

**MINUTES of the 324th 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> January, 2008

<b>No</b>	<b><u>Notes</u></b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest</b></p> <p>Present: David Fleming (Chairman), Ian Balgowan, Raymond Christie, Ian Hunter, Michael Innes, Lyn Jardine, Alistair Lawrie, Tracy Mitchell, Ditta Neumann,.</p> <p>Kincardine and Mearns Councillors: Cllrs. Wendy Agnew, Peter Bellarby, Graeme Clark and Mike Sullivan</p> <p>Police Sergeant Grant Wallace</p> <p>Clare Edwards and Donald Spiers of Natural Power Consultants were present for item 3b. Ian Downie of Balfour Beatty sent his apologies</p> <p>Three members of the Press and two member of the public.</p> <p>Apologies were received from; Karen Allen and Sarah Dickinson</p> <p>James Cleves, Jane Davidson, Linda Digney, Lenny Lawrence, Isla Mercer, Ieuan Seymour and David Wood were absent</p> <p>David Fleming began by wishing everyone a Happy New Year.</p>	
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting held on December 11<sup>th</sup> 2007</b></p> <p>There were no comments regarding the minutes so their adoption was proposed by Ian Hunter and seconded by Michael Innes.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Crime Prevention – Report by Police</b></p> <p>The police reported that the event in the town square at New Year had run very smoothly considering how busy it had been. There was only one incident – a man assaulted a doorman and a police officer.</p> <p>Sergeant Grant Wallace discussed 2 schemes which are due to start soon. The first was the Momentum Project, which is aimed at youngsters in third and fourth year who have not begun driving but are hoping to learn. This project is aiming to identify problems with driving and to encourage safe driving. A part of this project contains a “Look Under The Bonnet” section that allows children to look at the car bonnet and learn where everything is. The police already have a vehicle at Brickfield Motors and mechanics willing to take part. There will also be driving lessons involved in this project to get the youngsters some practice behind the wheel on private land, which has been secured by the police. The Project is hoped to be up and running by February.</p> <p>The second scheme is Crime Prevention Packs, which will be distributed to vulnerable people in Stonehaven. These packs include Crime Prevention advice and police officers will be going to speak to these people. The packs will cost 75 pence and they should be available soon. Lyn Jardine asked how the police were going to be identifying the vulnerable people within the community and Sergeant Grant Wallace replied by saying that they would be distributed at sheltered housing and other places identified by social workers.</p>	

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	<p>The police reported an act of vandalism where 22 windows and doors had been damaged at the caravan park in Stonehaven. It was also reported that 3 youngsters had been identified. The damage amounted to £4500 and a report has been submitted.</p>	
<b>3a.</b>	<p><b>Open Air In The Square</b></p> <p>There were two articles written in local newspapers covering the success of the Open Air In The Square and the fireballs this year. David Fleming said that he had received contact details of two people who said they were interested in volunteering to help run the event next year. David Fleming proposed that there should be meeting held for those interested and Jane Cruickshank, a former volunteer, said she would come along and discuss her experience. The meeting will be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at 7:30pm in the Invercarron Resource Centre. It was made clear that people who volunteered would have to be committed and put in the effort on Hogmany Day in staging the event.</p> <p>Ditta Neumann congratulated Jane Cruickshank and her team on putting together the event.</p>	
<b>3b.</b>	<p><b>Mid Hill Windfarm</b></p> <p>Clare Edwards and Donald Spiers represented Natural Power Consultants and came to the meeting to update the S&amp;DCC on the windfarms. Donald Spiers began by saying that since last year, when he informed the council of the application for turbines to be increased by 10m, the company has now received approval for the project from Aberdeenshire Council and are hoping to get approval from the Scottish Government as soon as possible. The company are also looking to investigate further plans for more turbines and that the scoping process had already begun for the new turbines.</p> <p>Michael Innes thought it was extremely strange to be planning for more turbines when the application for the extension had still not been approved. Donald Spiers responded by telling the committee that the 2 projects were in 2 completely different categories and that they were effectively in separate areas.</p> <p>Clare Edwards had brought in a copy of the scoping report for the second Mid Hill project and it showed new areas which are being looked at to build the turbines. It has been narrowed down sufficiently due to habitat, landscape and visual constraints and blanket bog areas. She also said that the company is looking to hold public exhibitions in the local area in the next few months where they will be able to get feedback from the public. Clare Edwards assured the Council she would let them know the dates of when this would be happening.</p> <p>Ian Balgowan asked why they were not looking to develop tidal power as the turbines would then be hidden and the visual constraints would not be a problem. Donald Spiers replied that specific sectors within the company were looking at tidal power and that in Canada they have places for the tidal turbines. He concluded by saying that tidal energy is about 10 years behind in technology and that is why wind is such a popular energy source at the moment.</p> <p>David Fleming thanked Clare Edwards and Donald Spiers for coming and they assured him they would send him an electronic copy of the information so he can distribute it within the S&amp;DCC.</p>	<p><b>Natural Power Consultants</b></p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Sewerage Update Scheme</b></p> <p>Ian Downie had presented his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting but had passed on information to the Chairman. Ian Downie explained that there had been</p>	

