

MINUTES of the 313th BUSINESS MEETING
of the
STONEHAVEN and DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COWIE LOUNGE OF THE INVERCARRON RESOURCE CENTRE AT
7.30PM ON TUESDAY 13th February, 2007

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<p>Presentations</p> <p>The Chairman presented the awards for the Christmas decorations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emil Rzechorzek Trophy : Jayne and Wayne Good, Glenton Croft, Rickarton Runners up: Mr & Mrs D Cheyne, Johnstone Lodge, Stonehaven• Millenium Trophy: George McGillvray on behalf of Stonehaven Business Assocaition• Christmas Window Dressing competition: Purdies, Market Square Runners-up: The Spectacle Company, Allardice Street.	
2.	<p>The Chairman reported that he had presented Chiara Venditozzi with the Hannah Dyson Award during the Assembly at Mill O’Forest School on Monday 12th February.</p>	
3.	<p>Welcome, sederunt, apologies and declarations of interest</p> <p>Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• David Fleming (Chairperson), Ian Balgowan, Raymond Christie, James Cleves, Sarah Dickinson, Steven Hurrell, Ian Hunter, Michael Innes, Lyn Jardine, Isabel Parkes, David Wood.• Kincardine and Mearns Councillors: Cllr. Sullivan, Cllr. Morrison• Two members of the Press, Charlie Haskett of Scottish Water, Ian Downie of Balfour Beattie, David McDonald (Secretary of the Stonheaven & District Angling Association), and some 12 members of the public. <p>Apologies were received from Peter Bellarby, Jane Davidson, Lynda Digney, Lenny Lawrence, Ditta Neumann, Cllr. George Swapp, Cllr. Wendy Agnew, Sgt Grant Wallace, Insp. Jim Gordon, Sharon Hall (Minute Secretary)</p>	
4.	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on January 9th 2007</p> <p>These were approved unanimously without amendment.</p> <p>Matters arising</p> <p>Ian Hunter proposed, and Lyn Jardine seconded, that the minutes of the December meeting be amended, at item 3, after the words “absolute transparency.” to include:</p> <p style="text-align:center"><i>“He said that there was a particular need for this at present as concern had been expressed to him by members of the public that at the number of key positions in the Community Council held by member of one political party.”</i></p> <p>Agreed unanimously.</p>	
5.	<p>Crime Prevention – Report by Police</p> <p>Steve Hurrell asked for clarification about the figures in brackets on the report. Members noted that these appeared to refer to the data for the previous period.</p> <p>Ian Hunter reported that a further incident had occurred at the weekend, when recently</p>	

planted trees in Mineralwell Park had been vandalised.

Frequency of attendance of police representatives

The Chairman reported that the police representatives were unable to present this evening because of operational commitments. They had asked that their presence might be requested on less frequent basis, say, quarterly. Steve Hurrell objected to this, saying that he felt it showed a lack of willingness by the police to contact the public. Ian Hunter said it made the police feel more remote, and they should examine how they interfaced with the public. . The Chairman reminded members that they should always advise the public, if they saw anything relevant, to phone the police either on 999 or 08457 600 5 700. After some debate it was proposed by Sarah Dickinson, seconded by Steve Hurrell that

“Grampian Police be asked to make every endeavour to ensure a representative attends every month”.

Agreed unanimously.

6 Sewerage Upgrade Scheme

The Chairman welcomed Charlie Haskett of Scottish Water and Ian Downie of Balfour Beattie. He said a meeting had been held between himself, themselves, together with Steve Scott of Scottish Water and Peter Bellarby. The Chairman tabled an “Outline Plan of Works” which he had written up following that meeting and stated that he had authored it and accepted full responsibility for any errors there might be. Charlie Haskett handed over an updated copy, and the Chairman promised to publish an update.

Charlie Haskett then gave a history of the project, explained the current situation, and presented copies of the plans that had now been approved. He also stated that the contract with Balfour Beatty has now been revised and agreed. Work had been started with the arrival of some 500 tons of hardcore to create the delivery compound at Cowie. The plans were then examined and explained to members of the Council.

