

STONEHAVEN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the
335th Business Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 9th December 2008
in the Cowie Lounge of the Invercarron Resource Centre**

No	<u>Notes</u>	Action
1.	<p>Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest</p> <p>Present: David Fleming (Chairman), Raymond Christie, Ian Hunter, Michael Innes, Alistair Lawrie, James Cleves, David Wood, Lenny Lawrence, Sam Dickinson, Jenni Keenan, Ditta Neumann, Robert Mitchie, Linda Digney, Billy Mackenzie, Lyn Jardine, Ian Balgowan.</p> <p>Kincardine and Mearns Councillors: Graeme Clark, Peter Bellarby, Mike Sullivan and Wendy Agnew.</p> <p>In attendance: P.S. Colin Crichton</p> <p>Apologies: Allan Sutherland</p> <p>Absent: Karen Allan.</p> <p>No declarations of interest were made.</p> <p>The Chairman announced that Steve Holt had resigned from the council for personal reasons.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on October 14th 2008</p> <p>Lyn Jardine reported a discrepancy in item 13.2 in the October minutes. She said that she was actually absent, and did not volunteer to join the Communication committee. With this amendment, the October minutes were proposed by Alistair Lawrie and seconded by Michael Innes, and approved.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on November 11th 2008</p> <p>Ditta Neumann pointed out a discrepancy in item 5.3, Other Planning Applications of the November minutes. The information about the vote count was not correct. It was agreed that the recording of the votes had been transposed. The Chairman agreed to amend the minutes and re-publish them. Ditta Neumann also pointed out that it was the 334th meeting held by the council and not 333rd.</p>	David Fleming
4.	<p>Crime Prevention – Report by Police.</p> <p>There are no matters that the Council wished to discuss on the crime report issued.</p> <p><u>Committee Activities</u></p>	
5.	<p>Planning</p>	
5.1	<p><u>AWPR Junction</u></p> <p>Lyn Jardine reported that Transport Scotland noticeably did not challenge the Community Council's evidence on the issues they raised such as the level of consultation, the design process and the carbon footprint. They had claimed that the survey was not representative, but David Fleming had refuted that during cross-examination.</p> <p>David Fleming stated that he felt they had made a lasting impression at the public inquiry. He said that the only remaining task was the writing of a concluding statement by 8th January 2009 and requested help from Council members.</p>	

DDA Compliance at the Town Hall.

5.2 David Fleming said that the architect has not yet reported on the proposed ramp. However, he understood revised proposals had been issued regarding the “refuge” for wheelchair users. The document had not yet appeared on the planning website, and members should prepare to comment when the document is out.

9 Slug Road

5.3 After discussion, it was agreed that no representation should be made regarding this application.

Main Issues with the Local Plan

David Fleming reported that a second document issued – a Main Issues Report - in preparation for the Local Plan has been published. Members should read this as it will be discussed at the January meeting.

6. Hannah Dyson Committee

Alistair Lawrie reported that this year they had two nominees. The recommendation for the Hannah Dyson award was based on how much the nominee is involved in the community and the Committee therefore recommended Jared Shuttleworth. He was proposed by Raymond Christie and seconded by Ian Hunter. The Council agreed the award, and asked Alistair Lawrie to make the necessary arrangements.

**Alistair
Lawrie**

7 Transport Committee

7.1 Formation of Transport Forum

Ian Hunter said that it is a good idea to involve all other community councils and that there are intentions to integrate all forms of transport. He also proposed a Public Meeting to be held and it was unanimously agreed.

7.2 Rail Issues

David Fleming has approached NESTRANS and Transport Scotland.

**David
Fleming**

7.3 Megabus: Stopping safely in the Stonehaven Area.

Michael Innes reported that they would stop anywhere convenient and suggested around the A 90 – A 92 junction. He has received an e-mail from Tom Wiseman, Regional Director, Megabus and arranged a meeting on 17th December 2009. Cllr. Graeme Clark said that the fact that Megabus are listening is a positive response. Cllr Peter Bellarby said that it is a viable idea, and shows what can be done at Community Council level.