No	<u>Notes</u>	Action
	<p>comments on the tarmac area on the beach boardwalk but said that this is temporary. He had expressed awareness to the quality of the promenade and said that due to the weather conditions at the time it could not be finished properly but they will look at it again and see what can be done. The Cowie bridge design is now in the planning system. The bridge will be closed in about a month or so for the preparations that need to be done.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Future of the Crèche at Stonehaven Community Centre</b></p> <p>The S&amp;DCC has received a letter from Bruce Robertson about a meeting that will be held at Viewmount on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 6:30pm in Willie Munro's room.</p> <p>David Fleming said that the Aberdeenshire Council Scrutiny and Audit Committee report on CDG organisation was very polite but he noticed that no members of the Community Council had been invited to give evidence. Aberdeenshire Councillors said that the subject would be re-visited, and that they would ask if a community representative could give evidence this time.</p> <p>Ian Hunter also said that the Community Learning Group, which was supposed to be the link between the people and the system, was failing at the moment.</p>	<p><b>Aberdeen- shire Councillors</b></p>
6.	<p><b>How to involve the public more in our work</b></p> <p>Michael Innes expressed concern that trying to encourage people to come along was failing as few members of public turn up each month and quoted from someone he had spoken to, "...<i>the Community Council don't report back to the public on what they talk about.</i>" Lyn Jardine said that at another committee meeting to get the public more involved they had sent out a newsletter but unfortunately it wasn't that good and suggested that the Communication Strategy needed to be reviewed and adopted. Raymond Christie disagreed and said that a group he had been involved in produced a newsletter that went out 4 or 5 times a year. That had been great and the public knew what was going on. The problem with doing a newsletter, Raymond Christie continued, is actually putting it together and distributing it. He did however say he is willing to do a lot of door to door posting.</p> <p>Michael Innes said that the newspapers didn't pick up enough on what the Council discusses. Councillor Peter Bellarby disagreed with this and said it was unfair. David Fleming did suggest that other people should get their name in the paper as well so that the public knows exactly who is doing what. The Chairman continued in suggesting that the Communication Strategy would be reviewed next month.</p> <p>Councillor Peter Bellarby discussed the "meet your community council" scheme, which used to run over a year ago. He believed that it was a great opportunity for the public to come along and speak to the community council about problems.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Community Planning</b></p> <p>Ian Hunter had read a article in the Mearns Leader by Linda Babbs which was basically a summary on the year's work. It also described a new project, The Comet project, for a bus with Satellite Internet connection. Ian Hunter further discussed how the project had already been rejected by the Community Development Group because no one would have used such a very slow connection. The matter was further discussed when it came known that the project had spent £50,000 on the vehicle. The Council felt this was a complete waste of money and that it didn't even make sense. The S&amp;DCC discussed how the most important thing was to install broadband internet access for all voluntary and school groups and premises. David Fleming believed that spending that amount of public money</p>	

on such a useless project was blatantly not best value, whatever the source of the funds.

*Motion: "The S&DCC notes with alarm the 2<sup>nd</sup> last paragraph of Linda Babbs's report in the Mearns Leader announcing the Comet project. It considers this a very inappropriate use of resources and asks Aberdeenshire Council to abandon it immediately and spend such monies as are available on installing broadband in all public halls and centres"*

*Proposed by David Fleming      Seconded by Ditta Neumann*

*Agreed Unanimously*

Lyn Jardine queried whether the vehicle had already been bought and Raymond Christie responded by saying that to his knowledge South Aberdeenshire had already purchased it.

A letter will be written to Willie Munro covering this issue.

**Ian Hunter**

Alistair Lawrie also mentioned that paragraph 6 in this report annoyed him as it was mentioned that the CDG were planning a new website. Alistair Lawrie hoped that this website would be manned better than the other one as it hasn't been updated for ages as no one is in post at the moment.

