

**MINUTES OF THE 310th BUSINESS MEETING
OF THE
STONEHAVEN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

HELD IN THE COWIE LOUNGE OF THE INVERCARRON RESOURCE CENTRE AT 7.30PM
ON TUESDAY 14th November, 2006

PRESENT:

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

Kincardine and Mearns Councillors: Wendy Agnew, George Swapp

Minute Secretary: Sharon Hall

Also present:

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

Sgt. Grant Wallace

Item	Description	Action
1.	<p>Welcome, sederunt, apologies and declarations of interest Apologies were received from Steven Hurrell, Jane Davidson, Linda Digney, Cllr Mike Sullivan, Cllr Jack Morrison</p> <p>Cllr. George Swapp stated a declaration of interest with regard to Item 6 – Planning Application No. 3777 for Arisaig, 27 Slug Road.</p>	
2.	<p>Previous Minutes Approval of minutes held on October 10 was proposed by Sarah Dickinson, seconded by Ditta Neuman. The minutes were approved unanimously.</p> <p>Matters arising from minutes of previous meetings and follow up of action items not dealt with elsewhere:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Recycling Points. David Fleming requested clarification on whether the S&DCC view was that the Backies & the Leisure Centre should remain as recycling points only. This was agreed and he will reply to Christine Gore accordingly.b. Planning Gain presentation. This is now available to view electronically and was passed to Lyn Jardine. Cllr. Swapp advised that Aberdeenshire Council will be issuing a list of approved planning gain and other information to make the process more transparent.c. Low cost housing at Braehead. David Fleming has written to Aberdeenshire Council on this point.	<p>David Fleming</p>
3.	<p>Crime Prevention Police report included in agenda papers. In response to an enquiry from David Fleming, Sgt Wallace outlined details of an incident outside the Town Hall at 10pm on 03/11/06. There had been an under 18s disco in aid of Skatepark funds and young people leaving this event were caught up with crowds of youths on the street, many of whom had been drinking. The police were satisfied there had been no trouble at the event itself, and no obvious signs of under age drinking in the Town Hall. Peter Bellarby had been asked by Invercarron Resource Centre to raise an enquiry about the problem of cycling on pavements. Sgt. Wallace clarified the fact that this is an offence. However, parents should be advising younger children to cycle on the pavements where it is safer for them to do so. Older children should not be riding on the pavements and should be asked to stop doing so.</p> <p>Raymond Christie raised a point of order regarding Agenda Item 19 “Use of bequest funds” that had been submitted in advance but had been wrongly included under “AOCB”. David Fleming apologised for this error and it was agreed this item should be brought forward for discussion. Lyn Jardine advised that S&DCC hold two accounts – the General Administration account and the Bequest account. She will obtain more information about the administration of the Bequest funds and the best time to move funds. Item 19 – Request by Ian Hunter for £300 towards the</p>	

Community Radio Licence Application Fee. Proposed by Lenny Lawrence. Seconded by David Fleming. Motion carried unanimously. David Fleming reminded members that other applications to the bequest funds are still being sought.

4. Future of Stonehaven Committee – Sarah Dickinson

The public meeting has been set up for 23 November. The key issues, which have been divided into four areas, will be discussed in small groups. It has already been shown that the data collected in the consultation survey can be used to effectively inform decision making. During the consultations with the Lions Club, S&DCC were invited to nominate a charity to receive a £100 donation. Sarah Dickinson suggested the Friends of the Open Air Pool and this was approved unanimously. All S&DCC members are invited to the meeting as participants in the consultation. Ian Hunter asked if any “pre-reading” was required and suggested that information about the issues to be discussed could be posted on the website. Lyn Jardine said that the danger in giving out too much information in advance was that it might discourage attendance at the meeting. Sarah Dickinson said the the meeting would enable debate and interaction to take place which was all part of the consultation process. It would provide a genuine opportunity to contribute to the consultation. A written report would be produced after the meeting, although some parts of the debate may be ongoing and further clarification may be required on certain issues.