In reply to questions from Councillors and members of the public, it was established that:

- The chimney stack on the Cowie building will emit gases, but they should not smell, provided the odour treatment equipment was working properly. The hydrogen sulphide level would be monitored electronically, and the results telemetered to the Nigg Bay control room. Once the plant was running, if any smells were noticed, they should be reported immediately to Scottish Water who would pass the report on to the maintenance contractor (who is a subsidiary of Yorkshire Water).
- Some letters had been delivered to residents, but not all residents had had a personal visit yet. Ian Downie said that more staff were being made available to contact residents.
- During the road works, it is a requirement that access be maintained for emergency vehicles.
- Ian Downie has been in touch with Ian Thompson of Aberdeenshire Council with regard to access to the caravan park, and was aware that caravans would be arriving at the end of March.
- Pumps were designed not to be noisy, and not to transmit vibrations to the surrounding ground. Their design had been upgraded to cope with a 30% higher volume than in the original 1999 plans.
- The “rough” car park at the Backies would be completely closed off the public for the duration of the project.

- Some 75% of the places in the existing Backies car park would remain available.
- Structural surveys are being organised to cover buildings that might be affected by the Backies excavation. They will be done by Fairhurst Ltd, and property owners should expect a visit within the next week. Anyone concerned but not visited should contact Scottish Water.

There was a question as to whether residents were allowed to park overnight in the Backies car park, and Charlie Haskett agreed to take this up with Aberdeenshire Council and revert back to the Community Council.

**Charlie
Haskett**

The Chairman expressed the view that the level of preparedness and communications was very poor indeed for a project costing over £10 million. He accepted the assurance from Charlie Haskett that an Open Evening would be organised as soon as possible to explain details to all the town's residents.

A member of the Angling Club reported that they had been consulted about the Cowie River crossing, and that Horizon Group had been contacted.

The Chairman invited the representatives of the project to attend at the next Business Meeting on 13th March, and to present as progress report..

Committee activities

7. Future of Stonehaven Committee

Sarah Dickinson presented the final report of the Future of Stonehaven Committee, and read a public statement expressing the conclusion of the report. She proposed, and was seconded by James Cleves, that

This Community Council receives and embraces the Future of Stonehaven Consultation 2006 Report and confirms its commitment to represent and act as appropriate upon the views therein

This Community Council agrees that the primary aims of the Future of Stonehaven Committee have been fulfilled and proposes that the work of the Committee is wound up

This Community Council will consider further the findings of this report and will aim to make specific proposals for action required at the April business meeting

All three motions were agreed unanimously.

The Chairman thanked Sarah Dickinson and her team for a most excellent, readable, and worthwhile report, and led a round of applause.

8. Transport Committee

Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) consultation

The letter about Aberdeen Crossrail and RTS consultation response letter were approved.

Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR)

David Fleming reported an excellent meeting with AWPR team during the day's exhibition in the Town Hall. The team said they would examine the proposed alternative junction layout. To date no response as been received.

Relation between the Transport Forum and the Transport Committee

The Chairman suggested that this should be progressed at the next meeting of the Transport Committee. Agreed.

**Transport
Committee**

Blue badge and taxicard schemes

Item postponed at Lenny Lawrence's request.

Speed limits at Glenury and Den of Logie

Raymond Christie agreed to follow up with Aberdeenshire Council why the poles still did not have their signs attached after over a year.

**Raymond
Christie**

Election of Chairperson of Transport Committee

The Chairman suggested that Committee should nominate their own Chairman, and then seek ratification at a full Business Meeting. This was agreed unanimously. This might not happen until after the AGM.

**Transport
Committee**

Reports on Planning Issues

9. **Actions of Planning Committee on planning applications.**

Report Noted.

10. **Loop Road Supermarket**

No decision yet from the Reporter

11. **Proposed public meeting on windfarms - setting up of working party**

Ian Hunter, David Wood and David Fleming agreed to form a working group to progress this.

Ian Hunter

12. **Meikle Carewe Wind farm**

Letter of objection noted

13. **County Hotel site**

The Chairman reported that the 25-flat application had been rejected on appeal, and the 27-flat application had been "sisted" i.e. held in abeyance. He and Peter Bellarby had met with a representative of Barratt's, who were going to propose another plan. The Chairman said he had restated to Barratt's the Council's opinion on the overdevelopment of the site, and the concerns about the replacement of hotel accommodation and squash facilities.

Other issues

14. **Kincardine and Mearns Area Plan**

Ditta Neumann's critique of the plan document was tabled. The plan has been already been approved by the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee. In response to the Chairman, Cllr Mike Sullivan thought that it would still be worthwhile sending in the comments, as improvement in wording was always worthwhile.