## **8. Planning**

### 8.1-AWPR Junction

David Fleming reported that 40 responses of the survey are back already but that more need to be done to make the survey representative. The Chairman also told the committee that he has permission for council volunteers to stand inside Somerfield and to ask customers to fill in the survey. He said that the survey would only take the customers 3 to 4 minutes and asked for at least 60 or 70 more to be done by the next meeting. David Fleming also said that if everyone was to send him the responses he would put them together in a spreadsheet. Lyn Jardine asked if we could put the survey onto the web as then people would be able to do it in the comfort of their own home. Ditta Neumann asked Tracy Mitchell to hand out some surveys so that more people could be reached. David Fleming said that he would email Tracy Mitchell the maps to go along with the surveys.

**All members**

David Fleming had not yet heard back from the AWPR team.

### 8.2-Braehead - Public Local Inquiry - 29<sup>th</sup> January 2008

The Inquiry will be held in the Town Hall. The Statement of Case has been submitted. It was announced that the files containing the design for the house layout had been removed from the Aberdeenshire Council website. The Chairman found this an extraordinary action, and was trying to find out why.

### 8.3-Carron Den - 109 houses

The design of this housing estate is extremely strange with straight lines of houses across the hillside. The developer has already had a number of meetings and discussions with Council Officer, prior to the application being made public. David Fleming thought it was inappropriate to have a Council Official not discussing this sort of design with the public but Councillor Peter Bellarby assured everyone that it had been given to the public in the Safe Streets documentation. Ditta Neumann had been asked to put in a holding letter about this and that had already been done. The next business meeting will discuss this application in detail.

**Agenda Meeting**

No	<u>Notes</u>	Action
9.	<b>Transport committee</b>	
	<p>Michael Innes reported that there were 2 notices up in the car park behind the Station Hotel. He also reported that he had sent an email to ScotRail asking about action against illegal parking, and is awaiting a response. It was also stated the British Transport Police are going to keep an eye on the car parks, take note of car number plates and put notices on the windscreen if they feel the persons who own the given car are not using the railway system. Councillor Peter Bellarby wondered how the Traffic Police would know if people were using the train or not. Michael Innes responded by saying that new cameras were going to be installed inside trains so that pictures can be taken when people enter and leave them. Lyn Jardine also suggested that the Traffic Police would be looking for a pattern of activity as well. The Community Council also heard that there will be an extension to the car park with building work starting in the next few months.</p>	<b>Michael Innes and Ian Hunter</b>
	<p>There will be a meeting with ScotRail when a date has been decided.</p>	
10.	<b>Adopt-a-street</b>	
	<p>An application for the Shell funds is being compiled and will be submitted.</p>	<b>Sarah Dickinson</b>
	<p>Ian Balgowan brought up the subject of how few dog owners are being fined for leaving dog mess around Stonehaven. He will contact the Dog Warden about particularly bad areas along the boardwalk.</p>	<b>Ian Balgowan</b>
	<b><u>PUBLIC ISSUES</u></b>	
11.	<b>Hannah Dyson Award</b>	
	<p>The strongest nomination for this year was for Sara Hamilton, a 2<sup>nd</sup> year pupil at Mackie Academy who is a tremendous sporting success. So far, she holds 7 national swimming records, 12 district swimming records, is the 1<sup>st</sup> in her age group at the 50m freestyle and is 14<sup>th</sup> in the British Ranking for her age group at the 50m freestyle. Her teachers have congratulated her with also being able to keep up with her studies. The Community Council agreed unanimously that Sara Hamilton was a brilliant choice to receive this award.</p>	<b>Alistair Lawrie</b>
12.	<b>Christmas Decorations Award</b>	
	<p>The awards have been chosen but there has not been time to engrave the awards so the winners will be invited to next month's meeting to get their awards publicly presented.</p>	<b>Sarah Dickinson</b>
13.	<b>Naming of building on County Hotel site</b>	
	<p>The Community Council had already recommended Arduthie Court, however there is already an Arduthie Court in Stonehaven. Some other suggestions were Rhona Munro Court, Station Court, Temperance Court, Stevens Court, Station View and Thompson Court. The decision has been deferred to next months meeting.</p>	<b>Agenda Meeting</b>
14.	<b>Shell Community awards et al</b>	
	<p>See above under Adopt-a-Street.</p>	
15.	<b>Reports from Members representing the Community Council elsewhere</b>	
	<p>No comments were made</p>	