5. Strategy – David Fleming

Thirteen members had attended the meeting to debate the draft strategy paper. The draft will be ready for approval at the next meeting.

David Fleming

6. Planning Applications – David Fleming

Report included in agenda papers.

Peter Bellarby commented on the “procedures” produced by the Planning Committee, which he felt were acceptable where a planning issue is not controversial. However, in cases of controversy he stated that a “holding” letter would be issued to Aberdeenshire Council and the matter would then be brought for full debate to the next Community Council meeting.

7. Transport

Peter Bellarby advised that, to date, the committee had been unable to meet. The next Bus Forum meeting was to be held Thursday 17 November. Ian Hunter had again raised the suggestion that long distance buses could stop on the by-pass and it was hoped a response would be made at the meeting. Raymond Christie had raised the issue of speed limits on Den of Logie and Glenury estate and Peter Bellarby replied that he had had written to Aberdeenshire Council.

8. Other Organisations

- Association of Community Councils AGM, Stirling, Sat 14 October

Ian Hunter and David Fleming reported that the association appears to be in a state of crisis. There are particular problems with the democratic structure and with the areas of representation. The minutes of the AGM have not yet appeared on the website. One area of unanimity was in the demand for more police to be returned to the beat.

- Community Council Forum

First Draft of the Constitution included in agenda papers.

Ian Hunter said that “Item 6: Representation”, gives too much power to the Chair & Vice Chair. He also called for a change of wording in “Item 8: Election of Office Bearers” to include election of representatives to other bodies. Sarah Dickinson said that she was not convinced that the Forum should have such structure and power. Each individual Community Council should be empowered and the Forum just added another layer of representation. David Fleming stated that the issue was about getting the views of all Community Councils up to Area level. Peter Bellarby’s view was that the Forum needs to have a constitution. He saw the Forum as a solution to Community Council representation on all the various area bodies, and it provides the mechanism to allow one person to be the representative but for others to also attend meetings. Lyn Jardine said that the Forum constitution cannot be considered until there is an understanding of the structure of the Community Planning Partnerships. It was agreed that members need to have more information and knowledge about this whole structure. Laura-Anne

Mackay (Community Learning Worker, Aberdeenshire Council) suggested that a representative from the Community Development Partnership might attend a future S&DCC meeting, and the Council could then debate the representation issue with a practical example. The Chairman agreed to follow this up. The next meeting of the Forum is on 30 November 2006. David Fleming advised that this is a budgetary meeting but asked members if there were any other items they wished to be put forward.

David Fleming

9. Update on Planning Issues

Committee report included in agenda papers.

David Fleming outlined the committee's decision on the listed planning applications.

No. 2: Arisaig, 27 Slug Road. Cllr. Swapp left the meeting during discussion of this item.

There were no specific comments made on Application Nos 1 – 4.

No. 5: Herscha Hill. Peter Bellarby explained that, although this application is not within S&DCC's area, the committee had decided to support it. He said that there was no reason to object, taking into account factors such as : avoidance of summit, little visual disturbance, full consultation made, no overall undue adverse effects. However, he said that it was very important to stress that full consideration must be given to those living close to the site. Lenny Lawrence said there was a danger that S&DCC could be seen as agreeing to all windfarms. Ian Balgowan also expressed concern about the "snowball" effect of agreeing to one windfarm application. Ian Hunter accepted that S&DCC can comment on applications outwith their area because of the wider issues involved, such as the effect on tourism. However, he said comment could not be made about the effect on nearby houses as this could create conflict with other Community Councils. David Fleming said that a copy of the S&DCC letter regarding this application should be sent to the appropriate Community Council. Ditta Neuman stated that the public needed to be consulted about their views on windfarms generally. Raymond Christie said that it had already been agreed to hold a public meeting. Cllr. Swapp advised that there is a lack of guidance from the Scottish Executive about the capacity for windfarms and about the cumulative effect in one area. There is no quota system in place and therefore the Community Council has to consider each application on its own merits. Mearns Community Council had approached the Scottish Executive for guidance. Lyn Jardine suggested that members own knowledge about windfarms needs to be improved first, before setting up a public meeting. Peter Bellarby suggested a joint meeting could be arranged with other Community Councils and it was agreed he should arrange this. After discussion, David Wood proposed the motion that no letter should meantime be sent to Aberdeenshire Council regarding the Herscha Hill wind turbine application. Seconded by Lyn Jardine. 9 members voted in favour, 2 abstentions (David Fleming & Peter Bellarby). Motion carried

