

website.

Reports from Committees etc.

4. Budget - Briefing Paper previously circulated.

Lyn Jardine advised that the grant funding from Aberdeenshire Council has now been received. The need to work efficiently was emphasized. Reports will be issued on a quarterly basis.

Peter Bellarby pointed out that the headed stationery was rarely used as most communications are made by email. David Fleming has the logo on disc if required.

It was clarified that “stationery” includes print cartridges, stamps etc. as well as paper.

Funding will be required for any items not included in the budget.

All members approved the proposal regarding the budget, as outlined in the Briefing Paper.

5. Planning Applications

A Briefing Report was handed out and is appended to these minutes.

- **Proposed supermarket at Fetteresso Cemetery junction.**

It was agreed to maintain opposition to this proposal.

- **Windfarms at Clochnahill & at Hillhead of Auqhirie**

S&DCC did not raise any objections to the original Clochnahill proposal. A formal planning application has been submitted. & a separate application has also now been submitted for Hillhead of Auqhirie. The Planning Committee has proposed that S&DCC object to this application on the basis of the lack of consultation, amongst other factors.

Michael Macey, a member of the public, was then invited to speak. He outlined his opposition to the windfarm developments on the basis of the following – funding issues, impact on tourism, impact on property values and the effect on health. He argued that all electricity generated from renewable sources is simply profit driven & is not “cheap electricity”, as is popularly thought. The proliferation in windfarm applications means that other sources of renewable energy e.g biomass or wave power are not being developed. The problems caused by the continued overuse of fossil fuels will not be tackled & huge road building projects continue. Global emissions will not be reduced by windfarms.

The impact on tourism has been documented by VisitScotland, amongst others. The impact on property values has been highlighted by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. Health issues include the adverse effects of Ultra Low Frequency sound.

David Fleming explained that the Community Council remit is firstly to look at local planning applications & to make representation to Aberdeenshire Council. This is a statutory duty. Secondly, the CC must represent the views of the local community on any other subject. However, debate & discussion must be non-political & Community Councillors cannot be seen to be persuaded by political argument. Michael Macey disputed the suggestion that he was making a political argument & reiterated that it was his opinion that the development of onshore windfarms was simply a profit-led activity & the negative impacts he had described were borne out by his own experience.

Miss Nesta Allan & Mrs Gladys Aitken, who were also present at the meeting, had previously submitted letters urging S&DCC to object to both windfarm applications. They are both local residents living in close proximity to the proposed developments. Their argument against the Clochnahill application included the issues of the visual impact to the skyline, unsympathetic use of agricultural land, noise levels & the adverse effect on health & their quality of life. They made similar points in their argument against Hillhead of Auqhirie but, in addition, cited the lack of consultation with adjoining landowners, unsuitable access road & the fact the developers themselves do not live near the site.

David Fleming confirmed that it was previous S&DCC members who had decided to make no objection to Clochnahill. Peter Bellarby said this decision had been made following the Gordon family’s consultation with local people & with S&DCC. The application mainly affects their own farmhouse &, following the consultations, there had been some alterations to the original application.

Michael Macey said that the proposed Clochnahill development cuts the skyline. The Town Hall presentation had not shown the full visual impact of the turbines or the effect of the constant, albeit low, noise levels they would produce. Raymond Christie disputed that noise would be a problem.

The Hillhead of Auquhirie applicants had declined an invitation to this meeting.

Jane Davidson suggested that all the information that had been presented should be made available to the local community.

Cllr. Morrison confirmed that the 11 local councillors on the Area Committee vote on planning applications as individuals. If planning permission is refused a developer has a right of appeal to the Scottish Executive.

David Fleming then asked members to consider a change to the original proposal regarding the windfarm at Clochnahill & to vote on the recommendation *that the Community Council objects to this proposal*. Proposed by Lenny Lawrence. Seconded by David Wood.

The following members voted in favour: Jane Davidson, Lyn Jardine, Lenny Lawrence, David Wood.

The following voted against: Peter Bellarby, Raymond Christie, James Cleves, Sarah Dickinson, Lynda Digney, Ian Hunter, Ditta Neumann.

The following members abstained: David Fleming, Michael Innes.

The proposal was therefore defeated & the recommendation remains *that the Community Council raises no objection to the Clochnahill development*.

