

Meeting chaired by David Wood (Vice-chair) in the absence of David Fleming (Chair)

Present

David Wood, Ian Hunter, Michael Innes, Robert Michie, Linda Digney, Raymond Christie, Lenny Lawrence and Karen Allan.
Councillors Graeme Clark and Mike Sullivan.

Apologies

James Cleves, Sam Dickinson, Nelson Okumu, Allan Sutherland.
David Fleming and Councillor Peter Bellarby on holiday.

Minute of 341st Meeting

Proposed – Raymond Christie. Seconded – Michael Innes.

Police

No report and no police representative in attendance

Licences

No objections

Constitution Working Group

Has met and has several points to follow up. There is a vacancy on the group following Lyn Jardine's resignation. Need to reconvene after the summer.

Supermarket Working Group

Lyn and Ditta have both resigned leaving Raymond who is not keen to continue.

Proposed Youth Council

C/f to next meeting as proponents absent

Future of CDGs / Community Engagement

Ian Hunter, chair of local CDG, complained that the current system was 'as rotten as Westminster' with no budgets, costings or power given to the committee to make decisions. More community engagement is needed, yet there was no lead coming from Aberdeenshire Council. Mike Sullivan stated that Willie Munro has a top up budget of £55k but little goes to CDG. Ian asked rhetorically 'Who would take an active interest?' before suggesting that the community should keep an eye on the system and then get councillors to take action. David Wood asked if the CDGs should continue. Ian said that historically the Community Centre Users Group were congratulated on how well they ran the facility but times have changed and it takes too long to get anything done resulting in switching off local interest. Top down system does not work. Cllr Clark admitted that the Area Committee is concerned. The full council is to consider later in the year, following reports from Area Committees, whether to disband CDGs or initiate improvements.

Town Centre Regeneration

The outcome of the two bids should be known by the end of July. Cllr Clark said that there is a second tranche of funding to follow later in the year. He added that council staff should be congratulated for their efforts in preparing these bids considering the short time available before submission.

K&MAP - Lenny Lawrence advised that a new development worker is now in place. The recent Dynamic Drop In (DDI) weekend at Portlethen was poorly attended despite heavy advertising. When asked about where the data gathered at these events ends up Lenny answered that Community Planning were the recipients. When asked what was the cost of putting on this event he was unsure of the final figure as costs were still coming in.

Dunottar Woodlands Association - Karen Allen advised that the web site had been closed but that info was available on the Forestry Commission website. Current project is the restoration of Lady Kennedy's Bath.

Health Forum - Raymond Christie reported on the new seven storey £115m building at ARI and the increase in the number of dentists mainly in the city. The forum meets four times per year and last met on 21st May with about sixty attendees. Raymond expressed disappointment that GHB have not adhered to the NHS manifesto of introducing an elected board thus leaving top down management system in place. Ian Hunter said that the forum was a way to educate people by having speakers and to take views forward. He also suggested that a representative from the forum should be on Community Planning.

Bus Forum - No recent meeting. A view was expressed by several councillors that there is a lack of integration of rail and bus services although they were aware that one excuse is that it could be seen as restraint of trade.

Community Safety Group - Lenny Lawrence (CSG Treasurer) advised that the group was in a precarious position following the recent AGM due to office bearers retiring after constitutionally fixed terms expired and not finding replacements. There is to be a meeting with Willie Munro to find a way forward and an appeal launched on Mearns FM.

Horizon Group - Ditta Neumann was the representative but has resigned. Cllr Sullivan reported that Allan Cairnduff had attended a reception hosted by the Provost Bill Howatson and Area Chair Paul Melling in appreciation of the work the group had undertaken.

Stonehaven Town Partnership - David Fleming on holiday.

Community Council Forum - Last met 28/05/09. No attendees present

Mearns FM - Although now operational Ian Hunter reported that they were suffering technical difficulties. £6000 is needed to repair a mast. Various sources of funding were suggested. Ian thanked the Community Council for its generous gift of £300 to get the licensing off the ground.

Volunteer Co-ordinators Forum - No one present.

Additional Item - Ian Hunter attended the 75th anniversary of the opening of the outdoor pool and wished to offer congratulation to Friends of the Pool for what they had achieved.

Update - David Fleming has submitted the final version of Q1-19 and Ditta Neumann has issued Stonehaven 2020.

Land for Gypsies/Travellers - There was a discussion on what should be provided. Cllr Clark said that no councillor seeking re-election would suggest his area. It was pointed out that it is the responsibility (duty) of Local Authorities to provide facilities and it cannot be swept under the carpet despite inherent nimbysism. It was decided to carry this forward to the next meeting. Cllr Sullivan added that if anyone knew of any suitable locations to contact him.

Approval of 'Stonehaven 2020' document

Michael Innes praised the document but criticised the fact that it was issued without approval of the Community Council.

David Wood suggested three options available were to withdraw the document entirely, leave the document but follow up with an addendum letter to be considered with the document or to do nothing and accept any consequences.

Ian Hunter said that the mainly laudable survey was contaminated with additional minor surveys and pointed to the statistics on supermarket options on p27 and p28.

Linda Digney said that it was unfortunate that it was now out but because of the huge commitment in both time and effort it should not be scrapped.

Raymond Christie agreed suggesting the supermarket data be removed.

Karen Allan suggested keeping to the main survey leaving out the rest including opinion. Linda concurred.

Ian Hunter proposed reducing the document to A18 to A23 and excluding all but the first two sentences under the supermarket paragraph.

Further discussion ensued about the practicalities of editing the document, including checking what was in the CD, and if time would allow us to achieve a revised document by Monday 20th July, which was the already extended deadline.

Ian Hunter proposed 'that this council does not approve 'Stonehaven 2020' as it stands'. All eight councillors agreed.

It was decided that David Wood should send an e-mail to Piers Blaxter stating that we withdraw the Stonehaven 2020 document and revert to our 12th February letter with one amendment. Delete all but the first two sentences under the paragraph headed A New Supermarket. Also to ask for an extension and to state that an amended approved document will be e-mailed ASAP.

There was consensus to reconvene on Thursday 18th July at the Resource Centre, if possible, to amend the document.

Letter from John Agnew – A letter had been received from John Agnew challenging some of the statements in the original Stonehaven 2020 document. As the 2020

document is to be withdrawn this item as considered redundant and a decision about the draft reply was left until next meeting.

Fetteresso Cemetery Car Park - Both options were considered but neither drew strong opinion. It was decided not to make any representation. Concern was raised about where HGVs would park in the future as it is believed this carpark is designated for lorries.

Meeting ended about 10.10pm