

STONEHAVEN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Business Meeting held at 7:30 p.m. on 8th September 2009

In the Cowie Lounge of the Invercarron Resource Centre

| Item | Notes | Action |
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| 1 | <p>Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest</p> <p>Present: Ian Balgowan, Raymond Christie, Sam Dickinson, David Fleming, Ian Hunter, Michael Innes, Lenny Lawrence, Alistair Lawrie, Billy Mackenzie, Robert Michie, Allan Sutherland, David Wood</p> <p>Kincardine and Mearns Councillors: Peter Bellarby, Graeme Clark</p> <p>In attendance: Nicky Strachan and Peter Gordon from the Star Inn (until item 6), Moya Grassick, Andrew Deans and Lesley Muirison from SYPS (Stonehaven Young Peoples Society) (until item 4), Catriona Webster from the Mearns Leader</p> <p>Apologies: James Cleves, Karen Allen, Cllrs. Wendy Agnew, Mike Sullivan</p> <p>Absent: Police representative</p> <p>Declarations of Interest: David Fleming (item 6 – Star Inn Planning Proposal) – session to be chaired by David Wood</p> <p>David Fleming acknowledged the resignation of Linda Digney and Nelson Okumu for personal and professional reasons and welcomed Sue Bateman who will be taking the minutes at the meeting.</p> <p>James Cleves sought the permission of the Council to continue as a member despite missing 3 meetings – this was unanimously agreed.</p> <p>David Fleming acknowledged that council membership has fallen to 13 and suggested that more people were sought to assist – no further action taken at this meeting.</p> | |
| 2 | <p>Minutes of last meeting on August 11th</p> <p>Amendments to be made to the minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 6.3 Ian Hunter did not vote “for” an objection as noted – he voted “against” an objection. Karen voted “for” an objection. • Raymond Christie was classed as “absent” but had sent his apologies – status to be amended. • Lenny Lawrence commented that Item 11 on AOCB noted the forthcoming meeting at Viewmount. He informed the Council that the meeting had to be postponed but there is, to date, no date agreed. <p>Subject to these amendments the minutes were proposed by Lenny Lawrence and seconded by David Wood</p> | |
| 3 | <p>Crime Prevention Report</p> <p>No report from the police has been received and no one was in attendance at the meeting.</p> <p>Alistair Lawrie requested that comparative statistics for the Stonehaven area be made available to the Council as a 3 monthly report. These should include youth crime and</p> | |

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| | <p>other forms of crime comparing the Stonehaven area with other parts of Aberdeenshire.</p> <p>It was suggested that Community Safety should already have these figures as part of the Criminal justice report.</p> <p>Alistair Lawrie to write a letter to the police requesting this information and to reaffirm the Police and the Council have agreed need for a representative from the Police to attend the community council meeting. It was noted that they have now missed 3 meetings.</p> | <p>Alistair Lawrie</p> |
| <p>4</p> | <p>4.1 Presentation on Youth Work</p> <p>Moya Grassick & Andrew Deans from SYPS gave a presentation about their request for a Youth drop-in centre – in particular the use of the Cowie Lane building for this facility. Their proposal was that the centre needed young people to “front” the project.</p> <p>The presentation focused on why the facility is required, how Portlethen has made a similar facility work, what the centre could contain, how it would work, the benefits to the community, what services could be provided and how funding will be raised to ensure sustainability.</p> <p>Andrew Deans informed the Council that the Community Development group have offered funding and that their request from the Community Council is for support and funding if possible.</p> <p>David Fleming reaffirmed that the Cowie Lane project was subject to a bid from the TCRF which was turned down for reasons of employability and sustainability.</p> <p>It has been suggested that young people would like to start work on the initiative in the Cowie Lane building. Concerns were raised about Health & Safety and the likelihood that this will impede progress. Lesley Muirison confirmed that, as a Council employee, she will ensure that such legislation is complied with.</p> <p>Ian Hunter proposed a motion that: <i>This Council supports the creation of an uninhibited environment in which the young people can create the appropriate environment to achieve their proposed vision.</i></p> <p>This was seconded by Billy MacKenzie and the motion passed. To help to achieve this motion the Council agreed to investigate an appropriate trust.</p> <p>Lenny Lawrence requested that views of the local people are sought about the facility as he is aware that there are some concerns amongst local residents. Lesley Muirison informed the group about the consultation process that community learning had been involved in to address this issue.</p> <p>Cllr Peter Bellarby stated that he supports what the group is trying to achieve.</p> <p>4.2 Adult Learning (additional item requested by Alistair Lawrie)</p> <p>Alistair Lawrie up-dated the Council about a group which has been set up to improve adult learning in the area by creating a fully correlated service for the community. He informed the Council that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An extensive survey has been undertaken • There has been an increase in attendance in classes • Information is available about the requirement for further classes | <p>Action not assigned</p> |