With regard to the Hillhead of Auquhirie windfarm application, members then voted on the Planning Committee's recommendation *that the Community Council objects to this proposal*.

The following members voted in favour: Peter Bellarby, James Cleves, Jane Davidson, Sarah Dickinson, Lynda Digney, David Fleming, Lyn Jardine, Lenny Lawrence, Ditta Neumann, David Wood

The following members abstained: Raymond Christie, Ian Hunter, Michael Innes

The motion was therefore accepted.

During further discussion Sarah Dickinson said that the windfarm issue needs to be debated without being linked to specific developments. David Fleming asked whether a separate public meeting should be organised.

This was proposed by Lenny Lawrence & seconded by Ian Hunter. Unanimously agreed.

- **Mode of Operation of the Committee – see report**
- **Stonehaven Traffic Management Plan – see report**
- **Aberdeenshire Local Plan – see report**
- **Scottish Environmental Link**

There was discussion about the Third Party Right to Appeal & whether this would, in practice, really allow objectors to challenge or overturn planning decisions. Members then voted on the Committee's recommendation *to write to MSPs*.

The following members voted in favour: Peter Bellarby, Raymond Christie, Jane Davidson, Sarah Dickinson, Lynda Digney,

The following voted against: Ian Hunter, Lyn Jardine

The following members abstained: James Cleves, David Fleming, Michael Innes, Lenny Lawrence, Ditta Neumann, David Wood

It was then proposed *that the same letter also includes support for a proper public enquiry into future national plans*.

The following members voted in favour of this proposal: Peter Bellarby, Raymond Christie, James Cleves, Jane Davidson, Sarah Dickinson, Lynda Digney, David Fleming, Ditta Nuemann, David Wood.

The following voted against: Ian Hunter.

The following members abstained: Michael Innes, Lyn Jardine, Lenny Lawrence.

Peter Bellarby to obtain and circulate information from Michael Macey.

David Fleming

Both proposals were therefore accepted, and the Chairman was instructed to write accordingly..

6. Future of Stonehaven – Briefing Paper previously circulated

There was discussion about the Zoomerang survey service proposal – proposed by Sarah Dickinson & seconded by Lyn Jardine.

Ian Hunter questioned why this particular service had been chosen. Sarah Dickinson said it had a high level of analysis & good control mechanisms. Jane Davidson suggested that the survey service should be linked to other Stonehaven websites. Linda Digney questioned the cost of the service given the previous poor response to S&DCC web surveys & it was agreed, for the sake of clarification, that the wording of the motion be changed as follows:

*The Community Council agrees, **subject to funding**, to subscribe to the Zoomerang Survey Service at a cost of £150.*

This proposal was agreed, (with 2 abstentions).

7. Transport – Briefing Paper previously circulated

The proposal *that Michael Innes becomes a member of the Transport Committee* was unanimously agreed.

Lenny Lawrence had attended a meeting of the Bus Forum in which issues such as linking new areas such as Castlefields into the service were discussed. The new Local Transport Strategy document is now available.

8. Communications

Lyn Jardine advised that although there had been some discussion about development of the website, no proposals would be made until after the Strategy Committee had reported back.

9. Strategy – Briefing Paper previously circulated

No further comments meantime.

10. Kincardine and Mearns Community Learning Partnership

Ian Hunter will attend the meeting on Wednesday 14 June

Ian Hunter

11. Sustaining Small Expanding Towns (SusSET)

Jane Davidson gave a resume of her report of the trip to Greece – this had been previously circulated. The project is not yet complete & representatives from the other towns will be visiting Stonehaven for a few days from 30 August. There is a SusSET website.

12. Stonehaven Town Partnership.

A Briefing Report was handed out and is appended to these minutes.

David Fleming said that suggestions for projects would be sought as a starting point for the organisation. The Town Hall, Market Square & Cowie were put forward as possibilities by members. Sarah Dickinson said that projects would need to be seriously considered; The Future of Stonehaven Group would be in a position to make recommendations by October.

David Fleming stressed the long- term aspect of the Partnership.

13. Community Councils Forum

David Fleming reported on the recent quarterly meeting; only 5 Community Councils were represented, along with some Area Councillors & officials. There had been a long talk about Planning & a brief discussion on Planning Gain. There was a fixed formula used for each planning development & bids can be made, which are decided by Area Committees. The lack of transparency remains the main grievance. Raymond Christie has still to contact Stuart Robertson to discuss this issue.

