

**MINUTES OF THE 309th BUSINESS MEETING
OF THE
STONEHAVEN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

HELD IN THE COWIE LOUNGE OF THE INVERCARRON RESOURCE CENTRE AT 7.30PM
ON TUESDAY 10th October, 2006

PRESENT:

David Fleming (Chairperson), Peter Bellarby, Raymond Christie, James Cleves, Sarah Dickinson, Michael Innes, Lyn Jardine, David Wood, Ian Hunter, Ditta Neuman, Lenny Lawrence

Kincardine and Mearns Councillors: Jack Morrison, Mike Sullivan

Minute Secretary: Sharon Hall

Also present:

2 members of the Press, 3 members of the public.

Item	Description	Action
1.	<p>Welcome, sederunt, apologies and declarations of interest Apologies were received from Ian Balgowan, Isabel Parkes, Linda Digney, Jane Davidson, Cllr Wendy Agnew, Cllr George Swapp. There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
2.	<p>Previous Minutes Approval: Correction to the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th September as follows: Isabel Parkes was omitted from the list of those present. Item 6, page 2: Andrew Sheridan is the Principal Officer, Waste & Street Cleansing – not the Transport Co-ordinator Item 6, page 3: The proposal regarding the letter to Aberdeenshire Council concerning garden waste was not carried unanimously but by majority vote. Minutes approved.</p> <p>Matters arising and follow up of action items not dealt with elsewhere:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Complaints by users of Town Hall Peter Bellarby reported that all the concerns previously discussed had now been addressed. However, it was noted that the upstairs toilets were not working and this has been reported to Aberdeenshire Council.b. Naming of the Development on the site of the former Commodore Hotel. Peter bellarby had consulted with Stonehaven Heritage Society who were not in favour of either “Commodore” or “Bairds” as part of the name and had suggested the name “Cowie Court”. Since a decision was needed urgently he had consulted Community Council members. All who responded agreed with the name “Cowie Court” so this has been put forward as the preferred option.c. Consultation on the Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils. A response had been submitted as detailed in the Agenda Paper.d. Consultation on Recycling Points. A letter from Christine Gore had been circulated. Sarah Dickinson stated that the public in general did not like the Leisure Centre car park being used as a recycling point. She wondered if the rear car park at the Community Education Centre was a possible alternative but after discussion this was deemed unsuitable. It was agreed that the Leisure Centre recycling point needs cleaning up and made to look more permanent, with screening possibly put in place. Raymond Christie pointed out that S&DCC had previously given several suggestions for recycling sites and this would be listed in the Minutes – possibly from 3 or 4 years ago. He recalled that the car park at the back of Forest Park had been one suggestion David Fleming will give a written response to the consultation.	David Fleming

3. **Co-Option of Steven Hurrell**

The following motion was proposed: “that the S&DCC agrees to the co-option of Steven Hurrell of 5 Mary Street, Stonehaven, AB39 2AD (Number 2153 on the Electoral Register for Polling District WW631) in accordance with para 4.11 of the Constitution”.

Proposed by Sarah Dickinson. Seconded by David Wood. Agreed unanimously.

4. **Budget Report Q3 – Lyn Jardine**

This report was included in the Agenda Papers. Lyn Jardine advised that the projection was still very good and that areas now need to be identified for use of funds.

Update of Committee Activities

5. **Future of Stonehaven – Sarah Dickinson**

Report included as an Agenda Paper. The consultation process will finish on 13th November, by which date about 50 groups will have been consulted. There have also been 96 participants in the on-line survey. The next steps will be to analyse the findings, prepare a report and then to hold a public meeting. The suggested date of 23 November for the public meeting at Stonehaven Town Hall was agreed. At least 7 Community Councillors will be able to attend on that evening. There was then discussion as to whether a briefing meeting was required prior to the Public Meeting. David Fleming suggested this should be considered alongside the following item:

6. **Strategy**

Arrangements for meeting of Community Council to debate the draft version.

The draft version had been circulated to members and a meeting was now necessary in order for members to discuss this in detail. It was agreed this could be held in conjunction with a briefing meeting about the Future of Stonehaven report.

Ian Hunter pointed out that the idea discussed at the committee meeting was that members would split into three groups in order to discuss three different sections of the report. All members would therefore need to have prepared for the meeting and outlined their views in advance to ensure that their views were made known on all aspects. The suggested dates for a meeting at the Resource Centre could not be agreed and David Fleming will therefore find another venue and advise members accordingly.

All Members

David Fleming

7. **Planning**

David Fleming advised that the committee is still trying to work out the best way to approach the large volume of work involved.

