

**MINUTES OF THE 304th BUSINESS MEETING
OF THE
STONEHAVEN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

HELD IN THE COWIE LOUNGE OF THE INVERCARRON RESOURCE CENTRE AT 7.30PM ON
TUESDAY 9th MAY, 2006

Item	Description	Action
1.	<p>Welcome, sederunt, apologies and declarations of interest PRESENT: David Fleming (Chairperson), Peter Bellarby, James Cleves, Sarah Dickinson, Lyn Jardine, Raymond Christie, David Wood, Ian Hunter, Lenny Lawrence, Jane Davidson, Teresa Coffield Kincardine & Mearns Councillors: Mike Sullivan (Stonehaven North & Fetteresso), Wendy Agnew (Stonehaven South), Jack Morrison (Stonehaven Central) Minute Secretary: Sharon Hall Also present: 1 member of the public (Derek Stewart) and 3 members of the Press Apologies were received from Ditta Neuman, Linda Digney, Ian Balgowan, Michael Innes and Cllr George Swapp David Fleming proposed the motion that, due to personal circumstances, <i>Isabel Parkes be granted indefinite leave of absence from the Council, but shall retain full councillor rights during that period.</i> His motion was agreed unanimously. There were no declarations of interest.</p>	<p>Peter Bellarby to write</p>
2.	<p>Previous Minutes Approval Corrections to the Minutes were proposed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• P8 Addendum A(f) - should read "Cowgate", not "Cowie"• P4 Item 7 The Future of Stonehaven Group. Sarah Dickinson stated that they would be consulting with the Local Conservatives, not "other groups".• P6 Item 13. Alan Bisset is the Secretary, not the Chairperson of Stonehaven Arts & Leisure Trust <p>The accuracy of the Minutes, following these amendments, was proposed by Sarah Dickinson , seconded by Ian Hunter and was agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Matters arising and follow up of action items not dealt with elsewhere Lyn Jardine had produced an abstract of accounts for 2005 (copy appended to these minutes). Peter Bellarby thanked her for undertaking this task. Lyn stated that budgetary controls would need to be considered for the future and proposed that she would be developing mechanisms for this.</p>	
3.	<p>Crime Prevention – Report by Police There was no police representative present . David Fleming is to follow this up.</p> <p><u>Reports from Committees etc.</u> Ian Hunter raised a point of order with regard to the committee reports having been changed to the beginning of the meeting without the agreement of all CC members. David Fleming stated that it had been agreed at a meeting of CC office holders that he had called in his capacity as the new Chairman. Ian Hunter did not agree with this decision and felt the "Other Issues" should be dealt with first. Teresa Coffield felt that the important issues were too near the end of the agenda when it was likely that time would run out before they could be discussed properly. Peter Bellarby stated that, with the production of written reports, committee matters would be dealt with expeditiously and this would achieve a better balance. Lyn Jardine said she was happy with the change to the agenda order and felt the committee part of the business could be dealt with</p>	<p>David Fleming</p>

quickly. David Fleming stated that the committee reports should outline “what has happened” and any motion to be proposed should be included in the report. Ian Hunter said that if the reports brought out important items to discuss these should be highlighted and be put high on the agenda. Sarah Dickinson said if an item is raised by a member of the public this could be brought forward on the night. Lenny Lawrence, amongst others, felt the agenda was too long. David Fleming stated that the agenda held no ranking in terms of items included. He reiterated that committee briefing reports should be read before the meeting, either in the email or paper form, so that all members were fully informed. He suggested that the current agenda order should run for 3 months and then be reassessed. Ian Hunter agreed with this suggestion.

4. **Planning Applications**

A Briefing Paper had been issued regarding the following applications:

- Lazio’s Pizza
- Flues at Unionist Club, Market Square
- Commodore Site

Peter Bellarby said he was willing to become a member of the Planning Application Committee and all agreed to this.

