

**MINUTES of the 316<sup>th</sup> BUSINESS MEETING**  
**of the**  
**STONEHAVEN and DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

HELD IN THE COWIE LOUNGE OF THE INVERCARRON RESOURCE CENTRE  
at 7.30 p.m. ON TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2007

<b><u>No</u></b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>	<b><u>Action</u></b>
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At the start of the meeting, Peter Bellarby resigned from the Stonehaven and District Community council and his position as SDCC secretary. David Fleming thanked him for his hard work and great contribution over the last years to the Community Council and his much valued advice to the new chairman. David congratulated all new councillors to winning the election the previous week.

**1. Welcome, sederunt, apologies and declarations of interest**

Present:

- David Fleming (Chairperson), Ian Balgowan, Raymond Christie, Sarah Dickinson, Ian Hunter, Lyn Jardine, Michael Innes, Lynn Jardine, Lenny Lawrence, Ditta Neumann, David Wood.
- Kincardine and Mearns Councillors: Cllr. Mike Sullivan, Cllr. Peter Bellarby, Cllr. Wendy Agnew
- Constable Wallace (Community Beat Officer)
- Ian Downie (Balfour Beatty)
- Two members of the Press, 4 members of the public.

Apologies were received from James Cleves, Jane Davidson, Linda Digney, Isobel Parkes, William Lawrie. David Fleming was sorry to have to report that Steven Hurrell was unable to attend as he suffered a heart attack, and was advised to take things easy for the next few months. He was given leave of absence, and the Council wished him a speedy recovery.

**2. Minutes of the meeting held on March 13<sup>th</sup> 2007**

Approval of the minutes was proposed by David Wood and seconded by Michael Innes and agreed unanimously.

Matters arising: None.

**3. Crime Prevention – Report by Police**

Constable Stuart Akers was unable to attend. Sergeant Wallace came to report on the recent crime statistics. He briefly presented the crime statistics previously circulated, noting the low occurrence.

He reported on the state of parking on Shorehead. There had been some issues with residents parking on the pavements as they were under the impression that these belonged to their houses, despite them having been laid and maintained by the council. This issue is being addressed. At a recent “Pub Watch” meeting the police also talked with pub owners operating within the harbour as drinking glasses were posing a significant safety hazard. The pub owners in question promised in future that every effort would be made only to issue plastic glasses to customers likely to take their drinks outside. The Gas works site was being explored for potential use for additional parking, despite the site suffering from contamination that prohibited the construction of housing. After a discussion of the last issue a decision was made for Stuart Enfield, David Fleming and Ian Downie to talk to the Gas Board.

Sarah Dickinson asked about continuing youth patrols. Sergeant Wallace replied that money to pay for these patrols had to be applied for from a police fund. More patrols

would be targeted at recognised times of problems such as the beginning of the school holidays and bank holidays. Extra patrols would also target hot spots throughout the town. The Young Driver Division was approaching youths congregating in the car park to check out cars and encourage safe driving, as well as reduce levels of night time noise during the summer months.

Lennie Lawrence asked the police if they could check on the road worthiness of electric wheelchairs, despite these not requiring registration or licensing. He requested the police to raise awareness of the danger posed to passengers and bystanders if brakes failed, due to the steepness of some hills in the town. Sergeant Wallace pointed out that this had never been done in the past to his knowledge, but promised to investigate.

**Police**

Ian Hunter asked about wireless networks. While very keen to offer wireless access access to third parties he was worried if inappropriate material was downloaded that he could be made responsible for. Sergeant Wallace recommended that a secure firewall should be installed and that Ian Hunter would need to look at the relevant legislation.

#### **4. “Consultation” by NHS on Kincardine Community Hospital**

Raymond Christie reported on a meeting that he and Ian Hunter attended on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Very short notice was given for an all day meeting to which stakeholders with an interest in the Kincardine Hospital were invited. The land the Kincardine Hospital is built on is on lease for 99 years, but the contractual arrangements for the hospital are up for review. Three options were presented ensuring a continuing functioning and improvement of the hospital facilities, in line with current de-centralization efforts.

1. Walk away from the current site and contract and build new facility.
2. Retain the existing building contract and renegotiate support services.
3. Enlarge buildings of current site to accommodate new services and renegotiate the support services contract.

