

MINUTES of the 323rd 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 11th December, 2007

No	<u>Notes</u>	Action
1.	<p>Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest</p> <p>Present: David Fleming (Chairman), Ian Hunter, Michael Innes, David Wood, Raymond Christie, Karen Allen, Sarah Dickinson, Linda Digney, Ditta Neumann, Ian Balgowan, Lyn Jardine, and James Cleves</p> <p>Kincardine and Mearns Councillors: Cllrs. Peter Bellarby, Graeme Clark</p> <p>Police Constable Stuart Akers</p> <p>Ian Downie of Balfour Beatty was present for item 4.</p> <p>Richard Strang Steel was present for item 6.1</p> <p>Two members of the Press and one member of the public.</p> <p>Apologies were received from; Lenny Lawrence, Isla Mercer, Tracy Mitchell, Cllrs. Wendy Agnew and Mike Sullivan</p> <p>Ieuan Seymour, Jane Davidson and Alistair Lawrie were absent</p> <p>David Fleming reported that Steve Hurrell had resigned. He said we would send him a letter of thanks for his involvement. David Fleming also welcomed the new Minute Secretary, Emma Reid, and thanked her for volunteering.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on November 13th 2007</p> <p>Item 2 contained a typing error. It should read "October 9th". With this amendment, their adoption was proposed by Michael Innes and seconded by Ditta Neumann and approved.</p> <p>Graeme Clark also had an amendment to item 5 about the AWPR. He was told that this would be taken up later in the meeting.</p>	
3.	<p>Crime Prevention – Report by Police</p> <p>The police reported 8 accounts of breach of the peace during 7 weekends between the hours of 2 and 4 in the morning. The most common offences were shouting and swearing and the people at fault were issued with a £40 fine. There were also accounts of vandalism of which 6 are ongoing. Shoplifting has also occurred. However the shopkeepers have not reported it to the police for reasons unknown. There is a new system being put in place next week where shops will be given description sheets, so if they suspect someone they can quickly write down their description and phone the police immediately. Ditta Neumann asked if there were any particular plans for the Festive Season. PC Stuart Akers replied by saying that there would be extra partrols for high visibility in the market square in the lead up to Christmas and the New Year.</p>	
4.	<p>Sewerage Upgrade Scheme</p> <p>Ian Downie (of Balfour Beatty) began by saying that they were well through their programme of installing the pipelines and in the process of building the control buildings. Steel for these has now been erected and the blockwork is in the process of been built.</p>	

By laying the pipeline along the foreshore they are ahead of schedule and they are waiting for response to the planning application for the Cowie Foot Bridge. The pipeline from Cowie to Portlethen is now as far as Cammachmore.

Ian Downie reported an incident which took place around 3 weeks ago where a gas pipe had been struck and fractured. It was less than 8 inches under the road surface that was being scraped. He said that this had taken some investigation because it was so close to the surface but they pulled it up and managed to fix it. This caused the A90 to be closed but there were no fires or problems. The incident was reported quickly to the Health and Safety Board, and Balfour Beatty had switched off their equipment quickly to ensure that no problems occurred.

Sarah Dickinson asked if the Promenade had been finished, as it looked very unprofessional. The reply was that the weather had caused difficult working conditions and Ian Downie realised that it was not as professional as he would have liked. Ian Hunter also asked about the road up to the golf course being extremely bumpy and queried whether it would be recovered. Ian Downie responded by telling the council that the road had to be hand laid which makes it very difficult to get a smooth finish, but said that it would improve over time. Ian Hunter then asked if they would come back and look at it in a year's time. Ian Downie replied that, if the road was not good enough, then Aberdeenshire Council would recall them to assess the road. However, Aberdeenshire Council have not yet inspected their work in that area.

5. **Future of the Crèche at Stonehaven Community Centre**

The Kinder Gym leader, Sheila Lamming, set up a petition on which she obtained over 200 signatures to support keeping the Crèche in Stonehaven. A letter from Bruce Robertson, Director of Education, Leisure and Learning, Aberdeenshire Council had been sent in reply which promised that the Crèche would be kept open until June 2008. It is still not clear whether the Crèche will be run 3 or 5 days a week, and there is a question mark over where the money will come from, the CDG fund or elsewhere. There is also a question mark over what will happen after June 2008. Councillor Paul Melling and David Fleming had discussed the whole issue, and agreed that Cllr. Melling would campaign on the Aberdeenshire wide policy issues, and David Fleming would work on local issues.