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| | <p>He requested that members of the community council make the adult learning forum aware of any activity that could be conceived as learning (Alistair and David Fleming are both members of the forum). He requested details of the activity alongside information about contact details of the organiser.</p> <p>David Fleming identified that this activity needs to be added into the community planning document – and confirmed that he will ensure that it is added into its re-write.</p> <p>Additionally, it was noted that no internet access is available in the teaching environment in the community centre and that this is causing frustration to the teachers. A request was made to Cllrs Bellarby and Clark to take the issue forward to Aberdeenshire Council.</p> <p>Discussion about Aberdeen College’s proposal took place and it was agreed that Alistair Lawrie should write to the Acting Principal of Aberdeen College and Director of Education for Aberdeenshire to inform them that community planning needs to be involved in their consultation process.</p> <p>Cllrs Bellarby and Clark to inform Aberdeenshire Council .</p> | <p>All Council members</p> <p>David Fleming</p> <p>Cllrs Bellarby and Clark</p> <p>Alistair Lawrie</p> <p>Cllrs Bellarby and Clark</p> |
| <p>5</p> | <p>Committee Activities</p> <p>5. Local Plan</p> <p>5.1 Update from last meeting</p> <p>David Fleming informed the Council that there has been no further work on this item and no further discussion ensued. The next stage would be the publication of a revised Main Issues Report later in the Autumn.</p> <p>5.2 Reply from John Agnew</p> <p>A reply has been received from John Agnew. David Fleming proposed that no further action be taken and full agreement to this proposal was given.</p> | |
| <p>6</p> | <p>Planning applications</p> <p>6.1 Star Inn</p> <p><i>Session chaired by David Wood.</i></p> <p>Plans were made available to the Council illustrating a proposal that includes 10 one bedroom flats. Two concerns were raised, these being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of parking and the effect of inconsiderate parking to local residents • The height of the building <p>Ms Strachan set forth the reasons for the change of use in commercial terms. It was noted that the Community Council voted against the change of use at the last meeting but a subsequent request (from Mrs Diane Fleming) and the availability of detailed plans brings the issue back to the council to be reconsidered.</p> <p>It was agreed to re-cast the vote for the application in two aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Change of use 2) Agreement to the current plan for 10 x 1 bedroom flats <p>Change of Use</p> | |