The view of the stakeholders present was that the current setup is unable to supply the desired facilities. There is therefore a need for a new hospital, with a possibility to reconfigure the existing building. It is important however to involve the local community in the decision making process. Ian Hunter pointed out that the discussion was unrealistic as no financial framework was presented. He re-iterated the need to involve local people with a health background. Lynn Jardine stated that there was potentially a much wider impact on the surrounding area as other services could be shut down to fund a new hospital. Sarah Dickinson asked if the upgrade of the hospital meant a real upgrade of facilities in the town or a rebalance of existing services.

It was agreed that a meeting with Fiona Francey of NHS Grampian should be arranged to discuss these matters. In the letter Raymond Christie is also to ask for proposals and their foreseen consequences and to ask for financial information.

**Raymond  
Christie**

#### **5. Sewerage Upgrade Scheme**

Ian Downie presented a progress report. An electronic copy is to be sent to David Fleming for distribution.

The Cowie Sewage works now have three conical structures in place that will remain until the new pumping station is up and running.

The sewage pipe laying is commencing from the Beach Road towards the roundabout, prior to heading towards the Golf Club. The installed temporary lights are known to cause tailbacks and timing has been adjusted. Balfour Beatty was looking to close the North Slip Road at Den of Logie for a short number of days as the pipeline would need to be laid in the middle of the road underneath the railway bridge to avoid the foundations.

The Backies 13m deep excavation is 75% complete. High quality timber used in the original construction was not available during reinstatement of the Boardwalk, but is on order. A design for the Cowie Footbridge is to be included in an email to David Fleming.

**Ian Downie**

David Fleming congratulated Ian Downie on reinstating the Boardwalk on time and keeping the public, and particularly the SDCC informed of progress. He did recommend that Balfour Beattie was to liaise with the Roads Department to ensure suitable signage warning of queues and closures on the A90. Sarah Dickinson requested that bus companies should be informed of any road closures. Mr Downie informed her that this was in progress.

**6. Planning****6.1 Actions of Planning Committee on planning applications.**

David Fleming pointed out that with the recent council elections the planning group had not been working at top efficiency as Peter Bellarby had rested his duties during the election campaign. However, there were currently no contentious planning issues.

**6.2 Braehead**

The next stage of the Braehead building application had gone before the Area committee. Sarah Dickinson handed out the script and photos she had presented on behalf of the Ccommunity Council at the area meeting at which she highlighted the opposition to development at this site during the "Future of Stonehaven" consultation, impact on the skyline and views across town as well as several instances where this application contravened the Local Plan with regards to overdevelopment, insufficient affordable housing, sustainability and lack of public open spaces. Sarah concluded that Councillor Swapp had recommended a site visit with particular emphasis on local views.

Ian Hunter highlighted that the scenic backdrop issue had been highlighted on the original Braehead planning application with the public enquiry turning down the application, a decision that was later overturned by the First Minister Donald Dewar.

*Motion: This Council re-iterates its opposition to this proposal and future developments at Braehead.*

*Proposer: Ian Hunter                      Seconder: Sarah Dickinson*

*Vote: Unanimous*

The Councillors present were listening to this motion, but pointed out that any comment on their part to this motion would compromise their impartiality and thus ability to vote at future council meetings.

**6.3 County Hotel**

David Fleming reported that the majority vote was not to object to the newest building application, as below:

In favour:	Raymond Christie, Sarah Dickinson, David Fleming, Lyn Jardine, Ian Hunter;
Abstain:	Peter Bellarby;
Against:	Michael Innes;
No vote recorded:	Ian Balgowan, James Cleves, Jane Davidson, Lynda Digney, Steve Hurrell, Lenny Lawrence, Ditta Neumann, Isabel Parkes, David Wood.

He had therefore not written to the Planning Service.

**6.4 Invercowie House**

David Fleming reported that at the site visit by the Area Committee the developers