5. **Future of Stonehaven**

A Briefing Paper had been issued. Sarah Dickinson said that a total 36 groups had been contacted. The library window display was now in place and it had been decided to use this opportunity to invite individual resident participation in the consultation. As a result, the objects and function of the committee had been revised, as well as the aims of the consultation exercise. The motion outlining the changes (as set out in the report) was proposed by Sarah Dickinson and seconded by Lyn Jardine. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ian Hunter questioned the impact of the Stonehaven Business Association’s decision not to take part in the consultation. Sarah Dickinson said that they had completed part of the questionnaire and she was hopeful that they might participate further. She felt this was important given that the lack of retail diversity in Stonehaven was a major point raised by many groups.

6. **Transport**

A Briefing Paper had been issued.

Peter Bellarby proposed the committee’s new objectives and functions. David Fleming questioned whether the function of representation “*at meetings of Kincardine and Mearns Area Bus Forum*” was too restrictive and suggested that other transport bodies should be included. Peter Bellarby advised that there were no other such permanent bodies but agreed that the motion should be changed to read “*and other relevant bodies*”.

The amended motion was proposed by Peter Bellarby and seconded by Raymond Christie. This was approved unanimously.

Members were then asked to agree all draft letters contained within the report. These were agreed unanimously.

With regard to the absence of ramps for the disabled as highlighted in the report, Jane Davidson stated that there was a shortage of such ramps generally in the town. Peter Bellarby said that questions about this had been raised previously and he asked to be advised of any specific examples.

Since the committee had last met information about the Aberdeenshire Council Local Access Forum and Core Path Planning Consultation had been received. Accordingly, Peter Bellarby asked that members should engage in the Core Paths Plan Consultation Survey, in lieu of an approach being made to Aberdeenshire Council on the specific topic of Cycle Paths, as outlined in the written report.

7. **Communication**

A Briefing Paper had been issued.

In summary Lyn Jardine advised that it had been agreed to defer reviewing the remit of this committee until the recommendations of the Strategy Committee were available. In the meantime, the website would continue in its present form and no newssheets would be produced.

8. Strategy

This committee had not yet met and a date was to be fixed with committee members.

9. Sustaining Small Expanding Towns - SusSET

A Briefing Paper had been issued.

Jane Davidson was very pleased to accept the invitation to be the CC representative on the visit to Greece. She would be producing a full report on the visit. The other towns involved will be visiting Stonehaven in the summer.

10. Kincardine and Mearns Community Learning Partnership Event

Ian Hunter had been unable to attend this event but he will give a report at the next CC meeting. He stated that Community Councils do not seem to have a large part to play in the Partnership. David Fleming suggested this should be brought up at the next Community Council Forum. Ian Hunter suggested that a representative be invited to a Strategy Committee meeting.

Ian Hunter

11. Community Health Forum

Raymond Christie gave a report. The Forum meets 4 times a year. It is an attempt by NHS Grampian to involve the public, and participants can include representatives from various bodies such as Community Councils and health associations, and any other interested persons. A leaflet had been produced about MRSA. At the last meeting issues under discussion had included waiting times, dentistry and community hospitals. Various leaflets and reports were available as well as application forms for anyone interested in joining the Forum.

David Wood asked if the Forum is useful. Raymond Christie said that he thought NHS Grampian was good at trying to involve the public and listening to their concerns, and he felt the Forum was more than just a PR exercise.

12. Community Planning

Peter Bellarby outlined the structure within Aberdeenshire. All Community Councils have a representative on the Community Planning Executive. In each administrative area there can only one representative from all the Community Councils. There was discussion about how this representative should be decided. Peter Bellarby suggested that CC members should work on a rota basis, i.e. for a period of time. Ian Hunter said that this would result in a lack of continuity and he questioned how the reporting structure would work.

Peter Bellarby pointed out that the Community Council Forum cannot make decisions on behalf of all its members so that each individual Community Council would have to decide on a method of representation. Jane Davidson stated that the decision making could be linked through Strategy Groups.

David Fleming felt that rota systems do not work properly and rely on individual enthusiasm. He advocated that the 6 Community Councils within the Kincardine and Mearns Area should nominate one representative who would then communicate with them all. He suggested that the mechanism for deciding this representative should be discussed at the CC Forum.

