

STONEHAVEN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting held at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 10th March 2009
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, Ian Balgowan, Raymond Christie, James Cleves, Linda Digney Ian Hunter, Michael Innes, Lyn Jardine, Alistair Lawrie, Lenny Lawrence, Robert Mitchie, Billy Mackenzie, Ditta Neumann, Allan Sutherland David Wood and Sam Dickinson.</p> <p>Kincardine and Mearns Councillors: Wendy Agnew, Peter Bellarby, Graeme Clark, Mike Sullivan.</p> <p>Police Inspector Jim Gordon</p> <p>Apologies: Jenni Keenan and Karen Allan.</p> <p>No declarations of interest were made.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Minutes of the as AGM held on 8th March 2008.</u></p> <p>Due to an error in e-mail transmission, there were no minutes circulated. They are available and will be approved in the next meeting.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Chairman's Report</u></p> <p>The Chairman presented a written report (attached). In response to Cllr. Mike Sullivan, who commented on the phrase in the third paragraph that “..with the help of Aberdeenshire Council...”, David Fleming said that this phrase referred to the Braehead Public Local Inquiry. The problem arose originally when Area Councillors had gone against the Planning Officer's advice. As a result, the reasons for refusal of the planning application were constructed hastily and, it is understood, without professional planning officer input. This left the Aberdeenshire Council witness (Cllr. Sullivan) in a weak situation. Furthermore, the Aberdeenshire Council counsel appeared not to be aware of the weakness, and therefore could not adequately protect his witness from a vigorous cross-examination on behalf of the developer. Cllr. Wendy Agnew wished it to be known that she was not consulted about this matter.</p> <p>Robert Michie pointed out that the Sea Scouts should be correctly named as the Sea Cadets. Ditta Neumann suggested the need of a paragraph on the local plan.</p> <p>In the light of these comments, David Fleming agreed to circulate the minutes as quickly as possible, in order to publish the factual corrections. With that proviso, the approval of the Chairman's report was proposed by Ian Hunter, seconded by James Cleves, and agreed unanimously.</p>	

4. Secretaries' Reports

4.1 General Secretary

James Cleves gave a verbal report, and expressed his gratitude to council for the opportunity to learn and gain experience on how a secretaryship is run. He especially thanked David Fleming for teaching him the routines in receiving and responding to correspondence. He also thanked everyone in the council for the trust, support and help with the working party. Acceptance of his report was proposed by Raymond Christie, seconded by Lyn Jardine, and agreed unanimously.

4.2 Planning Secretary

Ditta Neumann's written report (circulated previously as a .pdf file) was tabled. She spoke to her report. Its acceptance was proposed by James Cleves, seconded by Lyn Jardine, and agreed unanimously.

4.3 Web Secretary

Ian Hunter supplied a short written report (quoted below).

"I have endeavoured to keep the web site updated throughout the year. It is a fairly mechanical process and not particularly onerous.

This month for the first time, we have had to make a payment because the download limit was exceeded. Can I request that when anyone submits a .pdf document for the website they use a low resolution setting when converting a document from other formats.

If everyone would like to learn how to update and maintain the website I will be pleased to pass on any skills I may have. "

Its acceptance was proposed by Alistair Lawrie, seconded by Lyn Jardine, and agreed unanimously.

The Chairman said that two other reports were available, and he wished to take them at this point on the agenda.

4.4 Adopt-a Street

The approval of this written report (circulated previously as a .pdf file) was proposed by Linda Digney and seconded by Ditta Neumann, and agreed unanimously.

4.5 Police Report

Police Inspector Jim Gordon gave a review of the year.

There has been a reduction in vandalism from 199 in 2007 to 125 in 2008. The detection rates have gone up from 30% in 2007 to 34% in 2008.

The figures for youth annoyance are static at 164 in 2007 and 166 in 2008, representing 7% of the total Aberdeenshire total.

Under-age drinking in the streets has reduced. It is still, however, happening in houses. Calls in 2007 were 17, but 22 in 2008. The offenders are getting more inventive in concealing their activities, and it remains a problem.

12 incidents of domestic house breaking were reported in 2008, compared with 7 in 2007. Two men were traced and arrested. This is again 7% of the

Aberdeenshire total. There has been an 83% detection rate.