<u>No</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Action</u>
	<p>showed new plans for the proposed build. These proposed fewer houses, retaining the previous build height on Ann Street. David Fleming proposed to object to the proposed development on grounds of overdevelopment, tree damage, existing houses would be badly overlooked by the new build, disputed access rights with neighbours, subsidence concerns, creation of a dangerous junction, blocking the view from existing properties on Ann Street and raising of the existing skyline.</p> <p><i>Proposer: David Fleming                      Seconder: Ditta Neumann</i></p> <p><i>Vote: Unanimous</i></p>	<b>David Fleming</b>
<b>6.5</b>	<p><b>Field 52</b></p> <p>The current owners of Field 52 have requested a meeting with SDCC. David Fleming stated that the company charged with building the Stonehaven junction of the AWPR have not been in contact. David Fleming, Sarah Dickinson, and Ditta Neumann are to arrange a meeting and report back.</p>	<b>David Fleming</b>
<b>6.6</b>	<p><b>Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Structure plan – development</b></p> <p>David Fleming reported on a meeting he attended on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007. At the meeting very broad issues such as the need for new towns was discussed and 8 options were presented as “Bobbograms” to meet criteria such as the Aberdeen City’s lack of smaller housing. A series of 32 meetings are to be held across the shire to sound out local opinion. Lennie Lawrence pointed out that it was unclear how these meetings would be moulded into an overall public opinion. David Fleming to report back on this issue at the next SDCC meeting.</p>	<b>David Fleming</b>
<b><u>Committee activities</u></b>		
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Transport Committee</b></p> <p>Following last month’s discussion on the danger of the B979 Netherley Road and consequent requests for a mobile speed camera, Peter Bellarby reported that the letter was posted to NESTRANS, when NESCAMP should have been contacted. The letter has now been forwarded to NESCAMP with no response received to date. Lennie Lawrence pointed out that this issue was on the agenda of the Community Safety Group.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>The Adopt-a-street Scheme</b></p> <p>Sarah Dickinson reported that she now has 32 volunteers with 43 streets covered in Stonehaven, with the older parts of town being well covered. She thanked all volunteers for their time. The Aberdeenshire Environmental Forum is looking to roll out this scheme across the shire from June, starting in Stonehaven. The committee currently consists of Sarah Dickinson and Ann Bellarby and are looking for volunteers. Peter Bellarby and David Fleming agreed to join this committee.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Major items from the Future of Stonehaven work programme:</b></p> <p><b>This month’s theme: Youth</b></p> <p>Sarah Dickinson pointed out that the main issue is a lack of casual activities for young people in town.</p>	
<b>9.1</b>	<p><b>Youth Drop-In Facility</b></p> <p>With the Youth Action group meeting SDCC 2 months ago, asking for £5000 to open the Cheers facility, Sarah asked what else the SDCC could do, beside the pledge of support given on the day. Raymond Christie confirmed that the youth group meets every Monday night with no dialogue to Aberdeenshire Council having taken place. Ian Hunter pointed out lack of support from Community Development committee and Support workers. Raymond Christie suggested that the Cheers building is not ideal as it could only</p>	

<u>No</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Action</u>
	<p>accommodate a maximum of 17 children and would require 2 Youth workers for supervision. A member of the public interjected that he has a list of 22 groups run by volunteers that should be able to accommodate these children. Raymond Christie pointed out that these children want a casual, unstructured drop-in centre, not a club that requires weekly commitments. Lennie Lawrence pointed out that a similar group was run years ago in Brickfield, but had folded after a few years. David Fleming saw the role of the SDCC to remove any barriers to the running of the Youth Action Group as a lack of activity would lead this group to fold.</p> <p>Sarah Dickinson suggested that a group set up at Mackie Academy could provide better facilities for more kids. David Fleming added that he had had a conversation with the Acting Head of Mackie Academy who pointed out to him that the school's governing body will change in September, making a change to a community school a valid point of discussion. A lively discussion ensued with calls for Mackie to become a true community school. Sarah Dickinson interjected that all schools are changing from School Board to School Council in the summer and that the current chair of the Mackie School Board is very keen on Mackie becoming a community school. Sarah promised to contact to him to see if he is willing to talk to SDCC about this proposal.</p>	
9.2	<p>David Fleming said he wished the SDCC to be actively seen to support the move of Mackie Academy becoming a Community school. Raymond Christie asked for the present Councillors to take up this point. Cllr Sullivan pointed out that Paul Melling was very effective in promoting Portlethen Academy as a community school. He promised to approach Mr Melling to help in the matter in hand. David Fleming pointed out that the outstanding problem with Mackie Academy is historic and not necessarily due to the present Aberdeenshire council.</p> <p><b>Local cinema</b></p> <p>Sarah Dickinson proceeded to point out that the idea of a local cinema scored very high in the Future of Stonehaven Survey and that Aberdeenshire Council officials had been very positive to this idea in several meetings. Sarah vowed to follow this up with Ian Hunter offering technical assistance. Sarah also pointed out that Mackie Academy recently acquired a large projection screen that could possibly be utilized.</p>	<p>Sarah Dickinson</p> <p>Mike Sullivan</p>
9.3	<p><b>Skatepark</b></p> <p>David Fleming requested Ditta Neumann to write to the Aberdeenshire Planning department to inform them that the SDCC is wishing to make a presentation on this at the next Area Meeting.</p>	<p>Sarah Dickinson Ian Hunter</p>
9.4	<p><b>Other ideas</b></p> <p>Sarah Dickinson congratulated Michael Innes on initiating the hire of a climbing wall for 3 events during the summer. Other ideas raised during the Future of Stonehaven consultation were 10 pin bowling, a bigger amusement arcade and added retail. She asked what steps could be taken to encourage affordable (small item) retail buy, for instance, greater links to the Stonehaven Business Association. Ian Balgowan pointed out that many shops were closing due to lack of trade. A member of the public pointed out that the state of struggling retail was related to nationally set business rates. David Wood wondered what Montrose had to offer above Stonehaven which has recently started to attract more trade.</p>	<p>Ditta Neumann</p>
9.5	<p>On a positive note, Sarah Dickinson reported that the Horticultural Society had contacted her after problems with the state of tables at the Town Hall. On contacting the relevant people at Aberdeenshire council she had a promise that new tables are being purchased. The topic for the next meeting is to be Sports &amp; Leisure.</p>	<p>Sarah Dickinson</p>