No	<u>Notes</u>	Action
16.	<p><b>Working Party to sort out Council Records</b></p> <p>Lyn Jardine read out the volunteers-Sarah Dickinson, Ditta Neumann, Isla Mercer, Tracy Mitchell and Ieuan Seymour. Lyn Jardine asked for everyone involved to give her their availability for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February so a date can then be arranged.</p>	<b>All</b>
17.	<p><b>Preparations for AGM and Elections</b></p> <p>David Fleming reminded the Council that elections were coming up in March and that there are a large number of vacancies. The Chairman asked for people to get in contact with him if they are interested in standing. He also made the Council aware that they need to stay above 10 in numbers to meet constitutional requirements. Raymond Christie pointed out that the numbers are gradually falling, as members don't bother turning up and that hardly anyone gives apologies. David Fleming asked if anyone had thought about the questions he gave out last month. Some people gave their views. Ditta Neumann said "It enables me to see the town getting better, even if it is a small change." Ian Hunter and Tracy Mitchell said that the Community Council enables them to know what's going on. David Fleming said that what gives him the buzz is seeing something improve in Stonehaven and thinking that he maybe had a part to play in that.</p> <p>It was decided that everyone would write something down for next month to read aloud.</p>	<b>All</b>
18.	<p><b>Correspondence items required Business meeting attention(not covered elsewhere)</b></p> <p><u>18.1-Grampian Fire and Rescue</u></p> <p>This item is ongoing.</p> <p><u>18.2-RGU</u></p> <p>The RGU focus group will be meet at the Invercarron Centre on Thursday at 7:00pm and will discuss what companies should be doing.</p>	
19.	<p><b>Chairman's activities (not covered elsewhere)</b></p> <p>The Chairman discussed the Christmas Tree in Stonehaven Market Square. He reported that the old lights were of a poor quality so Ditta Neumann and himself went to the Garden Centre to purchase some more. He asked for permission to spend more on the Christmas decorations next year and this was agreed. The Chairman also wanted to thank everyone involved in the effort of putting up and taking down the tree.</p> <p>It was also discussed that around summer time letters should be sent to local businesses encouraging them to make an effort with lights and decorations round their shop to make Stonehaven look better at the festive time of year.</p>	
20.	<p><b>A O C B</b></p> <p>Lyn Jardine discussed that the Bequest Fund needs to be resolved at the next meeting and since that there were no suggestions on the money Lyn Jardine will be reinvesting the money for another 6 months.</p>	<b>Lyn Jardine</b>
21.	<p><b>Dates and times of next Business meeting</b></p> <p>The next Agenda meeting will be on the 5<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30 pm.</p> <p>The next Business meeting will be on the 12<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30 pm..</p>	

# STONEHAVEN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## AGENDA FOR BUSINESS MEETING TO BE HELD AT 7.30 pm on 8th January 2008 IN COWIE LOUNGE - INVERCARRON RESOURCE CENTRE

All S&DCC Members are asked to attend to consider the under noted items of business.

- 1 Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest 7:30
- 2 Minutes of the meeting held on November 13th (previously circulated) 7:40
  - Approval
  - Action points
- 3 Crime Prevention – Report by Police 7:45
- 4 Sewerage Upgrade Scheme 7:55
  - Ian Downie (Balfour Beattie) may be in attendance
  - Cowie Bridge
- 5 Future of the Crèche at Stonehaven Community Centre 8:10
- 6 How to involve the public more in our work 8:20
- 7 Community Planning (re: letter in Mearns Leader, 21/12) 8:30

### Committee activities

- 8 Planning
  - 8.1 AWPR Junction 8:40
    - Survey
    - Meeting with AWPR team
  - 8.2 Braehead – Public Local Inquiry – 29<sup>th</sup> Jan 8:45
  - 8.3 Carron Den – 109 houses 8:50
- 9 Transport Committee 8:55
  - Station Car Park
- 10 Adopt-a-Street 9:00

### Business matters

- **Public Issues**
- 11 Hannah Dyson Award 9:05
  - 12 Christmas Decorations Award 9:10
  - 13 Naming of building on County Hotel site. 9:12
  - 14 Shell Community Awards et al. 9:15
  - 15 Reports from Members representing the Community Council elsewhere 9:20
  - 16 Working Party to sort out Council records 9:25
  - 17 Preparation for AGM and Elections 9:30
  - 18 Correspondence items required Business meeting attention (not covered elsewhere)\*\* 9:35
    - 18.1 Grampian Fire & Rescue
    - 18.2 RGU
  - 19 Chairman's activities (not covered elsewhere) 9:37

20 A O C B

21 Dates and times of next Business Meeting.

9:40

- Note: there will be no agenda meeting prior to the next Business Meeting

Items marked \*\* have briefing papers attached

David Fleming

Chairman



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