8. **Transport**

Report included as an Agenda Paper, including S&DCC Response to Aberdeenshire Council on the Consultation concerning the Local Transport Strategy.

With regard to the Faber Maunsell consultation about 20mph speed limits, Peter Bellarby apologised that Michael Innes and Ian Balgowan had not received the papers in time to give their input to the S&DDC response.

9. **Other Organisations**

- Association of Community Councils AGM, Stirling, Saturday 14th October

This will now be attended by David Fleming and Ian Hunter.

- Extraordinary General Meeting of K&M Area Partnership.

This was attended by Jane Davidson and David Wood. A talk had been given about Community Planning.

- Community Council Forum

(a) Giving the Forum a Constitution

Sarah Dickinson, Raymond Christie and David Fleming had attended the Forum. Only five of the eleven Community Councils had been represented. Informal meetings are held every quarter, but there is now a proposal for a proper constitution to be set up. This is in order to solve the problem of Community Council representation on Area bodies such as the Area Partnership, and the difficulty arising from the fact that the Forum does not have the power to represent

Community Councils as a whole. This could be solved if the Chair & Vice Chair of the Forum were elected posts and they, or their delegates, could then be nominated to represent Community Councils on Area bodies.

Ian Hunter queried if this would result in the creation of a "Senior Community Council" and he also raised the problem of proportional representation and the possible conflict between rural and town representation.

It was agreed that there should be further discussion at the next meeting, once the Draft Constitution has been received.

(b) Planning Gain (Developer Contribution) Presentation

David Fleming has received a paper copy of the Powerpoint presentation given by Stuart Robertson and will circulate it when it has been received in electronic form.

David Fleming

The presentation had been a good statement of the principles and of the current developments taking place, but there was no explanation of how the policy is currently implemented.

Discussion followed about the lack of public knowledge about where planning gain money has been or will be spent. Once planning permission has been granted such information should be fully within the public domain. Sarah Dickinson pointed out that the basis of planning gain was to mitigate against the impact of a particular plan or development. David Fleming said that a developer should consult the Local Plan at an early stage to see what is needed, such as affordable houses, and then develop his plans accordingly.

Update on Planning Issues

Brought forward from last month:

Public Enquiry into Supermarket at Fetteresso Cemetery (Loop Road)

10. The Pre Meeting had taken place and the Public Enquiry will take place in January 2007. S&DCC have been appointed as the "relevant person", which means that other people's viewpoints should be collated by S&DCC for submission to the Enquiry. David Fleming, Ian Hunter and Sarah Dickinson will attend on behalf of S&DDC and will represent the views of the public, as determined by the FoS work, and the impact on the cemetery. Other issues, including the adverse effect on retail businesses in the town, the transport problems, and the deviation from the Local Plan will be presented by Aberdeenshire Council.

11. **County Hotel site**

The second planning application has been rejected. The refusal against the first application is to be appealed.

12. **St John's Hill Wind Farm**

This application was rejected by the Area Committee by 7 votes to 4.

Cllrs. Sullivan and Morrison were invited to comment about their own voting decisions.

Cllr Sullivan had voted in favour of the wind farm. He saw the issue as one of local visual impact versus the problems of global warming, and outlined statistics regarding the level of CO2 emissions from fossil fuel power stations.

Cllr Morrison had voted against the application and argued that simple changes like better insulation and the use of modern technology, such as solar panels, can make a huge difference in reducing global warming. He also stated that the actual construction of wind farm turbines, in terms of the steel, concrete and transport involved, in itself creates a high level of CO2 emissions.

David Fleming's view was that the whole debate at the Area Committee about this planning application had not been well informed and there remained many unresolved differences.

Peter Bellarby had attended the site visit, which had involved visiting viewpoints rather than the site of the wind turbines themselves. From the north there would be minimal visual effect and from Stonehaven no impact, but there would be severe visual intrusion from elsewhere in the Mearns.

Ian Hunter said that nuclear power stations would be a dire alternative to wind farms. He agreed with Lenny Lawrence that the main point was the need to cut down on energy use and the need to educate the public. He suggested that this should become a future agenda item.

13. **34 additional houses at Braehead**

This application had not yet come up for discussion at the Area Committee. Members were

reminded that S&DCC had already put in an objection.

Lenny Lawrence asked if any low cost houses would be included in the plan and David Fleming will contact Aberdeenshire Council on this point.

David Fleming

New Planning Issues this month:

14. Revised plan for Supermarket at East Newtonleys

The first plan that had been submitted was for a site in the first field at the junction of the Dunnottar Woods road and the dual carriageway. As a result of problems with road design, the revised plan now has the development situated some 200yds to the east, next to the farm. The developer is Bancon and the proposed supermarket would be about 50% bigger than Somerfield. It was pointed out that the site in question is not designated for a supermarket and is actually zoned for industrial use.