Ian Hunter brought up the point that the Community Centre doesn't fit people's needs in the sense of parents not being able to go to classes when their children are at the Crèche or classes being on when their children are at the Crèche. David Fleming discussed the fact that a large number of courses are run by Aberdeen College and the money made by these courses goes to the College. He also agreed with Ian Hunter in saying that the classes have fewer members as parents are not able to drop off their children.

Sarah Dickinson thought that it all needed a serious rethink and agreed with Ian Hunter. She also stated that it would be better if we actually knew what the community wanted. Raymond Christie assured the council that Aberdeen College did in fact pay Aberdeenshire Council for the courses to be run at the Community Centre and that the money goes into the General Fund. However, Aberdeen College does not pay for the Crèche. Ian Hunter believed that it needed to be an integrated centre and that it is extremely important to build courses around the Crèche.

6. **Planning**

6.1 – Field 52

The Chairman had asked developers and transport consultants to come and discuss their

plans. However, they would prefer to come once they had heard our initial views, and have also had a chance to digest comments from Aberdeenshire Council. The Chairman had also invited Mark Skilling, the local Roads Manager, but he was on leave, and sent his apologies.

David Fleming warmly thanked Ditta Neumann, who has put in a tremendous effort into the review report.

Sarah Dickinson thought that size aspect was very important and that the planned store in Field 52 was far too big, and so would generate too much traffic. She agreed with Ditta Neumann that customers would not travel on foot or bike to the site as proposed. There would be lots of traffic especially from Southbound traffic coming through the town, which would present a serious problem. She also highlighted the idea of Spurryhillock, which would be an interesting development that would have a low impact on visibility. It was also brought up that Aberdeenshire Council owns the land at Spurryhillock and any financial gain would go straight to Aberdeenshire Council.

Michael Innes thought that even though there is a problem with the Glenury area, the problem should not simply be moved up to Spurryhillock where, he stated, there were enough lorries already. He also brought up the subject of the buses, i.e. that only 1 bus service from the supermarket every hour is ridiculous.

Ian Balgowan said that with the increase in volume on Belmont Brae, a developer had thought of making it a one-way road downhill. He thought this would not work. He also remarked on the figures showing of the sheer volume of cars in and out of the supermarket. It is predicted that a car would enter the roundabouts on the B979 every 2.7 seconds, which would make them very congested.

Sarah Dickinson suggested we write to Aberdeenshire Council to investigate the possibility of putting a supermarket at Spurryhillock. Richard Strang Steel said that Montagu Evans had been asked by Aberdeenshire Council to review the feasibility of the Spurryhillock Estate for a supermarket.

Lyn Jardine added that it would be useful for Aberdeenshire Council to engage with the locals and have some feedback. She said there should also be warm waiting area perhaps near the café in the supermarket, to encourage people to wait for buses, and that this should be put into the plans.

David Fleming addressed the fact that buses should be made much more frequent, such as every 10 minutes. If the frequency is only every 15 minutes or longer, people will not wait for one. He suggested that we should to ask the developers about the idea of a shuttle bus service as the usage of buses would then increase. Ian Hunter agreed with this suggesting that the shuttle bus service could also go past the railway station.

Ditta Neumann suggested that there should be a level footpath from Mackie Academy to the supermarket, which would mean easier access for cyclists and pedestrians. Everyone was enthusiastic about this.

A member of the public asked where they could get all the information for the next community council meeting and David Fleming asked the press representatives to print that if the public wanted information about the planning application, they should contact him or go to the library where copies of all the letters and reports are kept.

David Fleming said he agreed to write a detailed letter to the developers and the planning service on these issue. It was further agreed that he would write to Aberdeenshire Council to be asked to be involved in the review of Spurryhillock Estate.