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| | <p><i>In favour:</i> Ian Balgowan, Raymond Christie, Ian Hunter, Michael Innes, Alistair, Billy McKenzie, Allan Sutherland, David Wood</p> <p><i>Against:</i> Lenny Lawrence, Robert Michie</p> <p>Therefore no objection would be lodged.</p> <p>Agreement to the current plan</p> <p><i>In favour:</i> David Wood, Michael Innes, Alistair Lawrie, Allan Sutherland, David Wood</p> <p><i>Against:</i> Ian Balgowan, Ian Hunter, Lenny Lawrence, Billy MacKenzie, Bob Michie</p> <p>It was agreed to report to the planning officer concerned that the Council is equally split, although the chair's casting vote leads to a proposal in favour of the motion</p> <p><i>David Fleming resumed the Chair.</i></p> <p>6.2 Fields 1 and 3</p> <p>David Fleming informed the Council that the purpose of this application is in relation to a CAAD to create a "hope value" to assist in negotiation with interested parties. Concerns were raised about this ethics of such an activity although it was noted that similar plans have been progressed in the past.</p> <p>6.3 25 Westfield Road</p> <p>A new planning application has been made for this property as previous plans were objected to by the Council (style and size of proposed alteration). Revised plans are for a smaller alteration that is more in-keeping with other houses in the vicinity. The Planning Committee has recommended that the objection is withdrawn based on the new plans and this was agreed by the Community Council. It was agreed to write to the planning Council accordingly.</p> | <p>Michael Innes</p> |
| <p>7</p> | <p>Satellite Dishes</p> <p>David Fleming asked for permission to send a letter to the planning officer as set out in correspondence previously issued to the Council.</p> <p>He outlined his understanding of conservation rules and clarified that the purpose of the letter is to request clarification from the planning officer about whether the positioning of certain satellite dishes contravenes local rules.</p> <p>It was agreed that the letter should be issued and suggested that, from the photographs in the draft, some should be selected which make the point more clearly.</p> <p>It was suggested that information about satellite distribution systems should be provided to residents dependent on the information received from the planning officer.</p> | <p>David Fleming</p> |
| <p>8</p> | <p>Banners</p> <p>David Fleming asked for permission to send letter about banners that had been circulated to Council members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The purpose of the letter is to ask the planning officer to look at the issue and ultimately to encourage the owners of banners to comply with planning rules and where appropriate ensure that banners are secured effectively.</p> | |

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| | <p>David Fleming informed the group that if there is no planning permission banners should be taken down after 28 days (as per general planning rule) and that this applies to all parts of town and not just the conservation area. It was agreed that the letter should be issued.</p> | <p>David Fleming</p> |
| <p>9</p> | <p>Public Issues</p> <p>Consultation on Core Paths</p> <p>Allan Sutherland outlined the issue and acknowledged great work that has been done on paths towards Dunnottar Castle and Cowie. He raised his concern about the lack of publication about the public consultation about Core Paths.</p> <p>He noted that there is currently an opportunity to say where paths should be noting that Stonehaven has good core paths planned but some appear to be missing, (such as between Dunnottar Castle and Dunnottar Woods, and in the Toucks area which has no core paths planned).</p> <p>He asked for it to be noted that consultation ends on Monday 14th September and he wishes to alert residents of Stonehaven to the opportunity to contribute.</p> <p>It was agreed that Allan should construct a letter that represents the Council's views and submit it.</p> <p>Allan to circulate URL to Council members to enable individuals to make representation if appropriate.</p> | <p>Allan Sutherland</p> <p>Allan Sutherland</p> |
| <p>10</p> | <p>Litter and Street Cleaning</p> <p>Withdrawn – awaiting information from the relevant department and deferred to next meeting</p> | |
| <p>11</p> | <p>Consultation on Mineralwell Woods</p> <p>A questionnaire was made available to Council members before the meeting and it was agreed that each individual should complete this individually and that there will be no Council response.</p> <p>Individuals to complete and return questionnaire.</p> | <p>All</p> |
| <p>12</p> | <p>Town Centre Regeneration Fund – Town Hall Project</p> <p>David Fleming informed the Council that plans have been drawn up, discussions held with Historic Scotland and final plans should be ready to send out for consultation within a week. Council staff have made very good progress with the work. Planning permissions will take 2 months and at the same time tenders will be invited so that the Area Committee can agree plans and suppliers at the same time at their December meeting.</p> <p>David Fleming informed the Council that a change of plans for DDA access will be taken at the next Community Council meeting. He said that the current plan is to overcome previous objections from the Council and those being considered appear to be acceptable to Historic Scotland.</p> <p>The new plan is for two accesses via the side lane and concern was raised about vehicular access and the effect of this on safety.</p> | |