<u>No</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Action</u>
	<b><u>Business matters</u></b>	
10	<p><b>Climbing Wall – Michael Innes</b></p> <p>David Fleming and Michael Innes presented a report on hiring a climbing wall for 3 events in the summer. As part of this they were seeking funding from the Big Lottery Fund, but the non-returnable deposit was required before that funding was sanctioned. David Fleming, Lyn Jardine and Ditta Neumann put themselves forward as a governance committee to aid Michael Innes in this venture.</p> <p><i>Motion: This Council agrees to pay the £375 deposit to secure the Climbing Wall on the stated dates, and support Michael Innes in his initiative by setting up a Governance Committee of 3 other members.</i></p> <p><i>Proposer: David Fleming                      Seconder: Lynn Jardin</i></p> <p><i>Vote: Unanimous</i></p> <p>Michael Innes then proceeded to publicise the <b>Dynamic Drop-In</b> event incorporating Street Football and a Climbing Wall on <b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2007 2-4pm</b>. This is to be a whole weekend event starting Friday night to promote the Community Planning Initiative. Michael asked for any volunteers to help with advertising this event.</p>	<p><b>David Fleming</b> <b>Lyn Jardine</b> <b>Ditta Neumann</b> <b>Neumann</b></p>
11	<p><b>Consequences of the Aberdeenshire Elections</b></p> <p>David Fleming acknowledged that Peter Bellarby had resigned his position from SDCC and the role of Secretary in particular on being voted a Councillor for the Stonehaven and Lower Deeside ward. It is therefore necessary to find someone else to take over this fairly onerous task. David Fleming went on to propose to split the position into 4 sub-parts (Planning Secretary, Meetings Secretary, Correspondence Secretary and Web-site Secretary) and ask all members to consider if they were able and willing to take any of these parts. There was also a vacancy for the Dunnottar Woodland Trust representative.</p> <p>Cllr Peter Bellarby pointed out that there is a need for a main secretary to act as Single Point of Contact and to maintain the files. David Fleming agreed.</p> <p>David Fleming stated that there needed to be some discussion about the roles of shire councillors with respect to the Community Councillors. This role should be developed. He asked those shire councillors present how this role can be developed more closely and if they want to split the ward or work the whole ward.</p> <p>Cllr Sullivan stated that it may take some time to get back to David Fleming. David Fleming replied by asking them to let the Community Council know when they were ready. Cllr Bellarby added that they will request Aberdeenshire council to re-draw the ward and Community Council boundaries (e.g. to include Braehead in the Stonehaven &amp; District's purview).</p>	<p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>Ab'd'nshire Councillors</b></p>
12	<p><b>Results of By-election.</b></p> <p>David Fleming advised that <b>Alastair Lawrie</b> was elected unopposed.</p> <p>He also pointed out that there were a further 4 vacancies remaining plus two youth members. He has identified a possible youth member at Mackie Academy who is interested. Addressing the members of the public present he continued to ask if anyone would be interested to join, in particular those brave enough, but unfortunately unsuccessful in the recent Aberdeenshire Council elections. David Fleming is to approach these people.</p> <p>Ian Hunter pointed out that if the Youth Forum got going it would make sense to get a representative of this forum onto the community council.</p>	<p><b>David Fleming</b></p> <p><b>Ian Hunter</b></p>

**13 Formation of Stonehaven Town Partnership**

Ian Hunter strongly supported the idea of forming the Town Partnership, as councils are not in themselves enterprising and are in need of a business link. On reading the bylaws however he voiced a concern that by restricting choice of directors to pre-defined groups there was a risk of this partnership being hi-jacked by a small interest group. He therefore proposed the following motion.

