

# STONEHAVEN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Minutes of the 352<sup>nd</sup> Business meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010 in the Cowie Lounge of the Invercarron Resource centre

No.	Notes.	Action
	<p><b>Present:</b> David Fleming (Chairman), Stuart Alexander, Gemma Bull, Raymond Christie, Peter Greig, Ian Hunter, Michael Innes, Jenni Keenan, Alistair Lawrie, Billy MacKenzie, Bob Michie, Andrew Newton, Iain Noble, Rachel Shanks, Ian Sim, Allan Sutherland.</p> <p><b>Youth members:</b> Andrew Deans, Gemma Pugh.</p> <p><b>Kincardine and Mearns councillors:</b> Cllrs. Wendy Agnew, Graeme Clark, Paul Melling, Mike Sullivan.</p> <p><b>In Attendance:</b> Sgt Tanya Lieper (who was called out early in the meeting); Mary Clark of the Horizon Group, Allison Pusateria of Aberdeen University, and some 20 members of the public.</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Crawford Anderson, Ian Balgowan, Philip Daniels, Elaine McCarron, Cllr. Peter Bellarby,</p>	
1.	At the start of the meeting, the Chairman paid tribute to Robert Reid, Head of Development Management and Building Standards, Aberdeenshire Council who had died suddenly. A minute's silence was observed.	
2.	<p><b>Welcome and apologies and declaration of interest</b></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone, particularly Mary Clark.</p> <p>Mary Clark gave a account of recent activities of the Horizon Group and said that she would attend and report to the Council occasionally, to improve the communications between the two groups. She was reminded of our congratulations on gaining the Beautiful Scotland Gold Award last year. She said that the Horizon Group had decided not to enter this year in order to focus on other important activities, but were likely to enter again in future years. The Chairman hoped that a member of the Community Council would be willing to attend the Horizon Group meetings.</p> <p><b>Declarations of interest:</b> None</p> <p>Allison Pusateria was welcomed. She explained that she was doing a Ph.D. research project into Community Councils and ways of increasing their influence and effectiveness. She asked whether she could contact individual members. It was agreed that the Secretary would circulate her contact details, and members could make individual arrangements if they wished to contribute.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Minutes of the previous meeting (Tuesday 13th April )</b></p> <p>It was noted that under item 2, the posts elected were those of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. It was noted that in section 7.2, a member of the public had raised the issue, not Ian Balgowan, on both items.</p> <p>With these two amendments, the approval of the minutes was proposed by Ian</p>	

Hunter, seconded by Billy McKenzie and carried unanimously.

**4. Police matters**

By this time, Sgt Leiper had had to leave, so no Police officer was present.

The Chairman reported that the Police had announced that, following comments from the public, they would be taking firmer action about vehicles overstaying their time in the restricted parking places in the town centre. Such parking appeared to cause problems when HGVs were delivering to shops. Shopkeepers were also to be issued with cones to be used when deliveries were expected.

**Public Issues**

**5. Severe Flooding in Stonehaven on 1<sup>st</sup> November**

The Chairman said that he had recently sent out electronically the final versions of all the reports that had been requested, but that members would not have had time to read them. The only report awaited was the technical report by Stephen MacFarland, which was awaiting the completion of technical work and modelling before its conclusions could be drawn up.

He also announced that, at that morning's Kincardine & Mearns Area Committee (where a Report on the Flooding had been discussed and agreed), Mr Munro had announced that he would be organising a public meeting (involving all the relevant agencies) to discuss the findings and conclusions. The Chairman suggested that members should read the reports and await the public meeting.

Bob Michie asked whether there was a separate Police report. The Chairman replied saying not as far as he knew, and their responses are incorporated in the reports circulated.

**6. Bervie Braes**

**6.1 Progress on the Stabilisation Works**

The Chairman reiterated the announcement of Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April in which Aberdeenshire Council had stated that work on the Braes would not start until March 2011. This announcement was made a few days after the last Community Council meeting, and countermanded the assurance he had read at that meeting.

Michael Innes reminded the Council that John Swinney had said it was an emergency, which should be tackled as quickly as possible. Cllr. Melling explained that there were legal procedures to be gone through, and that the Pennan experience suggested that this would take some time. Cllr. Sullivan said he had the impression that work would begin more quickly than the 42 weeks quoted.

A number of issues were raised regarding the legal agreements sought; whether lessons could be learnt from the Pennan experience; who were being notified; what were the legal implications, etc. Cllr. Agnew expressed the view that such discussions had to involve the insurance companies of the householders.

It was decided that Ian Gabriel Director of Transport and Infrastructure, Aberdeenshire Council (who will know what has transpired at Pennan) and Karen Wiles, Legal Officer, should be invited to the next meeting.

**Secretary**

## 6.2 Status of the safety of the Braes

The Chairman reported that he had not yet had a reply to his letter asking for clarification about the advice from Aberdeenshire Council on the status of the Braes.

## 7. **Policy and Law - update**

### 7.1 Dog fouling

Allan Sutherland reported an improvement in the situation, particularly along the beach, but there were still problems on the Braes.

### 7.2 Litter

Meetings had been held, and various remedies had been suggested. The Horizon Group favoured approaching offenders and many then felt embarrassed and changed their behaviour.

It was remarked that there were far too few bins (and some were unsuitable or not adequately emptied). It was suggested that the Community Council should discuss this with Council officers.

In reply to a question, the Chairman understood that Council staff had been instructed to clear up the debris if black bin bags had been attacked by seagulls.