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| <p>13</p> | <p>Business items</p> <p>Christmas Tree Lights</p> <p>The aim is for the Christmas tree to be up at the end of November. New lights have been purchased and the tree will be provided.</p> <p>Information about the date the tree will be erected should be circulated so that Council members can put the date in their diaries.</p> | <p>Billy McKenzie</p> <p>All</p> |
| <p>14</p> | <p>Constitution Working group</p> <p>Deferred until next year (January)</p> | |
| <p>15</p> | <p>Proposed Youth Council</p> <p>The aim is to get this up and running by June 2010. A meeting is being sought with Andrew Griffiths. It should be noted by those concerned that the Council will be willing to lend support if required.</p> | |
| <p>16</p> | <p>Reports from representatives on other bodies</p> <p>CDG</p> <p>Previously taken under item 4</p> <p>KMAP</p> <p>Not available</p> | |
| <p>17</p> | <p>ASCC Area representative</p> <p>Report</p> <p>Report circulated.</p> <p>Changeover of Representative</p> <p>Noted</p> | |
| <p>18</p> | <p>Correspondence register</p> <p>Not available – David Fleming aiming to have available for next month’s meeting</p> | |
| <p>19</p> | <p>Future Dates</p> <p>19.1 National Plastic Bag-free Day – Saturday 12th September</p> <p>The Allotment Association asked for support with this initiative but it was agreed that lack of notice, publicity material and instructions for staff made support for the initiative impossible this year. It was agreed to favourably consider the initiative again next year when more preparation time should be available.. Individual members of the Council may choose to support the initiative personally.</p> <p>19.2 “Beachwatch” clean up -Sunday September 20th, 10:00 am meeting at Molly Gunnings.</p> | <p>All</p> <p>All to note</p> |

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| | <p>19.3 Digital Switchover / Analogue switch-off 1st/15th September 2010</p> <p>It was requested that community council members inform residents about the changeover and to let anyone who can't afford the switchover know that there will be government help available.</p> <p>19.4 Community Council Form – Thursday 24th September 7pm at Viewmount</p> <p>There will be an explanation of the changes to the planning system. It was agreed that Ian Balgowan, Michael Innes, David Wood and David Fleming should attend on behalf of the Council and report back to a future meeting on changes that will impact on them.</p> | |
| <p>20</p> | <p>A O C B</p> <p>Toucks Mill O'Forest bid</p> <p>Halliday Fraser Munro are running consultation meetings on the Toucks/Mill O'Forest bid on Thursday 10th September and Saturday 12th September. This was publicised in the Press and Journal on 7th September. A request was made for someone from the Council to attend and report back informally but no commitment was made.</p> <p>Clarification was sought about this consultation in relation to the local planning process and it was agreed that issues need to be resolved around criteria for judging adequate consultation by developers.</p> <p>Concern was also raised about this particular consultation process which is dependent on the publication of the local plan and the fact that this particular process appears to be pre-empting it.</p> <p>Farrochie Road Closure</p> <p>Concern was expressed about the Farrochie Road closure and the subsequent disruption to the bus service. It was confirmed that Aberdeenshire Council put up notices but did not talk sufficiently to bus companies about the procedure as there was a new person in position who did not understand due process. It was agreed that this was not acceptable.</p> <p>Outdoor Pool</p> <p>The Council were informed that attendance at the outdoor pool was significantly increased this year. It was agreed to write to The Friends of the Open Air Pool to thank them for their efforts and to recognise the large turnout.</p> <p>Yellow Lines</p> <p>It was noted that the plan to extend the yellow lines by the town clock has not been actioned. Michael to find out why this has happened</p> | <p>Alistair Lawrie</p> <p>Michael Innes</p> |
| <p>21</p> | <p>Dates and times of next Business Meeting.</p> <p>The Planning Committee will meet at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 6th October 2009 in the Invercarron Resource Centre, followed by the Agenda Meeting at 8:00 pm.</p> <p>Next Business Meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th October 2009 at 7:30 pm in the Cowie Lounge of the Invercarron Resource Centre</p> | |