**David
Fleming**

No	<u>Notes</u>	Action
6.2 – AWPR Junction	David Fleming had received a letter back from the AWPR team, and was planning a meeting with them, now scheduled for January. David Fleming, Michael Innes, Ditta Neumann and Sarah Dickinson would like to attend.	David Fleming to arrange meeting
	Discussing the proposed Survey (a draft of which had been circulated), Ditta Neumann pointed out that the maps were not very clear and Sarah Dickinson asked how long the survey would take to complete. David Fleming thought that it would take around 4 minutes. Karen Allen pointed out that question 2 had a typing mistake and that question 17 should be in 2 parts.	
	Michael Innes thought the Fastlink would take the big lorries out of Stonehaven completely which would benefit the traffic flow in the town.	
	Karen Allen suggested that people’s details could be taken so that they could be contacted to get involved.	David Fleming
	David Fleming will amend the survey, in time for the first use, and asked people to assemble at the Christmas Tree on Saturday at 10:00 am.	
	<u>6.3 - APP/2007/4420 - Land South-East of 48 Riverside Drive</u>	
	This was an application for three houses in a cul-de-sac off Riverside Drive, which is outwith Stonehaven’s planning area.	
	Sarah Dickinson had mixed views about the issue but as it is outside the local boundaries, she disagrees with building of houses in this area.	Ditta Neumann
	<i>Motion: S&DCC opposes this application on the grounds that it is outside the Local Plan.</i>	
	<i>Proposed by Sarah Dickinson Seconded by Linda Digney</i>	
	<i>Agreed unanimously</i>	
7.	Transport committee	
	It was reported that, even though the Station Car Park is big, it is now almost always full as local residents and employees working nearby are parking there. There is proof that some activity is going on as a sign had been spotted on a vehicle from First ScotRail saying that this specific car should not be parked where it was. There is still a problem with people parking there and leaving the vehicle there for long periods. It was agreed to write a letter to First ScotRail about this problem but it was suggested that we wait to see if there are any notices telling the public that they aren’t allowed to park there except when using the train service.	Michael Innes
	Michael Innes offered to check if there are notices or signs.	
8.	Adopt-a-street	
	Sarah Dickinson reported that the Adopt-a-street programme now has a display in the library window and that a Christmas Card and thank you letter has been sent to all volunteers. She also said that after the new year the programme will be actively fundraising. It has also come to the S&DCC’s attention that since the programme has been set up, council workers are said to no longer interested in clearing up some areas. This will be discussed with Andy Sheridan.	Sarah Dickinson

No	<u>Notes</u>	Action
<u>PUBLIC ISSUES</u>		
9.	Hannah Dyson Award So far, there have been 3 nominations for this award.	
10.	Christmas Decorations Award The judges are going to go around the town on the 18 th December. Sarah Dickinson needs to confirm this with Isla Mercer, Tracy Mitchell and Ieuan Seymour. Ian Balgowan suggested new lights for the tree next year and told us that he knew a man who worked in Bon Accord who could possibly get us new lights. Linda Digney thought that the banner on the Christmas Tree was great for raising awareness of the S&DCC. The Committee also thought that the lights being eco-friendly was a good idea. They also agreed to minute the fact that the Invercarron Resource Centre was very nicely decorated. Following a comment from a member of the public who said that Stonehaven's lights were pathetic in comparison to other towns, Ian Hunter suggesting putting more pressure on people beginning September 2008 to really make an effort with their Christmas Decorations.	Ian Hunter
11.	Shell Community Awards et al. There has been one response so far. Sarah Dickinson is hoping to expand the Adopt-a-street scheme and acquire more equipment. Sarah Dickinson is going to cost out how much the adopt-a-street scheme needs. It was stated that applications needed to be in by the 18 th January. <i>Motion: The S&DCC support an application from the Adopt-a-Street scheme.</i> <i>Proposed by Sarah Dickinson Secoded by Ian Hunter</i> <i>Agreed unanimously</i>	Sarah Dickinson
<u>CONSULTATIONS</u>		
12.	Community Safety Action Fund Report £700 has been put down for an activity in Stonehaven, as yet unspecified. Safety includes our pride in our town and eco-friendliness. It was suggested that Ian Hunter could apply for this to equip the Community Centre lounge as a media room. <i>Proposed by Linda Digney Secoded by David Fleming</i> <i>Agreed Unanimously.</i>	Ian Hunter
<u>INTERNAL BUSINESS</u>		
13.	Strategy Paper This paper was circulated at the last meeting. It was proposed that it is now adopted. <i>Agreed unanimously.</i>	
14.	Quarterly Budget Report Lyn Jardine updated the S&DCC that the current account balance is £5649 and that is with the Grant Fund payment of £2030 that has come through. Lyn Jardine also suggested the idea of internet banking as that would make it easier to provide up to date figures.	