David Fleming

13. Kincardine and Mearns Area Partnership

Peter Bellarby reported that this group is concerned with community development and feeds into Community Planning. He had attended the AGM on 12 April when Norman Banski had been voted as Chairperson.

Issues

14. Waste Management

Copies of Press Releases had been issued.

David Fleming had received comment from 2 members of the public via emails.

He advised that the Area Committee meeting in June will include the promised 3 month progress report. The CC will receive prior notice of this and will be involved in some consultation.

Peter Bellarby stated that a copy of the Community Information Pack had been received. It

contained information on issues including the reasons for change, ways of alleviating the resulting problems, composting and recyclable material. The pack will be circulated to members. Lyn Jardine said that since information about the CC website had been highlighted in the Press there had been 128 visits made to the web survey. She suggested that the survey now be closed and the results and conclusions be brought together. Garden waste has now become a big issue. People were generally happy with the ethos of waste management but still had concerns about the actual service. David Fleming requested that the results be made available in time for the Area Committee meeting.

There was further discussion about the whole waste management strategy and service. Lyn Jardine noted that many of the comments made by CC members are also noted on the website survey. Peter Bellarby felt it was very disappointing that there had been no response to Community Council letters. David Fleming will seek a meeting with Christine Gore or Jack Clark prior to the Area Committee meeting.

Lyn Jardine

David Fleming

15. Keith Lodge

Lyn Jardine had spoken to John Ledger (Social Work Dept) by phone and a meeting is to take place on 17th May. Any comments should be forwarded to her by that date. It is likely that Keith Lodge will not close before the end of June as the Care Commission requires 3 months notice of the closure.

There was discussion regarding the provision of alternative facilities and it was noted that the parents had formed a lobby group and that they would “need a loud voice”. David Fleming suggested that a change of ownership could be considered as one solution.

Lyn Jardine queried the statutory requirements and duty of care upon Aberdeenshire Council. Teresa Coffield pointed out that some residents come from other areas. Lenny Lawrence stated that the duty of care should lie with the Church of Scotland. It was suggested that a church representative be invited to a CC meeting. David Fleming felt that the role of the Community Council here remains unclear. Ian Hunter queried whether there is a forum in which the issue could be fully discussed, opinions aired and arguments discussed.

Lyn Jardine

16. Planning Gain

Raymond Christie had not been able to make phone contact with Stuart Robertson (Aberdeenshire Council). It was agreed that he would now write to him on behalf of the Community Council, with a copy letter being sent to Willie Munro. Mike Sullivan said that Stuart Robertson had given an excellent talk to the Area Committee and would recommend that he might re-run this for the Community Council.

Raymond Christie

17. Town Hall

A Briefing Paper had been issued. David Fleming suggested no further action here, whilst awaiting developments.

18. Stonehaven Town Partnership

A Briefing Paper had been issued.

David Fleming proposed the motion that he, as CC Chairman, be appointed as the CC representative on the Working Group. This was agreed unanimously. Sarah Dickinson said it was important that local groups were not overlooked. David Fleming said that local groups and their objectives should not overlap. He felt that the Partnership should not necessarily be the “*first point of contact for all inhabitants of the town*”. He also felt that the 2 year timetable seems too long to get the Partnership up and running. Derek Stewart commented that it was very early days for the group.

19. Links with Horizon

Sarah Dickinson had been consulting with Horizon. They were now a separate group with their own constitution and were seeking active “hands-on” members. They would welcome a CC representative which Sarah was willing to volunteer for, and this was unanimously agreed. The

Sarah Dickinson

Community Council had previously promised to help Horizon with seasonal planting of the Burns Garden on a date in early June. After discussion it was agreed that as many members as possible should help out and the date would be confirmed to all. The idea of “neighbourhood” litter collections would be progressed with Horizon.