**Michael
Innes**

8 Business Issues

8.1 Horizon Project Convenor’s Report

The Annual Report of the Group was received warmly. David Fleming proposed that the council write a letter to thank the Horizon Group on their hard work.

**David
Fleming**

Letter from the Sea Cadets re New Safety Boat.

8.2 CPO Sean Fraser of Stonehaven Sea Cadets made a presentation to the council on their involvement with the society and youth work. He said that they need £18,000 for a new safety boat, have already raised £15,000, and are hoping to raise the remaining amount by April 2009. After some discussion, Ditta Neumann proposed that they give the sea cadets £1,500. This was seconded by Lenny Lawrence. It was

Lyn

agreed unanimously. Ian Hunter said that this was a perfect example of good use of funding for promoting youth activities.

Jardine

Collection of Data on 'views' around Stonehaven

8.3

Since Allan Sutherland was absent, the issue was left for next meeting.

Community Council Forum- Discussion on Community Planning

8.4

David Wood said that it was not well understood by many people. Lyn Jardine said that it is all about what the government wants and not what the community needs. Ian Hunter said that it is done behind closed doors; not open and transparent to the public as it should be.

David Fleming said that he intended to write to Aberdeenshire Council expressing the widely held view that the title 'Community Planning' was very confusing. The meaning of 'community' could refer to everyone, but it seemed to refer to only salaried officials of government bodies, and that 'planning' was often confused with the Planning Department's activities.

**David
Fleming**

9 Progress Reports on current actions

9.1 Christmas Tree Lights

Billy MacKenzie said that the existing lights were insufficient, and he hoped to get some more in the near future.

9.2 Working Group to survey residents on the new Local Plan

Ditta Neumann proposed to set up a working group to influence the local plan. She said that by canvassing a considerable number of people to respond, then robust statistics on people's views could be obtained. It was important to build on the Future of Stonehaven report, and clarify some of the issues which had arisen towards the end of that exercise, and which have now changed in the light of current planning applications and the advent of the new Local Plan. Lyn Jardine seconded the proposal. She was unanimously supported.

Cllr. Peter Bellarby said that there is an assurance that the Future of Stonehaven Report would be taken into account and recognised.

Lyn Jardine, Lynda Digney and Alistair Lawrie volunteered to assist.

9.3 Future of the Crèche at Stonehaven Community Centre.

Ian Hunter reported that there is no more progress being made and they are back to square one. The Community Council received this news with great dismay.

A member of the public (Mark Skilling, of the After School Club) reported that the club had withdrawn from negotiations with Aberdeenshire Council, as it appeared that staff conditions could never be agreed. A meeting of the Community Development Group, which will discuss the issue, is to take place at the Community Centre on 11th December at 7.00 p.m. David Fleming stated that, if it was impossible to transfer staff from Aberdeenshire Council to a voluntary body, then that was an extremely bad precedent which would block any other moves for greater community involvement in services.

9.4 Office space for Voluntary Organisations

Lenny Lawrence is still waiting for a reply.

9.5 Beach Toilets

Michael Innes said that there is still a pending discussion on how to get money to run the toilets.

9.6 Mearns FM Radio

Ian Hunter reported that they have raised £18,000 and located three sites to set up the required aerials. They are hoping to be on air by April 2009.

10. Reports from Representatives on other bodies

David Wood reported that the Digital Surveying training session on 14th November was about a piece of software called “Survey Monkey”. He said that it was a good course, and he felt that the Council could use the software in future. He also noted that Portlethen Academy was a very modern facility.

11. AOCB

Ian Balgowan said that, after recent bad weather, the Market Square and the piers at the harbour had not been gritted.

Lyn Jardine informed the members of the council that she is about to wrap up the account reports for the year in December and urges all people with any expenditure to bring it forward in due time.

12. Date of next meetings

The Planning Committee Meeting (starting at 7:00) and the Agenda Meeting (at 8:00 p.m.) will be held in the Invercarron Resource Centre on Tuesday 6th January 2009.

The next Business Meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th January 2009 at 7:30 in the Cowie Lounge of the Invercarron Resource Centre.