## 8. Travellers

A member of the public was concerned that there appears to be one law for residents and another for travellers. It was agreed that this needs to be followed up by the Community Council.

## 9. **Planning Applications**

### 9.1 College Extension at Mackie Academy

Michael Innes explained the nature of this planning application, and the reasons for objection proposed by the Planning Committee.

Ian Hunter said this application raised very important issues about the development for leisure and learning facilities in the town. Rachel Shanks felt that Mackie should be developed as a community school, and that the effect on the existing Community Centre was not mentioned.

The proposed facilities in the new building were discussed. The car park looked inadequate. The future of the crèche in the Community Centre was mentioned. In reply to a comment, Jennie Keenan felt that vending machines could provide proper food. No detail was shown.

The Community Council re-iterated its agreement that the facility as such was very welcome, but that a full consultation was necessary and should now take place. The list of grounds for the Council's objection to be sent to the Planning Department was agreed.

### 9.2

### East Newtonleys

The linked proposals for the Spine Road and the Supermarket at East Newtonleys was discussed following the site visit that day, and the forthcoming decision at the

**Planning  
Secretary**

Area Committee.

The Chairman reported an e-mail from David Strang Steel making it clear that the Field 52 proposal was not completely dead yet.

There was much concern on the effect of the development at East Newtonleys on the possibility of flooding into the Glasslaw Burn. There was concern that the Spurryhillock site had been dismissed without adequate evidence, and that the alleged unsuitability of the A957 was unproven. When it was mentioned that three local shire councillors would have to absent themselves from the Area Committee debate, it was agreed to contact the councillors from the other wards.

## **Business Matters**

### **10. Advertisement for Minute Secretary**

No replies had been received. It was pointed out that the advertisement might have been misleading, in that the £50 honorarium quoted could be construed as per annum but it was meant to be per month. All members were asked to help in finding a Minute Secretary. Alistair Lawrie suggested asking again at the Mackie Academy.

### **11. Code of Practice on Exchange of Information between Community Councils and Aberdeenshire Council**

This Code of Practice has been produced and issued by Aberdeenshire Council. The Community Council agreed to abide by it.

The Chairman had tabled a list of letters that were outstanding. However, he said that a response had been received that day from Willie Munro, and he asked to postpone the consideration of it until it had been circulated and members had had a chance to read Mr Munro's notes. That was agreed.

**Secretary**

### **12. Report back on the Town Hall Trust**

The Chairman (who represents the Community Council on the Board of Stonehaven Town Partnership) reported back on the progress towards setting up a community Trust to take over a sub-lease on the Town Hall, and to manage it. Progress on the building work to make the building wind- and weather-tight, and to conform to the DDA is almost completed. Much work is going on in preparing to sign the lease, including the constitutional arrangements, writing a Business Plan, fund-raising, and planning further building improvements.

**All**

He stated that there would be EGM/AGM of the Stonehaven Arts and Leisure Trust (SALT) on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June in the Town Hall at 7:30 pm. At that meeting, a new set of Articles for the Trust will be proposed, which is designed to form a revised Trust under the name of the Stonehaven Town Hall Trust (STHT). For this Trust, a maximum of 12 Trustees need to be appointed, and nominations from the membership will be sought shortly, and elected at the EGM/AGM.

In response to Ian Hunter, the Chairman said that the members of the new STHT could be individuals who a) resided in the AB39 area, or b) had employment in that area or c) were members of organisations operating in that area. There was no group or family membership. Membership was free. The procedure for continuing or applying for membership would be published shortly.

That EGM/AGM meeting will be followed immediately by the AGM of Stonehaven Town Partnership, at which all Directors (except the one nominated by Aberdeenshire Council) are re-elected. Currently there are 9 in post (some of whom may not stand again), and the maximum required is 11.

**13. List of Activities**

The Chairman had produced a list of activities within the Community Council for which volunteers are required. Given the lateness of the hour, he asked that members consider what they would like to do, and send details of their contribution to the Secretary within the next 7 days.

All

**14. Signatures on Bank Accounts**

As a result of the recent elections, a change to the signatories was required. It was agreed to authorise that a cheque could be validly signed by any two out of the following three:

- Bob Michie
- Michael Innes
- David Fleming

**15. Future dates**

The Chairman asked for help with the Open Day.

**16. A.O.C.B.**

Donation to Mearns FM

Ian Hunter asked the Community Council to consider a grant to Mearns FM to help with the cost of additional equipment that they would like to purchase to allow them to make outside broadcasts. At present, they have to hire such equipment. He said the total costs were expected to be in excess of £2,000. It was proposed by Peter Greig and seconded by Alistair Lawrie that the Community Council should donate £1,000 from the Bequest Fund. Ian Hunter was warned that the money could not be transferred until the current Bequest Fund account matures later in the year.

Earthworks on the bank of the Carron

A member of the public enquired about rumours that the Council would want to take away some of the garden area on the banks of the Carron between the White Bridge and Bridgefield. The Chairman explained that, at the Kincardine & Mearns Area Committee, Stephen McFarland had stated that no works would be proposed until the modelling was complete, because he did not want to make any alterations without being clear what the overall effect on the river's capacity would be.

**17. Dates and times of next Business Meeting**

There will be an Officers' meeting at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010 in the Invercarron Resource Centre followed by a Planning Committee at 7.30 pm, and then the Agenda Meeting at 8.00 pm.

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June, the Business Meeting will be held at 7:15 pm. in the Cowie Lounge of the Invercarron Resource Centre.