**Secretary/
Chairman**

15. **Waste management**

Green and garden waste - David Fleming

The Chairman referred to the statement by Aberdeenshire Council last year that they would be reviewing the handling of green and garden waste in time for the 2007 season. He had written asking to be involved in consultation during this review. He had received a very negative e-mail reply, which he tabled. He felt that it showed that the Waste Manage Team had still not learnt the lessons from the Wheelie Bin debacle. It was noted that the K&M Area Committee had also be concerned at not being consulted and had asked for information for their next meeting on 27th February. The Chairman asked for approval of a draft letter to Ian Robertson of Aberdeenshire Council stating that this Council also expected to be consulted before any decisions were taken. The letter was

Secretary/

approved unanimously.

Chairman

Wheelie bins - Steve Hurrell

16. Steve Hurrell raised concerns that the placement of wheelie bins was becoming unsightly, unhygienic, and inappropriate, particularly in the town centre conservation area. A draft letter had been prepared. The letter was approved unanimously.

**Secretary/
Chairman**

Margaret Scatterty bequest

Ian Hunter suggested that, before we consider any applications for the use of this money, we should set a policy as about its use. Lyn Jardine said that she had not had time to examine the conditions of the bequest, and would like to defer the item. This was agreed. Meanwhile, Lyn Jardine needed instructions about the re-investment of the funds, as the maturity date of the current investment occurred in the few days time. After some debate, it was proposed by Sarah Dickinson, seconded by Raymond Christie, that the funds be re-invested for 6 months, pending the above policy discussion.

Lyn Jardine

Business matters

17. **Appointment of independent examiner**

Lyn Jardine explained that, although we did not require to have an auditor, she felt it worthwhile to have the books examined. She proposed, seconded by David Wood that Alan Parkhill be appointed as the independent examiner of accounts for 2006. David Fleming declared an interest in that he knew Alan personally. The motion was carried nem. con, with David Fleming and Michael Innes abstaining.

18. **Budget report Q4 2006**

Lyn Jardine tabled her 4th Quarter report. There were no questions.

19. **Election of chairperson of Communications Committee**

As per the Transport Committee, the Chairman suggested that Committee should nominate their own Chairman, and then seek ratification at a full Business Meeting. This was agreed unanimously. This might not happen until after the AGM.

**Communications
Committee**

20. **Arrangements for AGM on March 13th**

At the next meeting, there would be two parts – the formal AGM and a Business meeting. The Chairman intimated that he intended to make a formal verbal Chairman's Report at the AGM, for which the text would be available for the record. He encouraged the other officers and Committee Chairmen to prepare likewise. The details would be agreed at the agenda meeting on 6th March.

21. **Possible by-election**

The Chairman noted that we still had 4 vacancies, one of which was filled by Steve Hurrell's co-option. In reply to Ian Hunter, the Chairman confirmed that Steve's co-option ran until the next full election in 2008. The Chairman proposed organising a by-election after the AGM to see if the vacancies could be filled. A motion to this effect was proposed by Ian Hunter, seconded by David Wood, and agreed unanimously.

**Secretary/
Chairman**

22. **Community Representation Committees**

Ian Hunter expressed concern that there appears to be a large number of organisations (forums, Partnerships, Committees etc) being set up primarily, it would seem, by Aberdeenshire Council, on which Community representation was being sought. However, the Community Council were unclear how they would work and relate to each other. He therefore proposed that

Stonehaven and District Community Council requests that Aberdeenshire

Council assign a representative to explain to the Stonehaven Community the role of the various Community representative committees, their spheres of influence, their interrelationship with each other and how they are elected or appointed.

The motion was agreed unanimously.

23. **Chairman's activities**

The Chairman reported on his invitation to the Sea Cadets Royal Naval Parade, and the conference on the National Planning Framework. (Other meetings were reported under their appropriate items.)

Correspondence

24. **Nominations for Aberdeenshire Community Planning Executive**

An invitation has been received for this post, previously held by Peter Bellarby. Ian Hunter expressed a willingness to be put forward, and it was agreed he should look at the papers and progress the matter.

25. **Letter from Stonehaven and District Angling Association**

David McDonald explained the history of the Community Contributions arising from the Mid Hill Wind Farm development. He explained why his association felt the matter had not had a satisfactory outcome, and requested that S&DCC should:

Ask Aberdeenshire Council to reconsider the Minute of Agreement concerning the development, and its likely impact on the Cowie as a fishing river;

At the next Community Council Forum, endeavour the clear up any misunderstanding arising from previous statements about the Angling Association's stance on this matter.

The Community Council agreed to take these actions.

26 ff. Since the meeting had overrun its time, all other matters were deferred.

The meeting closed at 9:57 pm.

30 **Date of next meetings**

The agenda meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th March at 6:30 pm in the Dunnottar Lounge.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Cowie Lounge at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 13th March. It will be followed immediately by a Business meeting.