Peter Bellarby

No. 6: No comment

No. 7: East Newtonleys supermarket. Discussion postponed.

No. 8: Skatepark

Details of the application for full planning permission at Queen Elizabeth Park were now available. Ditta Neuman said that the main concern has been about the visual impact of the skatepark. She felt these concerns had now been addressed and the proposed screening and banking would be effective. David Fleming felt that the plans were still too obtrusive in that the proposed size of the skatepark was too big and more landscaping was required. Raymond Christie said his view remained that the site was in the wrong place. It was suggested by Sharon Hall, requesting to speak as a member of the public, that S&DCC should be seen to support the skatepark plans. The park had long been discussed and every consultation with the youth of Stonehaven showed this to be their most sought after facility. Continued discussion and consultation would not aid the plans to be progressed. After further discussion Ditta Neuman proposed the motion that a letter be issued in support of the current application. Seconded by David Fleming. 8 members voted in favour. 3 abstentions (Ian Balgowan, Raymond Christie, Ian Hunter). The motion was therefore carried.

10. Stonehaven Town Partnership

This meeting had been attended by David Fleming who was one of only 3 non-Aberdeenshire Council employees. The Partnership is to be set up as a limited company. A main focus of the meeting was the need to establish projects for the Partnership. Two had been suggested –

- (i) Refurbishment of the Town Hall. A report is soon to be produced by consultants.
(ii) Stonehaven Ambassadors Project, involving working with the primary schools to instill a sense of pride in the community.

These suggestions will be debated at the next meeting. The idea of the Town Hall project was warmly welcomed by both Peter Bellarby and Sarah Dickinson. Ian Hunter stated that the Partnership appeared to have common aims with Stonehaven Arts & Leisure Trust and questioned if another such group was needed. David Fleming said the Partnership was a council-led initiative and had come out of the Aberdeenshire Towns Partnership. It was hoped that more funding could be directed to the Stonehaven Partnership. Lenny Lawrence pointed out that a lot of work had been done by the ATP and questioned what had happened to all that paperwork and planning. Cllr. Swapp stated that some ideas had been implemented but there had been a lot of changes since then.

11. Planning Gain – David Fleming

A reply was awaited to the letter that had been issued to Willie Munro.

12. Youth Forum

13. Community Facilities for young people – Ian Hunter

Laura-Anne Mackay advised that a pre-meeting had been held in an attempt to re-establish a Stonehaven Youth Forum. The young people involved would be applying for funding. Raymond Christie outlined some of the feedback that had been received on the “wishlist” facilities and issues concerning young people. Facilities included a skatepark, music venue, youth café, recording studio, media store, drama group, internet café, drop-in centre and motorcross site. Issues included bullying, bereavement and drugs. Laura-Anne advised that it was hoped to negotiate for refurbishment of the old “Cheers” premises. She felt there was a very negative attitude in Stonehaven towards young people but that this was not an adequate reflection of the real situation. David Fleming had attended a meeting held at Viewmount about youth issues. Ian Hunter said that the youth problem is a complex one. The lack of community facilities is a major problem and a drop-in centre was sorely needed. Structured activities between young people and adults, especially in recreation, are very good, but there is a great need for more community buildings, especially in the winter months. Aboyne Community School is an excellent example of a very successful community building. The council buildings available for community use in Stonehaven are run down and inadequate. David Fleming proposed a motion that “*S&DCC strongly support the setting up of a Youth Forum in Stonehaven*”. Seconded by Sarah Dickinson. Unanimously approved. A list of buildings available for community use, and their availability, is to be drawn up. This will be tied in with the Future of Stonehaven consultation and will be carried forward to be kept on the agenda.