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15.	Reports from Members representing the Community Council elsewhere	
	<u>15.1 - Community Council Forum 29 November</u>	
	<p>The Chairman attended the forum along with several other members and it was a presentation of what Aberdeenshire Council were proposing to do next year. In the presentation, it was suggested that Aberdeenshire (including Stonehaven) apparently had the best leisure facilities in the area and the best education system. The Chairman had taken issue with some of these optimistic and rose-tinted statements. He suggested that while recognising success and achievements, failings and poorer performance should also be openly acknowledged. There were also comments made about not involving the community enough, and that some of the reports e.g. on youth, managed to make judgements without stating any figures, when the effectiveness of the service seemed very poor indeed.</p> <p>In talking about planning, the Mearns CC representative pointed out that, while the demographics pointed to a requirement for more, smaller houses, the planning system did not state this, and developers tend to build large executive houses only. The planning policies needed to be tightened. There was also a report about housing maintenance, which showed an under-spending of £250,000.</p> <p>Sarah Dickinson added that we did not have enough resources to do what we would like to do and that nothing at the forum led them to believe we would ever be getting the resources to do what we want.</p>	
	<p><u>15.2 - Consultation on "Community Engagement"</u></p> <p>Lyn Jardine and Ditta Neumann discussed the different approaches to how communities want to develop their own ideas themselves and thought it was very relevant to what Stonehaven could achieve. It was notable that Aberdeenshire Council staff were absent from this seminar, and they appeared to have most to learn.</p>	
16.	Working Party to sort out Council Records	
	<p>Lyn Jardine said that they had a number of volunteers, and this would now be organised after the Festive Season.</p>	Lyn Jardine
17.	Chairman's activities (not covered elsewhere)	
	<u>17.1 - Seminar on Planning the Recruitment of Volunteers</u>	
	<p>The Chairman asked the S&DCC to go away over the Christmas and think about two questions he asked them</p>	
	<p><i>What do I do in being a member of the S&DCC?</i></p>	Everyone to think about this
	<p><i>What makes me excited about it?</i></p>	
	<p>He asked them to do this as we need to be very clear about why people should become a member when recruiting.</p>	
18.	Correspondence items required Business meeting attention (not covered elsewhere)	
	<u>18.1 - Licensing</u>	
	<p>The Community Council have received the lottery licence application form, with a required expenditure of £20. Approval of 2 appointed promoters was required -</p>	Lyn Jardine
	<p><i>Proposed that they be David Fleming and Lyn Jardine.</i></p>	
	<p><i>Agreed unanimously.</i></p>	

No	<u>Notes</u>	Action
	<u>18.2 - Grampian Fire and Rescue</u>	
	This is a consultation on their long term strategy for community safety and risk reduction. A questionnaire has to be completed by 15 th February 2008.	
	<u>18.3 - RGU</u>	
	This is a study of about whether big companies can make a difference to a small town. How can we be involved?	
	Lyn Jardine suggested that we opt for the proposal to have a small focus group , and said it should be sometime in the new year.	Lyn Jardine
19	A O C B	
	Raymond Christie brought up the fact that the Stonehaven Action Group (for youth) had gone down in numbers because nothing is happening with the group. There was still uncertainty about the use of the Cheers building, which needed to be resolved urgently.	
	Ditta Neumann said that the Horizon Group had decided to donate money to a youth group so Raymond Christie should get in contact with them. A letter will be drafted to acc asking for action, and David Fleming asked the meeting to support it. Agreed.	Raymond Christie
20.	Dates and Times of next business meeting	
	The date of the next Business Meeting is on the 8 th January at 7:30 pm. There will no agenda meeting this month.	
	The Stonehaven & District Community Council wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!	