For serious assault, the figures are static at 3 in both years, being 4% of the Aberdeenshire total. There has been 100% detection rate.

Insp. Gordon informed the council that he is due to resign from his post as the Inspector for the area in September 2009. He appreciates the co-operation of the council. On behalf of the Community Council, David Fleming expressed appreciation to Insp. Gordon and his team for their support and all the good work they have done.

5. Treasurer's Report

Lyn Jardine presented her report (circulated previously as a .pdf file), and stated that this was to be her final annual report and that someone else should take up the responsibility. She advised the group to be mindful of their spending and that every item of expenditure should be approved with the council.

The acceptance of the Treasurer's report was proposed by Linda Digney, seconded by Ditta Neumann and agreed unanimously.

6. Acceptance of Auditor's Letter

The acceptance of the letter (previously circulated) was proposed by Raymond Christie, seconded by Alistair Lawrie and agreed unanimously.

7. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts for current financial year.

Lyn Jardine proposed that Alan Parkhill should be re-appointed as Examiner of Accounts. He had expressed his willingness to fulfil the role again in the coming year. His appointment was seconded by James Cleves and agreed unanimously.

8. A.O.C.B.

There being no other business, the Annual General Meeting was closed.



Stonehaven & District Community Council

2008 Annual General Meeting

Report from the Chairman for the Year to 31st December 2008

It is my pleasure to present my Annual report for the year ending 31st December 2008 to the Community Council.

2008 saw an increased level of activity on a number of fronts, and a range of levels of success.

The year started with our giving evidence to the Public Local Inquiry into the Braehead II development in which, with the help of Aberdeenshire Council, the Reporter found in favour of the developer, and so some 38 more houses will be built on the Braes overlooking Stonehaven.

The year ended with the ongoing processes of the Public Local Inquiry into the Aberdeen Peripheral Route. The Reporters' judgement on this is awaited.

Apart from the handling of a large volume of individual planning applications, the latter half of the year was taken up with consideration of the Draft Structure Plan, and then the start of the process of considering the Draft Local Plan. These two strands of work involved much reading and preparation. Their content caused very considerable disquiet in the town, and therefore great efforts were needed to ensure that the documents were analysed thoroughly, and that the Community Council's response was robust and thorough. I would like to thank all the members of the Community Council and others who contributed in various ways to this huge effort. I firmly believe that, by such activities defending the wishes of the community, we will be well practised in challenging developers and others who might exploit their own knowledge of the planning system for their own benefit to the detriment of the town we live in and love.

The Business Meetings of the Community Council continue to be very busy, and I am pleased to record and appreciate the continuing growth in the numbers of the members of the public who want to join us and contribute to our discussions. We have heard a number of valuable presentations, and therefore helped in the dissemination of information and knowledge into the community.

Our work in the community has been much appreciated. We were very pleased to be able to support the proposed Skatepark, the Dunnottar Bodgers, noticeboards around the town, and the Stonehaven Sea Cadets, and we have had stalls at the Feein' Market and the MRI Harbour Festival.

In addition to our statutory representations on individual planning applications, we continue to make representations on issues that the community feels important including:

- Improving the tidiness of the town
- The Bervie Braes stabilisation
- The development and formal consultation on the Structure Plan
- The development of the new Local Development Plan

- The improvements associated with the new Sewerage scheme, including the new Cowie Pedestrian Bridge.

However, it is becoming obvious that there are more issues to be tackled than we have the resources or the skills to support. As a Council, we have to decide how to select the issues and to increase the skills and resources to allow us to continue to serve the community properly.

Last year, I talked of continuity and development, and the need to balance these aims. This year has shown that this balance is even more crucial to our success and our support from the community.

There is no doubt in my mind that the standing of the Community Council in the community has risen in the last year. The reaction to Ditta Neumann's recent sterling effort to survey the whole town has shown that. I hope that the Community Council will look forward to 2009 to increase that standing, and increase the level of service to our community.

I would like to conclude by thanking the members of the council for all the extra efforts that they have put into their roles, often without prompting or proper recognition, and for the other items of work of all the members of the council. Without all your contributions, this council would not be able to fulfil its prime role of representing the community with such effectiveness. Thank you.

David Fleming
Chairman
March 10th 2009.