20. Representation on Dunnottar Woods Association

Peter Bellarby volunteered to take on this role. Sharon Hall, as Secretary of the Association Management Committee, advised that workparties are to be held in the woods on 13 May and 24 June, meeting at 10am at the Nursery carpark. Any CC members able to help should contact Sharon (Tel 762971 or 764673)

21. Alldays Shop, Market Square

David Fleming had met with the management and he advised that improvements and solutions to the problems were to be announced. This was not yet in the public domain.

22. Matters dealt with by Correspondence Out

Peter Bellarby advised that all letters had now been actioned.

23. Correspondence In for discussion/report not dealt with elsewhere

- a. Aberdeenshire Council letter re Town Hall advised the problems had now been largely resolved.
- b. **ALOAF & CPP** - information already discussed under Item 6, Transport
- c. Letters from Michael Innes, raising a list of issues. These would be passed to the Committee Chairs as appropriate. He had also raised the issue of the manner in which the meeting had been conducted when David Fleming had been appointed as Chair. David Fleming agreed that he had prepared for this outcome but had not assumed his nomination would be successful. Peter Bellarby had nominated him and had approached him beforehand, as is normally done. It had been thought there would be other nominations but none had come forward.
- d. SNH consultation – information available.

Peter Bellarby

Other Correspondence In

- Outreach Event on 15 May, organised by the Scottish Parliament. Details already circulated. Peter Bellarby, Raymond Christie and Ian Hunter will be attending.
- “Community Message Board” –idea submitted by Tony James. Communications Committee to investigate and report back.
- Local Holiday dates for 2007 – no comments.

Lyn Jardine

24. Correspondence In for information

As per the agenda.

25. AOCB

Jane Davidson raised the issue, on behalf of the Cowie Residents, of the Cowie Caravan Site. Their objection is to the misuse of what should be a touring caravan site for holidaymakers by the positioning of static, long term vans being used as cheap residential accommodation. There have been several petitions by the residents over the years and they are currently in contact with Graham Wall and Mike Sullivan about the problem. Lenny Lawrence stated that there was a need for a proper caravan site for static vans and he would object to the Community Council supporting the Cowie residents’ campaign. David Fleming asked that all members consider their position on this issue and that Jane Davidson and Lenny Lawrence present their arguments in writing for the next meeting.

**Jane Davidson/
Lenny
Lawrence**

The Chairman asked for councillors’ views about the format of the meeting during which the following points were raised:

- The amended order of the agenda is not liked by some members.
- The time issue has not been resolved. The written reports are useful but the committee

reports still need to be speeded up. However, the reports still need to be summarised as members of the public may be present.

- The Correspondence for Information list was seen by some as unnecessary although it was argued it needed to be included for the sake of transparency.
- The police report needs to be reviewed.
- Copies of the Agenda and Minutes need to be available for any members of the public present.

The Chairman thanked all members.

The meeting closed at 9.48.

STONEHAVEN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2005

Administration Account			
	Expenditure	Income	Balance
Balance B/F December 2004			£3,276.04
Income from Interest		£71.67	
Grant Income ¹		£1,624.00	
Fossil Group Income ²		£6,310.86	
Income		£8,006.53	
General Admin	£1,263.71		
Fossil Project	£8,301.95		
Meetings	£539.36		
Awards	£132.00		
Donation to Arduthie PTA	£25.00		
Expenditure	£10,262.02		
Balance at 30 December 2005			£1,020.55
Net Change in Balance over 2005			(-£2,255.49)

Bequest Account			
	Expenditure	Income	Balance
Balance B/F December 2004			£862.87
Income from Interest		£497.55	
Transfer of Asset		£15,480.12	
Total income		£15,977.67	
Reinvestment of Asset	£10,400.00		
Donation to Open Air Pool	£5,000.00		
Total expenditure	£15,400.00		
Balance at 30 December 2005			£1,440.54
Net change in Balance over 2005			£577.67

Prepared by Lyn Jardine, Treasurer SDCC

May 2006

¹ Running Costs of Community Council business in Excess of Grant Income -£336.07 (impact reduced by income from interest)

² Fossil Group Expenditure in Excess of Income -£1991.09