*Motion: This community council instructs its Town Partnership representative to seek to modify Clause 32 of the By-laws by removing reference to particular groups at the earliest possible date.*

*Proposer: Ian Hunter*

*Seconder: Sarah Dickinson*

*Vote: All in favour, except Lennie Lawrence, who was against*

*Motion: This Council wishes to become a member organisation of the Stonehaven Town Partnership*

*Proposer: Ian Hunter*

*Seconder: David Wood*

*Vote: All in favour, except Lennie Lawrence, who was against*

*Motion: This council nominates David Fleming to be its nominated representative to the Stonehaven Town Partnership.*

*Proposer: Ian Hunter*

*Seconder: David Wood*

*Vote: All in favour, except David Fleming abstained and Lennie Lawrence against.*

Lennie Lawrence added that KMAP is in need of a representative. This is to be addressed at the next meeting.

David Fleming asked for all members wishing to attend the Stonehaven Town Partnership inaugural meeting in the Upper Town Hall Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 7 pm to let him know - for catering purposes..

**All****14 CC Representative on the Kincardine and Mearns Community Planning Group**

David Fleming pointed out that this committee meets quarterly. Sarah Dickinson confirmed that she had put herself forward from SDCC and that this had been unanimously accepted. Cllr Bellarby pointed out that if there were any further volunteers from other community councils there would need to be a vote.

**15 Wind Farm Public Meeting**

The public meeting has been set for Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June at the Community Centre at 7:30pm. Ian Hunter is to send out details soon.

**Ian Hunter****16 Training for Councillors**

David Fleming reported that he was still awaiting a reply from Aberdeenshire council

**17 Chairman's activities**

David Fleming has arranged for Jacqui Christie, Community Planning Officer to address the June meeting, and requested a list of items to be discussed.

Ian Hunter: What groups are presented at the Community Planning group?

Lennie Lawrence: What is the legislation on volunteers?

Lyn Jardine: How does Community Planning progress work?

Sarah Dickinson: How can we influence these groups?

David Fleming agreed to pass on these ideas

**David Fleming**

<u>No</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Action</u>
18	<b>Correspondence</b>	
19	No comment	
20	<b>AOCB</b>	
	<b>Appointments at the Medical Centre</b>	
	Ian Hunter congratulated the Stonehaven medical centre on its recent award. However, he was unhappy about the current appointment system by which emergencies were requested to ring in at 8:30 in the morning. This system rewarded callers with a repeat dialling facility. Lennie Lawrence added that this system was also unsuitable to cope with appointment requests for patients coming from out of town using public transport. Ian Hunter suggested approaching the medical centre with a view of asking for a queuing system. David Fleming is to write to the medical centre	<b>David Fleming</b>
	<b>Notice Boards</b>	
	The issue of Local notice boards was raised by Allan Cairnduff. Lennie Lawrence added that there are several around town and that he wished people living near by to look after them. Sarah Dickinson pointed out that two notice boards were recently installed next to the Outdoor pool and the Putting green, though were so far not operational. David Fleming agreed that this issue needed looking into and promised to talk to planning.	<b>David Fleming</b>
	<b>Structure Plan</b>	
	A member of the public asked about the Structure plan. He wanted to know what the forward plan for this is. David Fleming promised to present on this issue at the next meeting	<b>David Fleming</b>
	<b>Pest Control</b>	
	Ian Balgowan reported dead rats both in the streets behind the Marine Hotel and at the harbour and put this down to the introduction of wheelie bins. He had been reporting presence of rats over the last 20 years without much result, but felt it necessary that the SDCC pushed the council to carry out pest control. David Fleming pointed out that Aberdeenshire Council has no assigned pest officers and that this service is contracted out. He informed Mr Balgowan that it was the duty of community councillors to point members of the public into the direction of the councils Environmental Services Department. Another member of the public suggested that there is no free rat catching in Stonehaven. Michael Innes commented that Environmental Officers will come out when called to investigate.	
21	<b>Dates and times of next agenda meeting and next business meeting</b>	
	The next Agenda Meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June.	
	The next Business Meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June.	