Next  
Agenda**

(e) Dunnottar Woodland Park Association – statement by Peter Bellarby

It was noted that the annual Litter Clearance takes place on Tuesday 18 April, 7-8.15pm. The DWP constitution requires a representative from Stonehaven CC to sit on the Management Committee. There being no volunteers for CC representative, the matter was deferred to next meeting.

**Next  
Agenda**

**18. Correspondence IN requiring action**

a. 4/2 Letter from Co-operative Group about our complaints – needs further consideration. A meeting was to have been set up but this has not taken place.

**David  
Fleming**

This is now to be arranged.

**and James  
Cleves**

- b. Kincardine and Mearns Community Learning Partnership Event 9.15am-3.30pm, Friday 28 April 2006, at Leonard's Hotel.

**Ian  
Hunter**

Other letters to be circulated to members in outline.

The Chairman thanked the members for the hard work and cooperation in getting through a very long agenda. The meeting closed at 10pm

### **Addendum**

A. Correspondence/Brochures IN for information only and available on file:

- a. 14/3 – The Highlanders Freedom March Friday 30 June 2006 in Stonehaven from KM Area Manager
- b. 21/3 – Aberdeenshire Council – Chief Executive's service customer survey 2005 highlight report
- c. March newsletter from Aberdeenshire Sports Council
- d. 21/3 – Agenda of the Invercarron Resource Centre Committee meeting on 5 April
- e. 20/3 – From Robert Smith MP – new proposals from Ofcom mean Community Councils will lose a veto on closure of phone boxes, although they will still be consulted
- f. 4/4 - from Planning and Environmental Services acknowledging receipt of our letter of objection about the proposed house at Cowie
- g. 4/4 – from do. Indicating that full planning permission for the redevelopment of the County Hotel had been refused by the Area Committee
- h. 7/4 – from Stephen Marshall re Kincardine and Mearns Community Council Forum meeting on 23/2
  - (i) Handout on Forestry Commission of Scotland's consultation arrangements on felling, planting and managing trees.
  - (ii) Aberdeenshire Council's response in relation to Scottish Executive's discussion paper on "What can we do to help Community Councils fulfil their role?"
  - (iii) Copy of dissertation by Ben Kerfoot on "The Impact of Community Councils in Decision Making in North East Scotland"
- i. Entry pack for the Calor Scottish Community of the Year Awards 2006
- j. From Scottish Natural Heritage about making Garron Point a Special Area of Conservation on account of Vertigo Augustior, a rare and very small snail.
- k. Notification of the AGM of Kincardine and Mearns Area Partnership to be held on 12/4. Peter Bellarby represents the Community Council on this body and will attend.

B. Correspondence "signed" OUT: as agreed at meeting on 14 March apart from those referred to in the Planning Applications Report as no longer relevant.

**Signed**

**Position**

**Date**