Sarah Dickinson suggested that more information is needed; Bancon had met with S&DCC at the time of the first planning application. However, David Fleming said that it was Outline Planning Permission that had been applied for and no details had therefore yet been submitted. Peter Bellarby suggested that a “holding” letter be sent to the Council, advising that the application was under consideration. Ditta Neuman supported this and said that time was needed to collate the views of the public gathered by The Future of Stonehaven consultation.

It was agreed that the letter to the Council about this application should state the following:

- S&DCC require more time to collate and analyse information gathered from the public
- S&DCC wish to be formal consultees
- Concerns of the public, especially loss of visual amenity
- Concerns about the larger implications, such as roads

Peter Bellarby

15. Skatepark at Queen Elizabeth Park

The detailed plans are now available on the Aberdeenshire Council website.

Ian Hunter pointed out that the Recreation Ground Trustees are now looking at the possible development of the whole area but the opportunity to look at other options for the skatepark, as part of these plans, has now been lost. It was also pointed out that the funds for the skatepark are not yet in place. Full discussion of this matter will take place at the next meeting when all members have seen the plans.

All Members

Issues

16. Adopt-a-Street Campaign – Sarah Dickinson

Report included as an Agenda Paper. Sarah Dickinson outlined the “Next Steps”. More helpers would be needed to get the initiative up and running.

David Fleming stated the project would need co-ordination between individuals but within proper guidelines and involving other bodies such as Aberdeenshire Council and the Business Association. He felt it was a good opportunity to get the Community Council out into the whole community. He proposed the following motion:

- (i) Adopt-a-Street should be a S&DCC project involving all members
- (ii) A committee should be set up, bringing in other people as well as Community Councillors

Seconded by Peter Bellarby.

During general discussion the following points were made:

Sarah Dickinson stated that not all councillors would need to get personally involved. David Fleming agreed this point but said that members should be encouraged to contribute in some way. Ditta Neuman saw the scheme as complimenting Aberdeenshire Council’s work; there would still be “hot spots” that could not be tackled. Ian Hunter felt there might be some public reservation about the project. It might be better if such an initiative came from the community, which could be supported by S&DCC but not instigated by them. Sarah Dickinson said that money had been specifically allocated to S&DCC for the project and Peter Bellarby reminded members that it had already been agreed that this should be a Community Council project. He also felt that there was no expectation on community councillors individually.

David Wood queried how long the campaign was intended to last and asked if there was any educational element involved. Sarah Dickinson said it was an open-ended scheme with no timescales. Lyn Jardine said that the £800 would not cover education but that schools could become involved. The scheme might take off as a separate initiative, as had happened with

Horizon. Sarah Dickinson said that Horizon did not want to take on this project as they did not wish to become associated so closely as a “litter” group. She reiterated that this scheme was not designed to educate, as such, but this was a role undertaken by the school Eco Groups. The motion was carried by a majority vote, Raymond Christie and Ian Hunter having abstained.

17. Police Report

The report had been circulated and apologies received from Sgt Wallace for the lack of police representation at the meeting.

Raymond Christie advised that Community Learning Worker Laura Anne Macey had organised a meeting about setting up a Youth Forum, to be held on 11th October, 8pm at the Community Education Centre.

David Fleming advised that a landlords’ meeting about a Pubwatch scheme was currently taking place (10th October). This would involve an exchange of information between landlords and with the police, removing the barrier of the Data Protection Act and setting out common rules about acceptable behaviour.

Peter Bellarby proposed S&DCC support of the scheme. Seconded by Ian Hunter. Carried unanimously.

Correspondence

The register was included in the Agenda Papers, but Peter Bellarby pointed out that correspondence should be included properly in the agenda as a separate item, particularly as some actions needed to be discussed. Ian Hunter said that correspondence used to be discussed at the agenda meetings and items then passed to the appropriate committee. Lyn Jardine stated that it was vital that everyone reads the correspondence list before each meeting.

AOCB

18. Social Event

It was agreed that the Communications Committee would organise a social get together for all members and advise details in due course.

Cllr Sullivan advised that money had been set aside for an life-size open air sculpture to be created, as a “Celebration of Stonehaven”. The artist and the subject had been agreed but ideas about the location are being sought.

All Members

David Fleming and the Horizon group are to meet with Scottish Water about plans for the Backies.

Michael Innes questioned the situation about the responsibility for enforcing parking regulations. David Fleming stated there were few resources available to enable the regulations to be regularly monitored but it was important that all infringements be reported to the police.

The meeting was closed at 9.28pm