**Raymond
Christie**

Other issues discussed:

- Public Entertainment Licensing, effective from January 2006. The benefits have been standardisation across Aberdeenshire & the highlighting of safety issues
- Training of Community Councillors (Jane Davison is to progress this)
- Proliferation of partnerships & groups etc. David Fleming is to discuss rationalisation

**Jane
Davidson**

with Jacqui Christie (Aberdeenshire Council)

- Code of Conduct for Community Councillors. The draft has been considered by the Policy and Resources Committee of Aberdeenshire Council and has been reissued for further consultation. Peter Bellarby said that along with the draft Code he had received documents about standing orders and the constitution. It was agreed that these will all be considered by the Working Party on Standing Orders with a report back to the August meeting on any proposed response to Aberdeenshire Council. Once the Code has finally been agreed the working party will complete their task of revising the standing orders and issue the Code for the Community Council's acceptance.

**David
Fleming
Strategy
Committee**

The next meeting of the Forum is on 28th September 2006. Any councillor is able to attend.

14. Waste Management – Briefing Report previously circulated

- The Community Information Pack was passed on to James Cleves
- David Fleming & Sarah Dickinson had met with Willie Munro & Christine Gore
- It is to be announced that the Redcloak facility is scheduled to be opened in late October
- Detailed data on the Waste Management performance will be made available to S&DCC in a form that can be analysed & interpreted.
- Information for householders is to be rewritten by David Fleming & republished by Aberdeenshire Council

**David
Fleming**

David Fleming said that pressure should be maintained on the Wasteline service & the public should be encouraged to continue complaining about problems. Jane Davidson suggested that people could use other ways of complaining such as visiting council offices & filling in a complaint form. It was agreed that more information signs were needed at the Leisure Centre & at the Spurryhilllock Depot. The skip for cardboard needs to be emptied more regularly.

**David
Fleming to
pursue these
items.**

- Web Survey – Lyn Jardine reported this had been quite successful with 90 completed surveys. A report is available. Thanks were due to the Press for publicity. Ian Hunter is now to take the survey off the website.
- Copy of email from Tom McPherson regarding garden waste had been circulated. There had also been further communications from him.

Following discussion it was agreed that the meeting should not continue beyond 9.45. Jane Davidson proposed that in future, once an agenda has been produced, speakers should be given a time limit. Ian Hunter suggested that the Planning Committee meetings could be opened to the public & ideas then brought forward to the full monthly meeting.

**Strategy
Committee**

David Fleming proposed there should be 2 meetings in July, so that the outstanding agenda items could be cleared. This was agreed (1 abstention). Dates of meetings to be confirmed

The next business meeting will be on Tuesday 11 July

Stonehaven and District Community Council
Report of the Planning Applications Committee to the Business meeting to
be held on 13 June 2006

The Committee met on 9 June 2006.

Planning Appeal – proposed supermarket on Link Road near Fetteresso Cemetery

The developers have appealed to the Scottish Executive about refusal of planning permission. *The Committee recommends that the Community Council maintains its opposition to this proposal.* For information, the original letter of objection from the Community Council is copied below. There may be a public enquiry in connection with the appeal.

Recent Planning Applications

The Committee have looked at recent planning applications and draws attention to the following:

Windfarm at Clochnahill

The site is south of Stonehaven and is to the west of the A90 road; the proposal is to site 4 turbines there. This proposal comes from the Gordon family that has farmed there for a considerable period of time. They attended a meeting with Community Councillors in February of this year and the matter was discussed at our February business meeting. The application was viewed favourably. There has been a good deal of consultation with community bodies, the site is away from neighbouring properties and, following consultation, the proposed height of the masts has been reduced somewhat. *The Committee recommends that the Community Council raises no objections to this development.*

Windfarm at Hillhead of Auquhirie

The site is adjacent to and on the north side of the Clochnahill site. 3 turbines are proposed. The company behind this proposal have informed the Community Council by letter that they intend to submit a planning application, but there has been no consultation with us or anybody else as far as is known. The site is near to several local farms where the turbines would be visibly obtrusive. The proposed masts are significantly higher than those proposed for Clochnahill. A privately owned access track would need to be used. The proposed turbine positions are close to overhead power lines and underground pipelines. David Fleming and Peter Bellarby met with local farmers and discussed the situation with them; they are opposed to the development. *The Committee recommends that the Community Council objects to this proposal.*

It should be noted that the sites of both windfarms lie outwith the boundary of our Community Council area. Nevertheless it is reasonable for us to consider them as there would be an affect on Stonehaven.