Peter Bellarby

14. Maritime Rescue Institute – Heritage Project

S&DCC had been asked if they wished to be associated with this project and to come forward with any ideas for contributions. Peter Bellarby suggested that a link with this project was unnecessary. Ian Balgowan pointed out that a similar project is already being carried out by someone else. He will liaise with Peter Bellarby to advise MRI of the details.

Peter Bellarby

15. Royal Mail delivery times - consultation

Peter Bellarby advised that the basic change in Stonehaven is that delivery times are later and he asked members to let him know their views on this. His own view was that for domestic customers this did not cause problems, but the views of the business community should be sought.

All members

16. Other correspondence

A consultation had been received regarding gambling and the licensing of premises. Peter Bellarby outlined 3 main points – any gambling must be free of crime, it must be fair and transparent and there must be adequate protection for children and the vulnerable. After consideration it was agreed that a written response would be given that S&DCC is happy with the principles to be adopted.

Peter Bellarby

Members were advised that the Dunnottar Woodland Park Association AGM is to be held on Thursday 30 November, 7.30pm at Invercarron Resource Centre. Sharon Hall was asked to

provide a report on this. Cllr. Swapp will also be attending. Peter Bellarby is the representative of the Community Council and will attend.

17. Chairman's activities

Letters from residents re vandalism: People needed to be encouraged to report all incidents.

Update of AWPR design: The latest plan is now available and particular attention was drawn to changes in the link road near to Stonehaven. Peter Bellarby said he felt that the new design of the junction with the A90 was poor.

Leisure Centre cleanliness: David Fleming has not yet had a meeting and tour of inspection with the new manager.

Meeting with Scottish Water re new sewage scheme: This has still to take place. A letter has been sent to Willie Munro with concerns regarding the pipe to be installed from The Backies to Cowie. Following discussion about the route of this pipe Sarah Dickinson suggested that Scottish Water might consider the possibility of a goodwill gesture in making improvements to the promenade during the process of reinstatement. Raymond Christie pointed out that the route of the pipe had been known for some time.

18. AOCB

Donald Speirs, representing Midhill Ltd, the wind farm company, was invited to speak. Planning consent for the wind farm had been received in 2003, but a further application had now been made to increase the capacity of the site to a maximum 75 MW. This was due to new turbine technology that had been developed since the original application. The turbines are not to be relocated but they wish to increase 5 of the 25 turbines to a maximum height of 110 metres. The plans are subject to a Section 36 Application and have gone to the Scottish Executive for consideration, with Aberdeenshire Council as statutory consultees. All the planning documentation, including computer generated visualisations, is available to view in the usual locations and copies were also given to Peter Bellarby. Ditta Neuman asked why some of the turbines were originally shorter. Mr Speirs advised that this had been due to aesthetic reasons but a landscape assessment had shown that increasing the height of the 5 turbines would have minimal impact. There was discussion about the changes in technology and the demands of manufacturers as against those of developers. Cllr. Swapp, in part of whose ward the plans are based, advised that in 2003 the original scheme had been passed unanimously by the Area Committee. It had felt then that one large scheme such as this was enough for the whole area. In answer to questions by Lenny Lawrence and David Wood, Mr Speirs said that the scheme had planning permission for 25 years, from the date of the first generation. Thereafter, the scheme would be decommissioned. Ian Hunter asked how the costs of decommissioning would be covered were the company not be able to meet them. Mr Speirs will clarify whether there is a financial bond in place, as is usual in such schemes.

David Fleming advised members that a social gathering will be held after next month's meeting, the agenda for which will therefore be kept as short as possible.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 12 December.

The meeting was closed at 9.53.