Planning Decision

Installation of central heating (with flues on the outside wall) at the Unionist Club.

The Area Committee has approved the application from the Unionist Club, Market Square. The Community Council had raised objections. As this is a listed building, this may not be the end of the matter.

Stonehaven Traffic Management Plan

This a comprehensive plan that the Community Council has previously made representations about. The present version of the plan has taken these into account. It includes disabled parking outside Boots in Barclay Street and outside the Post Office in Allardice Street, a coach set down/pick up point at Margaret Street/ Market Square, alterations to the parking

bays in Market Square and the making of the harbour area pedestrian only on Saturdays and Sundays. The possible provision of traffic lights at the Barclay Street/Evan Street intersection would likely be investigated.

Aberdeenshire Local Plan

A letter has been received from Aberdeenshire Council that indicates the intention to adopt the above-named local plan from 22 June 2006, unless Scottish Ministers direct otherwise. The plan has been under discussion for some time and has an important impact on planning decisions. The plan and details of how objections to the plan have been dealt with can be seen at Viewmount, at Stonehaven Library and on Aberdeenshire Council web site. The address of the latter is given above and again the A-Z index can be used.

Scottish Environmental Link

A letter has been received from this organisation urging Community Councils to write to MSPs to asking for two things related to a bill presently under consideration by the Scottish Parliament. One is a limited right of appeal for third party objectors to challenge the approval of the most controversial planning decisions, such as those where the local authority has an interest or ignores the local plan. This is in line with views expressed by the Community Council in the past. The Committee recommends that the Community Council writes to Mike Rumbles, MSP, and to the NE Scotland list MSPs on these lines.

The second is a proper public enquiry into future national plans for Scotland, so the need for developments such as power stations and major waste facilities can be debated. This is likely to be controversial so the Committee makes no recommendations on this, leaving the decision to the business meeting.

Mode of Operation of the Committee

The Committee has appointed James Cleves as its secretary. The Committee proposes to work mainly using email and to meet physically rather infrequently, and only as needed. Each member will go through the planning lists and communicate views with reasons. James will correlate these and submit a holding letter/email to the Planning Department should this be needed. Any proposal to raise objections to a planning application would be put before a business meeting of the Community Council. Other Community Councillors are welcome to submit comments on planning applications to James. Planning Applications can be viewed on-line through the Aberdeenshire Council web site www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk. The A-Z index can be used to reach "Planning Applications". This then allows access to weekly lists (link on left-hand side of page). These lists give a code for each application. This can then be used in the Search Applications section to access all the information on a particular application. Note, though, that there are often delays between an application appearing in the weekly lists and the details becoming available.

Stonehaven and District Community Council
Briefing Report on the Stonehaven Town Partnership

It is proposed that a Company, limited by guarantee, is set up, called the Stonehaven Town Partnership, having the following Objectives:

- To create develop and promote an overall strategy for the town and work in partnership with the organised voluntary sector and constituted groups, Aberdeenshire Council, other statutory groups, other community groups and the people of Stonehaven; and to coordinate, develop, initiate, support and prioritise key projects in the town.
- To be a central point of contact for all people and organisations in relations to all matters affecting the town's growth, inhabitants' well-being, economic development, sustainability and promotion of the town's attractions. -
- To contribute to the improvement of the quality of life in the town including its natural and built environment, heritage and culture and to encourage new opportunities, investment and diversity through inclusion and consultation and cooperative ways of working. -

Membership would be open to any organisation in Stonehaven. Each would have a representative. Directors would be appointed from

- Stonehaven It's Special
- Stonehaven Business Association
- Arts & Leisure Trust
- The Heritage Society
- Stonehaven Community Council
- A Youth Director
- One elected from the representatives

Members of the Working Group are keen that this should be a “doing” organisation, and not just a talking shop. So, we are now looking for one or more “projects” with which to start the organisation and to build a business plan on.

David Fleming, Chairman, Stonehaven & District Community Council
13/6/06